

## Statement at 27th session of the UN Human Rights Council

### Item 6: Universal Periodic Review of Côte d'Ivoire

Thank you Mr President.

The International Service for Human Rights welcomes the adoption of Côte d'Ivoire's second UPR report.

We particularly welcome Côte d'Ivoire's acceptance of the recommendation to take adequate measures to enlarge the space for civil society (Djibouti) and to protect civil society space in the country (Italy).

The recent adoption of a law protecting human rights defenders and Côte d'Ivoire's stance at the UPR are encouraging signs of a firm political commitment to preserve and expand the democratic space in the country. Côte d'Ivoire's legislation is groundbreaking and a good practice that should inspire other countries. It provides a solid legal basis for the protection of human rights defenders and their activities. When implemented, the law will help create a more conducive environment for human rights defenders work.

With the passing of this law, we look forward to seeing Côte d'Ivoire at the forefront of initiatives to protect human rights defenders, within regional and international human rights mechanisms, including in their engagement with these mechanisms

This law should be implemented to protect all human rights defenders without discrimination. In this respect we regret that Côte d'Ivoire rejected the recommendation made by the Netherlands to take steps to prevent discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation.

We welcome Côte d'Ivoire's general cooperation with the UN human rights machinery and urge the Government to extend its full cooperation with the new independent expert to be appointed.

We applaud Côte d'Ivoire's acceptance of the recommendation to further its cooperation with the Special Procedures. However, we are concerned that Côte d'Ivoire has not responded to the allegation of violations contained in the Special Procedures joint communications report and encourage the Government to respond promptly to these communications in order to comply with its UPR commitments.

Thank you.