



57th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 3

Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances

Geneva, 16 September 2024

Statement by Switzerland on behalf of a group of countries

Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Croatia, Estonia, the Republic of Korea and my own country. We thank the Working Group for the presentation of its report.

Enforced disappearances remain a global issue. They happen all over the world, including in contexts of armed conflicts, migration or elections. Although many cases remain invisible, the effect on individuals, their loved ones and society is tremendous. Enforced disappearances constitute a serious crime and they can also constitute a war crime or a crime against humanity. Addressing this issue means recognizing the right of families to know the truth, including the disclosure of relevant information and access to archives. It also means that accountability deserves a significant part of our efforts.

We commend the Working Group's work on the topic of new technologies and enforced disappearances. Maximizing technology's benefits, while mitigating its risks, should be a main concern for all those working on these issues. To combat enforced disappearances and harness new technologies, we need to strengthen the interplay between enforced disappearances and the issue of missing persons more broadly. We believe that this comprehensive approach enables more effective prevention, investigation, and resolution of cases.

Members of the Working Group, how can the international community better integrate the fight against enforced disappearances with broader initiatives addressing missing persons? What role can the Working Group play in enhancing this synergy?

I thank you.