

## 42nd session of the Human Rights Council

### **Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur for the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence**

Geneva, 11 September 2019

Joint statement of the Group of Friends of the Mandate

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Mr. President,

I am reading this statement on behalf of States Friends of the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur for the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, notably Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Morocco, Peru, Uruguay and my own country Switzerland. We welcome this opportunity to interact with the Special Rapporteur and thank him for his report.

We recognize the importance of the principles, conclusions and recommendations presented in the report which clearly depict the challenges related to the implementation of national reparation programs.

The Special Rapporteur emphasizes the imperative of involving those groups in society most affected by violations in a systematic and meaningful manner in the design and implementation of reparation programmes. Women, children, victims of sexual and gender based violence, disabled persons, among others. We support his call. He also notes that too often, displaced persons and refugees are being forgotten in reparation programs. In a world increasingly on the move, solutions must be found to include these categories of victims.

The crucial role of civil society organizations, when it comes to the correct establishment and implementation of reparation programs, cannot be overstated. Often these organizations have years or decades of knowledge in working with the victims that can preciousely inform governmental programs.

A very sensitive topic addressed in the report is stigmatization of victims of crimes and the subsequent difficulty to establish reliable registries that will allow to establish efficiently reparation programs. The need to work on society as a whole to reduce and eventually eliminate the stigma is obvious.

**Mr. Special Rapporteur, could you share some concrete proposals and innovative ideas when it comes to sensitizing and strengthening the understanding for victims with the general populations and the communities that are close to them?**

I thank you for your attention.