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**CONFIDENTIEL**

Genève, le 10 avril 2013

A

Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération  
Rabat

**Destinataires principaux** : Cab - DG8.1 - DG8.3

**CC** : MD - SG - MP.NY

**Objet** : Projet de lettre au SG de l'ONU sur les défis financiers du HCDH.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que la Mission de la Norvège à Genève a convoqué une réunion du core-groupe sur les défis financiers du Haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme composé du Maroc, de la Norvège, du Mexique et de la Turquie, pour examiner une proposition d'envoyer une lettre conjointe au SG de l'ONU sur cette question.

Le projet de lettre reprend les éléments des deux déclarations conjointes lue par le core-groupe devant le Conseil des Droits de l'Homme en mars 2013 et septembre 2012, ainsi que la déclaration lue devant l'Assemblée générale en décembre dernier. Il s'agit principalement de :

- \* Souligner l'importance croissante des droits de l'Homme en tant que pilier des Nations Unies ;
- \* Relever l'augmentation continue des requêtes au HCDH, nécessitant un budget plus important ;
- \* Rappeler la dépendance de l'Office des contributions volontaires ;
- \* Se féliciter des mesures prises par la Haut Commissaire pour remédier aux défis financiers de son Office ;
- \* Souligner que toutes les activités du HCDH devraient être couvertes par le budget régulier de l'ONU.

Cette initiative rentre dans le cadre du soutien qu'apportent les membres de ce core-groupe à la Haut Commissaire. Son contenu a été validé avec l'Office.

A cet égard, le core-groupe propose que cette lettre soit cosignée conjointement par les Ambassadeurs à Genève et à New York des quatre pays.

Sauf objection de votre, je procéderais à la signature de cette lettre qui sera par la suite envoyée aux Ambassadeurs à New York pour signature.

**Très haute considération**



L'Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent

Omar HILAË

***Draft text letter to the UN Secretary General on OHCHR financial challenges.***

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General,  
The United Nations,  
1 United Nations Plaza  
New York, New York 10017-3515

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

We are writing to you to draw your attention to our concerns as regards the financial challenges of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This is based on the joint statement by 42 states in the last session of the Human Rights Council.

Human rights have become increasingly relevant to peace and security, development and humanitarian efforts. We all have an increasing interest in ensuring that the OHCHR, as a leading institution in promoting and protecting human rights in the UN system, can fulfil its mandate in light of increasing demands. There is a need to strengthen the third pillar upon which the United Nations was founded. In that regard, we need to ensure the financial stability and predictability of the OHCHR.

The OHCHR is presently experiencing a financial gap as a result of the increasing requests for support by the OHCHR in the field, for the human rights treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review and its follow up, and an unprecedented number of new and expanded mandates by the HRC.

The financial challenge is complicated by OHCHR's extensive dependence on voluntary contributions, including for mandatory activities and field operations. Field operations receive merely 9% of their funding from the regular budget. OHCHR support for the human rights treaty bodies, which should be entirely funded from the regular budget, relies on voluntary contributions for more than 40% of its funding. For the Human Rights Council special procedures mechanisms less than 56% of their support is covered by the regular budget. Even the secretariat supporting the Human Rights Council must draw on extra budgetary resources to pay for nearly 27% of its requirements.

The repeated calls on OHCHR to absorb the resource requirements of new mandates leave the human rights programme especially vulnerable. We are also concerned that reductions in the Secretariat's programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 will result in an even greater reliance on extra budgetary resources.

We welcome the first steps by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to address the financial challenges of her office, including reductions in extra budgetary expenditures. A more strategic prioritization exercise for the four-year cycle from 2014 to 2017 will also be necessary.

This is, however, not sufficient. We believe that as a principle the regular budget of the OHCHR should cover all costs of activities mandated by the Human Rights Council and other relevant bodies. The relative proportion of the OHCHR budget from the UN regular budget should also be increased.

The aim should be to establish a sustainable resourcing over the coming years in a manner that balances member states' different needs and interests, without infringing on the independence of the High Commissioner and her office, which operates under the administrative direction and authority of the UN Secretary General and the General Assembly.

The above views were expressed in a joint statement by 42 states in the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council (enclosed). Most of these States also joined a statement to a similar effect during the General Assembly session in New York last fall. We also committed ourselves to support the High Commissioner in her efforts to find efficiencies and to prioritise, securing her the required space to manoeuvre in this difficult situation.

We trust that you share our concerns and hope that we can work together to secure a sustainable resourcing over the coming years for the OHCHR, particularly during the upcoming preparations of the OHCHR regular budget for 2014-2015.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Signed by NY and Geneva ambassadors of Mexico, Turkey, Morocco and Norway