



Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations New York

Check against Delivery

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR GIRMA ASMEROM
DURING THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
16 NOVEMBER 2015, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me thank the President of the Human Rights Council for his presence in the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. My delegation has taken note of the report presented by the President.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has some observations and questions concerning the activities, procedures and principles of the Human rights Council.

1. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has been requesting for the rationalization of resources and enhancement of the regular budget. The president himself is also calling for the rationalization of funding. However, contrary to this legitimate appeal, we observe the proliferation and duplication of country specific mandates by the Human Rights Council which my delegation strongly feels that it is waste of time and resources.

- ♦ **What measures would the President envisage to address this redundant and unnecessary country specific mandates in order for the Human Rights Council to rationalize its work and expenses?**

2. Numerous concerns have been raised by several delegates, including by the African Group and NAM members. The issue of not giving enough opportunity to the concerned or accused party or country is a major concern to my delegation. The reports of Special Rapporteur (SP) and Commission of Inquiry (COI) must be verified beyond any reasonable doubt. The dictum that everybody is innocent until proven guilty is the basic tenet of human rights standards and internationally accepted legal mechanism that must be respected by all of us, including the Human rights Council. Sweeping statements and sound bites do not serve justice in human rights issues. They can only create perception that will make us reach wrong conclusions and decisions.

- ◆ **What mechanism is the president contemplating to remedy this short coming in the working methods of the Human Rights Council?**
- ◆ One remedy could be the introduction of automatic and transparent voting system similar to that of the UN Security Council, by all members of the Council on decisions they take and resolution they adopt.

Thank you Mr. Chairman