

## Summary of recommendations on how to make civil society remote participation more effective and inclusive

August, 2020

As remote participation has become the reality for many organisations working with the Human Rights Council, the following recommendations can help further improve the modalities that were implemented during the HRC44 session. The recommendations apply to the OHCHR, Council's Secretariat, the Presidency of the Council, the UNOG and States (where applicable).

### To OHCHR and the Council's Secretariat:

- Disseminate clear information on modalities of remote participation in advance, including by updating the [Draft information note for NGOs](#) to include accessible and detailed instructions on remote participation<sup>1</sup>;
- Provide and publicise concrete and user-friendly advice on how to make videos, including recommended software/editing system to meet the stringent technical requirements (e.g. apps/programmes to use<sup>2</sup>, tips on how to position a phone or other recording device, how to check specifications, amongst others).
- Allow more flexibility on technical requirements for video statements (e.g. deadlines for submission<sup>3</sup>, resolution, length, etc.);
- Be transparent about how video recordings are prioritized in selection for transmission;
- Continue the practice of confirming speaking slots remotely and sending co-sponsorship form via email. This could be automatized by permitting registration through a platform rather than having to fill in a form.
- Make adequate budgets available for more effective and accessible remote participation, including for persons with disabilities, not only during the pandemic but as a permanent feature of the Council's work;
- Provide regular updates about the Programme of Work (PoW), including delays and major changes, and make them widely available during the session, including by broadly publicising the new app Sched.
- Consult CSOs on their experience of HRC44 modalities and implement their recommendations for future sessions;

### To UNOG:

- Ensure all HRC meetings are webcast in all UN languages to enable non-English speakers to follow proceedings, as it has been the case for webcast during voting;
- Ensure all informal negotiations, as public meetings, are webcasted and always available on the listen-live service provided by UNOG. Make the recorded webcast or audio files available after the informals for civil society in different time zones;
- Arrange for channels for technical support to the CSOs when needed.
- Follow-up on the request to provide ECOSOC accredited NGOs with access to the part of e-Delegate where draft resolutions, co-sponsors list and comments to the text before it being

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, the flowchart produced by HRCnet before the resumed HRC43 and HRC44:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Z7x3b1DyHQhANuhRaghNLo2acxUF\\_mi/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Z7x3b1DyHQhANuhRaghNLo2acxUF_mi/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>2</sup> For example: <https://www.online-convert.com/>

<sup>3</sup> Note that for States, the video statement deadline is 6 hours before the debate (see [guidance note](#)).

tabled are posted, or else create a separate page on the extranet where this information is automatically mirrored as soon as it is posted to e-Delegate.

**To the Presidency of the HRC:**

- Encourage States to improve the system for remote participation in informal negotiations, and ensure that all resolutions' core groups allow for civil society engagement (in person and online) during the meetings;
- Encourage States to make online channels available and make time to meet remotely with human rights defenders who are not able to attend the session in person.
- Consider how civil society participation will be affected during the upcoming HRC45 and provide feasible options regarding remote participation during General Debates.
- Raise the content of this report and the recommendations with the Council's Bureau in their next Meeting before HRC45.