



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 September 2022

English and French only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Al-Hakim Foundation, Association PANAFRICA, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement., Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation, Interfaith International, Nord-Sud XXI - North-South XXI, Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale, Rwanda Women Community Development Network, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Stop The War, Negotiate Peace: Very Urgent

The war in which Ukraine has been the theater since 24 February 2022 drags on. It intensifies. There is no end in sight.

No action seems to be taken to put an end to it. None of the belligerents seem to want the hostilities to cease. No conciliator is visibly on the horizon.

A population is today severely affected. They should have the priority.

But this war is also global. Around the world, hundreds of millions of human beings are suffering the economic and social repercussions of the conflict, who have often experienced the pandemic and who are affected by climate change. Their daily life has become even more distressing. The promises of a better life have faded.

The reality of the experience of hundreds of millions of human beings is not acceptable. It is by thinking about this reality that they are confronted with and the despair that towers over them, that we take a stand. This is our responsibility.

Civil Society Organizations, we are one of the voices of the countries of the South, of the poorest countries, of the most deprived populations wherever they are on the entire Planet, that is of all those who, in each crisis, pay the heaviest of the tributes.

As organizations of civil society, we consider it our responsibility to make a strong appeal to take any necessary action to initiate as soon as possible a genuine process to stop the hostilities and that the opposing sides agree to a peace which is just and lasting. Diplomacy must take control of the situation.

History has certainly taught that peace cannot be improvised. Insofar as it must be fair and lasting, it cannot be imposed. You have to give time to time.

What is not acceptable, however, is the absence of a real will to appease the conflict and put an end to it. What is even more serious is that nothing seems to be done to prevent the war from spreading and taking the path of a destructive escalation.

The path to peace is first and foremost the responsibility of the belligerents. We dare to hope that they will undertake it very soon.

Insofar as a conciliation process could be useful and desirable, of the nature of the one which allowed the export of food products, at the appropriate time, it seems to us essential that this process be initiated without hesitation and without waiting.

The United Nations has a role to play in respecting the values that are those of our common organization; and the principles and rules from which its commitment derives.

Others are likely to intervene wisely.

Civil society organizations, we will support all efforts that we deem just, necessary and appropriate, to bring an end to the war.

We will do so in the spirit of our Declaration of March 2, 2022, on the basis of the same foundations which are respect for international law, humanitarian law and human rights, the dignity of everyone, and particularly of the most vulnerable, being our top priority.

We call on all civil society organizations to join the signatories of this call.

Peace is conquered. Together we must have the audacity and the determination to build it.

Afrika Jom Center, Africa Cominter, British Tamil Forum (BTF), Comité pour les 50 Ans de l'Union Africaine, . Centre International de Lutte Contre le Terrorisme (CILT), Conseil Mondial de la Diaspora Panafricaine (CMDP), . Coordination des Associations de la Société Civile pour la Défense des Droits de l'homme (CASCIDHO), Coopera Sweden Association, Forum de la Radiotélévision des Droits de l'Homme (FRTDH), Forum de Dialogue Interreligieux et Interculturel (FICIR), Guinée Développement (GUIDE) , . Mouvement International Pour les Réparations (MIR), Organisation de

l'Unité Syndicale Africaine (OUSA), Omar El Mokhtar Institute for Human Rights, Pan-African Forum on Rights and Development, Réseau de Formation, de Recherche et d'Action sur les Migrations Africaines (REFORMAF), Sudan Documentation Centre, 30. Switzerland Tamil Action Group (STAG), Tamil Centre For Human Rights (TCHR), Université Populaire Africaine (UPAF), Union Inter-Africaine des Droits de l'Homme (UIDH), NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.