



CC

43rd HRC Session: Agenda Item 2

Remarks of the Eritrean Delegation on the Oral Report of the SR

Presented by Ambassador Tesfamicael Gerahtu

Geneva, 26 March 2020

From the outset my delegation congratulates you Madam President, on assuming the presidency of the Council and commits to work for the success of this session and the Council in general under your leadership.

Eritrea's position during this session deserves objective considerations in the context of Eritrea's resilient progress, the emerging transformation of peace and security in the Horn of Africa Region as well as the continuing unfair and unjust treatment that Eritrea faces under the international human rights architecture.

Madam President

After two decades of the unfavorable international and regional situation that affected Eritrea's development, the Eritrea-Ethiopia Peace and Friendship Agreement was signed revitalizing the regional dynamics of peace and security in the Horn of Africa Region. Eritrea's effort continues to ensure the viability of the peace and create a congenial security environment both in terms of its relations with Ethiopia as well as other neighbors.

Accordingly, efforts are ongoing to establish mechanisms aimed at the harmonization of efforts, complementarity, cooperation and peaceful coexistence predicated on mutual respect and benefit and the progress so far is substantial. Moreover, Eritrea's effort is further seen in relation to an extended regional dynamics that incorporates the Red Sea strategy, Nile Basin, Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Aden

Madam President

The new dynamics entails policy implications on Eritrea's vital domestic and regional issues. Nonetheless, there is no quick fix and objective recognition of Eritrea's context, needs and ideals of human betterment remains crucial in light of the heavy effects of the unfavorable regional and international situation as well as the continuing effort required to build viable peace.

In a bid to redouble development efforts, consolidate progress and address critical bottlenecks, Eritrea is mobilizing, organizing and creating national capacity. The goal is to achieve macro economic growth and stability, comprehensive reorganization of institutions and strengthen the political process of nation building. A development road map driven by equal rights and opportunities, sanctioned by national law and encompassing 11 strategic areas that aim at building a foundation for all-rounded development in the coming few years is already initiated. To this end, the successful transitional measures implemented in 2019 are continuing in 2020.

Madam President

At multilateral level, dignified engagement and an international cooperation predicated on partnerships is being consolidated on various areas including on human rights. The UPR in particular is being consolidated as the epicenter for developing a follow up, coordination and

engagement infrastructure of all pertinent Eritrea's international and regional obligations on human rights. A Framework for Action and a working document outlining sector responsibilities have been developed to consolidate integrated implementation and mainstreaming of the recommendations into the sector goals, which led to the preparation of respective 2020-2024 sector plans. Implementation of the compiled UPR 2020-2024 National Plan is expected to start in June 2020.

On treaty body reporting, the 6th national report of Eritrea under the CEDAW Convention was reviewed only ten days ago and periodic CRC report is underway. Cooperation with the OHCHR on capacity building in the three previously agreed priorities will be discussed again. Effort to fulfill regional obligations and reporting is being consolidated and furthermore Eritrea recently held two rounds of political dialogue with the EU under article 8 of the "Cotonou Agreement.

Madam President

Despite the prevalence of a wide scope and opportunities for engagement and cooperation on human rights, Eritrea's progress and the emerging realities of regional peace, as intimated above, yet we are still in the usual situation where the special mechanism on Eritrea continues under a different agenda item. In essence, this last move violates the sanctity of the agenda items and dilutes the lofty task of the office of high commissioner and its mechanisms. In the case of Eritrea, it is unwarranted, counterproductive and it cannot be expected to provide an objectively assessed outcome.

The present oral report of the special rapporteur is also unacceptable as it again portrays the same pattern of behaviour, negating Eritrea's ground reality and achievement, recycles the allegations levelled in the previous mandates and underestimates the transitional measures underway to strengthen peace and cooperation transformation in a new reality.

In conclusion, the objective considerations stipulated above bestow responsibility on the Council to consolidate genuine engagement and cooperation and the fair and just way forward is to terminate the politically motivated ill-intent and approach perpetuated for a decade as Eritrea did not and does not deserve to be in the HRC agenda item. My delegation again reminds the council that the international human rights architecture should only serve as a vehicle for collective and shared responsibility to the ideals of humanity, far from political considerations, interest and status.

I thank you Madam President!

