



43^e session du Conseil des droits de l'homme

Point 2 de l'ordre du jour - Débat général

Genève, le 27 février 2020

Déclaration conjointe du Costa Rica et de la Suisse soutenue par un groupe de pays

Madam President,

I have the honor of delivering this statement on behalf of Costa Rica and Switzerland as well as 50 additional States across regions. The full list of States joining this statement will be made available on the HRC Extranet.

All around the world, people are raising their voices and demonstrating to advance their human rights. By taking to the street, protestors exercise their right to freedom of expression; they contribute to spur a sound democratic debate, to inclusive public participation and to holding their governments accountable for their action or their lack thereof. Last year has been a record year in terms of protests and the trend is likely to continue in 2020.

We are deeply concerned by the fact that in many instances public protests have been met with repression, including the disproportionate use of force by law enforcement officials, arbitrary arrests and detention of protesters, as well as Internet shutdowns. We are particularly alarmed by the contexts where protests are marked by the intentional use of lethal force against protesters, torture and enforced disappearances. We recall that participation in peaceful protests is an important form of exercising the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, of expression, of association and of participation in the conduct of public affairs and that these rights are essential components of democracies based on human rights and the rule of law.

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Because each protest takes place in its own context and for its own reasons, it is essential to listen and aim to address the grievances being expressed rather than to repress the protests themselves with the risk of adding to rising social tension.

We call upon States to facilitate such protests by providing protestors, to the extent possible, with access to public space within sight and sound of their intended target audience, and by protecting them, without discrimination, against any form of violence, threat or harassment.

Thank you Madam President