

Human Rights Council Resumed 6th session (December 2007)

Joint oral statement by Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), Action Canada for Population and Development, Asian Legal Resource Centre, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, International Service for Human Rights, Conectas Human Rights and acknowledged by the Conference of NGOs.

Delivered by Rachel Brett, Quaker UN Office, Geneva, on Friday 14 December 2007

Conclusion of the Session

Thank you, Mr President

The above named NGOs welcome the successful review and extension of a number of mandates at this session. One of the keys to the most successful of these reviews has been the quality of the mandate holders and, therefore, of their work. This has been acknowledged by governments, national human rights institutions and NGOs alike.

In turn this highlights the importance to be given to independence, integrity and expertise in the selection of the many new mandate holders which will be undertaken in the coming months.

At the same time, the continuing problems with scheduling and time management have again impinged on the contributions of both NGOs and Special Procedures. We would like to reiterate the suggestion made last time, that the days and times when Special Procedures report, have interactive dialogues and for review of mandates should be set, and made known in advance, and not subject to change. Other items can be adapted to accommodate this.

Finally, Mr President, we would like to emphasise what has been said by many of the Special Procedures, the need for the Council to address the substance of their reports and follow up on their conclusions and recommendations and to work to effect real changes in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you Mr President