



**Cairo Institute**  
**for Human Rights Studies**  
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'Homme  
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

## United Nations Human Rights Council: 61st Session

### Closing session: Joint statement

31 March 2026

Delivered by: **Salma El Hosseiny**

Thank you President.

On the two **urgent debates**, we urge the Council to consistently expose violations by all parties, demand accountability for all violations, avoid one-sided framing, adopt a comprehensive, objective, non-selective approach to the conflict, and address root causes. This is essential for atrocity prevention, preserving the Council's legitimacy and universal application of human rights.

At a time where the **Secretary General has warned of an 'imminent financial collapse'** as States continue to withhold or delay their contributions, the in **military spending** should instead be invested in improving people's lives through securing their human rights, which - as the UN Charter recognises - are a precondition for peace.

**Special Procedures** have been strongly affected by the funding crisis. We caution States that making short-sighted adjustments may lead to longer term gaps in protection and normative developments. We advise against blanket **reporting cuts to the General Assembly**. Any changes should be mandate-specific, ensure meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, particularly affected communities and mandate holders, transparent case-by-case justifications, and assessments of impacts on gains, losses, and political visibility.

We welcome resolutions on the **rights of the child, countering religious hatred, religion or belief, opinion and expression, housing, human rights defenders, racism, IGWG on the DDPA, torture, Belarus, Myanmar, Palestine, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine.**

We also welcome the joint statements on\*\* multilateralism, **and the** 20th anniversary of the Council.

**We regret that the Council failed to adequately respond to the situations in** China, Ethiopia, Libya, Tanzania, the U.S., **and** occupied Western Sahara.\*\* <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The signing organizations are Accion Antirracista (RacismoMX), Addameer for Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al-Haq, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Casa Marielle Franco Brasil, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), CIVICUS, Coalizão Negra por Direitos (Brazil), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), Europe Brazil Office, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Geledes – Instituto da Mulher Negra, Gulf Centre for Human Rights, Hivos, Humanists International, ILGA World, Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos, Instituto Decodifica, Instituto Liberdade e Emancipação – ILÊ, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), Rede de Mulheres Negras de Pernambuco and World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)