

United Nations Human Rights Council: 21st Session
Joint Oral statement Item 6 – General Debate
Conectas Direitos Humanos, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, UPR Info
21 September, 2012
Delivered by: Roland Chauville

Thank you.

The following statement is made on behalf of Conectas, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), and UPR-info.

We are highly alarmed by the increasing practice of states who alter or retract recommendations they have publicly made during the UPR review of a country through “back room” political trade-offs that lack any transparency or accountability. Such practices resulted in a weakening of the recommendations in the reports of Brazil and Morocco, as we can see in the footnotes in the WG reports, which present the recommendation as they were read during the Interactive Dialogue.

Such a practice goes to the heart of the UPR process’ legitimacy and relevance for civil society and other stakeholders within the country under review and around the world. When stakeholders engage for up to four years on serious efforts to ensure specific recommendations are raised in the plenary, their inputs should not be erased in this manner. We believe this practice severely undermines the participation of other stakeholders in the UPR process.

We therefore call on states under review to publicly pledge to no longer engage in this practice.

We also call the recommending states to refuse to be part of this type of practice, and to ensure that the language of the recommendations as made during the session of the Working Group be maintained.

Moreover, the practice of the state under review drafting the summary part of its own statement within the report of the UPR Working Group is also of concern.

Lastly, when factual mistakes and mistranslation of language have been made within the report of the Working Group only the state under review may request corrections to be made to the text- a practise that would seem unnecessary and potentially increase the chance of inaccuracies being included in the final outcome document.

Thank you.