

**UNGA 79 3C**  
**Joint Mountains Statement – Working Methods**

Mister Chair,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and my own delegation Switzerland.

We express our gratitude to the African Group for launching an important discussion on how to address the workload of this Committee and thank Cameroon and South Africa for their leadership. As four member states with small delegations, we recognize the need to review the current working methods of the Third Committee in pursuit of a strong and efficient UN system. We have therefore engaged openly and constructively in these negotiations with the objective of reaching consensus.

In light of the importance of this issue, we regret the resolution was introduced in such a hurried manner at beginning of October, without previous consultation with the wider membership and without allowing for sufficient time to reach consensus on all paragraphs.

Recognizing the diverging points of view with regards to the scope of this resolution, we would have preferred to keep it purely procedural in nature. A procedural resolution would have allowed more time for delegations to thoroughly discuss any substantive elements that will not only impact the work of this Committee but could also have wider consequences on the UN human rights architecture. Furthermore, many of the prescriptive elements originally included in the document were deeply divisive among the membership while doing little to actually address the workload of the Third Committee.

*(In case vote on text as a whole is voted: We deeply regret that the Committee was not able find consensus on such a fundamental issue despite the progress made over the last weeks to find common ground. Our delegations abstained because we still have...)*

Our delegations still have concerns that have not been sufficiently addressed. In particular, we consider that country-specific mandates differ greatly in substance, and therefore, should not be clustered on a regional basis. We have therefore supported the deletion of OP4.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again underline our firm commitment to respecting existing institutional arrangements, notably the independence of the Human Rights Council as its own decision-making body. Therefore, any attempts to alter the mandate of special procedures needs to be consulted and agreed upon with our colleagues in Geneva.

We also wish to express our continued support for the Bureau and the Secretariat and the crucial role they play for the work and efficiency of the Third Committee.

Today's action cannot be the end of this discussion, rather the beginning. The discussion of the working methods of this Committee have to be carried forward in a more comprehensive and inclusive manner.

We thank you.