

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
39th session

ID with ASG report on reprisals

Intervention by MONTENEGRO

Mr. President,

Montenegro would like to thank the Assistant Secretary General Mr. Gilmour for presenting the newest report of the UN Secretary General on intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the UN in the field of human rights, providing an update on this very important issue which have been a longstanding concern to the whole system, including the Human Rights Council. We particularly thanks Mr. Gilmour for his presence today in the Council.

Montenegro deeply regrets that the reported number of reprisals, including a variety of forms, continues to increase. In that regard, Montenegro strongly condemns all acts of intimidation and reprisal committed by governments and non-State actors. We are of the view that the intimidation and reprisals violate not only rights of those seeking to cooperate or having cooperated with the United Nations, but as well seriously undermine the UN system as a whole.

The report clearly indicates that there is a need for further strengthening our collective response to this deeply worrying issue. In that regard, we shared the observation of the Secretary General that much needs to be done at the field level and by the United Nations, in particular in terms of reporting and documenting the violence based on gender or sexual orientation.

Montenegro calls on all member state to cooperate with the Assistant Secretary General and help him in fulfilling its mandate. We encourage states listed in the report to investigate all reported cases, in particular those against human rights defenders, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

I thank you.