
Referring to your letter of 13 September 2017 on the proposed measures concerning the workload of the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia in its capacity as the Coordinator of the EEG has the honour to transmit the comments and observations of the EEG.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia informs that it has received comments only from one EEG member state, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, via electronic mail and quotes them herewith:

1. The Russian Federation considers the proposed changes to the modalities of the adoption of the UPR outcome at the plenary session of the HRC, i.e. shorting the time from 1 hour to 30 minutes and preventing the members states from taking the floor, as serious violations of the Institutional building package and the outcome of the review of the Council, in particular HRC resolution 16/21 and GA resolution 65/281 which approved the outcome review.

2. For the last decade the UN has been working with the zero growth budget approach. As we all know annually the Secretary General requests all the parts of the Secretariat to proceed with additional horizontal cuts. Having said that we don't see why the HRC should be given a special treatment. We would be against the request for the GA to provide additional meetings and money for the Council.

The Russian Federation informs that it will object the Bureau decision on the above mentioned point. As for other two proposals to cut the panel timing from 3 to 2 hours and restore the speaking time from 2 to 3 minutes Russian Federation will be in a position to support them.
The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations Office in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 20 September 2017

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL