

**Enhancement of International Cooperation in the Field of Human
Rights**

EU Explanation of Position

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of those EU Member States that are members of the Human Rights Council. This explanation of position has been agreed by the EU as a whole.

At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation for the transparent process and the open discussions led by Iran – on behalf of NAM – on this draft resolution. The European Union was pleased to engage actively and constructively in the process.

Mr. President,

As we have stated previously, the EU considers international cooperation as an essential element of its external relations and is fully committed to ensure international cooperation in the variety of its forms. At the same time, other principles governing our relations must be fully respected. The EU stresses that the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights lies within the States. Thus, international cooperation must be viewed in conjunction with the efforts of States. It should neither substitute national efforts in promoting and protecting human rights, nor be a condition for guaranteeing human rights. The EU

considers that each State has an obligation to promote and protect the human rights of persons within its territory irrespective of the nature of extent of international cooperation and assistance.

Whilst taking note of the inclusion of elements from the consensual UN General Assembly resolution 68/160, the resolution before us reiterates the Council's request to the Advisory Committee to prepare a more focused and in-depth study on the ways and means to further enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights. The EU considers that it is the responsibility of Member States to analyse and devise activities of international cooperation and explore necessities and possibilities regarding it. We are not convinced that the Advisory Committee study is the appropriate format on these issues and that the Member States should transfer this responsibility to the relevant expert body.

Taking note of the subject of this resolution and in a spirit of compromise, the EU will join a consensus on L.3