



**National remarks, delivered by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the Informal stocktaking meeting to assess the impact of the implementation of the measures contained in PRST/OS/13/1**

**11 November 2021**

Madam President,

We thank the co-facilitators for their informative briefing.

We share the general view in the room that measures, taken in follow-up to PRST 13/1, have contributed towards enhancing the Council's efficiency.

The de-clustering of the IDs have enabled more substantive discussions, and facilitated a smooth dialogue with all mandate-holders on equal footing.

The reported decrease in number of lunch-time meetings is another positive development in view of the present financial situation of the UN. This has also helped small-sized delegations to actively participate in HRC's proceedings.

Madam President,

The last two years have been extraordinary due to the COVID pandemic. We have been obliged to continue the Council's work under exceptional modalities. We thank you, Madam President, for your leadership in this regard.

The evolving pandemic situation warrants consolidation of the gains made by us in enhancing the Council's efficiency. Any new initiative would have to cater to the COVID-related constraints on the system, and might entail additional financial implications. We, therefore, see merit in continuation of the measures, outlined in PRST 13/1, for the time being.

Madam President,

We are of the firm view that our collective efforts to upgrade the Council's efficiency should fully respect the parameters and frameworks, laid out by the UNGA resolution 60/251 and the IB package.

We have closely followed the discussions with regards to improving efficiency of the UPR process. This peer-driven review mechanism has been functioning well. We, therefore, caution against any ill-advised moves to radically alter the agreed modalities of the process.

We underscore that the rationalization process should apply to all resolutions, both country-specific and thematic. We note with concern proliferation of country-specific initiatives, often driven by political considerations and selective approaches. This has overburdened the Council's agenda. The rationalization process cannot deliver on its own, unless we, the Council, work together in good faith and promote dialogue, cooperation and constructive engagement as preferred tools to advance the global human rights agenda. I thank you, Madam President.