Egypt’s Abstention on the Belarus Resolution: Rejecting Polarization and Supporting Constructive Engagement

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On 30 March 2026, during discussions at the Human Rights Council in the 53rd meeting, several resolutions were introduced among which was the draft resolution on the “Situation of Human Rights in Belarus” (A/HRC/61/L.14). The resolution, as orally revised, was ultimately adopted by a recorded vote of 28 votes in favour, 4 against, and 15 abstentions, **with Egypt among the abstaining States.**

Prior to voting, **Egypt stressed its unwavering commitment to the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of all human rights**. It also reaffirmed its firm conviction in the critical role played by the Human Rights Council in supporting States and strengthening their national capacities in order to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of their peoples through dialogue and constructive cooperation.

Within this framework, Egypt reiterated that States bear the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in line with their respective international human rights obligations. **Egypt further reaffirmed its longstanding position that the establishment of new mechanisms by the Council, or the expansion of existing mandates, should be grounded in the consent of the States concerned.**

At the same time, Egypt underscored the importance of preserving a spirit of cooperation within the Council and avoiding polarization. According to Egypt, polarization risks undermining the foundations of constructive engagement and cooperation among Member States.

Egypt also expressed its firm conviction that cooperative approaches based on dialogue, technical assistance, and capacity-building represent a more effective path toward achieving tangible progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. Such approaches, Egypt emphasized, remain aligned with the very purpose for which the Human Rights Council was established.

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