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Item 3: General Debate

Thank you. The Sikh Human Rights Group commends the High Commissioner, the Human Rights Council and its officials for continuing to carry on the torch of human rights during this very difficult period in world history.

Human Rights continue to be violated and in some cases even more so as some countries take advantage of lockdowns. Some countries have sneaked in unwarranted draconian laws and policies.

Track and Trace in some countries is being used to collect data on individuals that the State would otherwise not have. We hope a HRC report will reveal the excesses.

Lockdowns have been necessary. However the way it has been done in some countries has left the poor and vulnerable people in greater distress, poverty and even hunger. In some countries sudden lockdowns were imposed without planning for the consequences.

We reiterate our proposal that enjoyment of human rights and inclusion will be complimented by proactive policies on making diversity a part of every national culture.

We have been proposing a Declaration on Diversity that we believe will encourage States to be inclusive of the wide diversity of cultures, opinions, people and biodiversity. We believe it will be an antidote to populism and divisive movements.

We are encouraged by State members who support this idea and hope more will join to introduce a resolution for a Declaration on Diversity proposal.