



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council – 45th session

Item 3 – General Debate

Speaker: Albert Hengelaar

Thursday, 24 September 2020

Mrs./Mr. (vice-)President,

The World Evangelical Alliance draws attention to the wellbeing of minorities in nations at every Human Rights Council. We consider this the litmus test for Sustainable Development Goal No. 16. Over the years we have addressed minority situations in countries in all corners of the earth: Algeria, the U.S.A., India, Italy to name a few. And we promoted the importance of the Marrakesh Declaration, which defends the rights of religious minorities.

It is important to see religious liberty for minorities in the context of the synergy of ALL human rights. It is a process. Economic and development rights are not sustainable without the right to religious freedom. The latter is not sustainable without women's rights. Humans matter as individuals. "Diversity is wealth" as former Timor-Leste president Ramos Horta said during a 2013 peace conference in Salle XX. The synergy of rights could not better be described.

This is important to point to as we strive towards SDG16. It can not be attained without the well-being of minorities: national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic.

We thank you Mrs./Mr. (vice-)President.