



26<sup>h</sup> session of the  
Human Rights Council

**Item 2**                      **Final Update of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**10 June 2014**

**Delivered by Renate Bloem**

Thank you Mr. President,

Madame High Commissioner,

CIVICUS pays tribute to your final update and legacy. You have achieved, in an unprecedented way, to be the guarantor of independence, impartiality, non-selectivity, that voice that speaks truth to power without fear or favour.

You and your office succeeded in giving human rights a different rating in the world today through mainstreaming human rights throughout the UN system, through speaking to and impacting the Security Council, through influencing the post 2015 Development agenda and through courageously addressing violations wherever in the world they occurred. And we share your concerns for remaining dangerous hotspots you have named, including the roadmap of hate speech and extremist political rhetoric in Europe.

But we laud your engagement in strengthening the treaty body system, and underscore your final call to the Council not to undermine the complementarity of UPR, Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies by playing out one against the other, or only accepting UPR.

We continue to applaud that you have not stopped since your first intervention to the Council in 2009 to claim and underscore that **Civil Society is crucial to the framework of human rights and vital to the healthy functioning of democracy**, and you have warned governments of real setbacks to human rights protection when civil society is threatened. And we thank you that you have once more highlighted that your and your offices' work could have never been achieved without the vigorous activism of Civil Society.

Madame High Commissioner, you have raised the bars very high and we hope that your successor will continue on this way with the same passionate engagement!

CIVICUS salutes you and wishes you the very best for all future developments. Thank you