

# WFUNA EUROPEAN UNA MEETING

25-26 NOVEMBER 2013  
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

## APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN REGION

United Nations Associations from the European region met in Brussels, Belgium from 25 – 26 November 2013 on the occasion of the WFUNA bi-annual European UNA Meeting. In our deliberations we decided to draw the attention of Governments from the European Region to the alarming financial situation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Office is increasingly reliant on unpredictable voluntary contributions, which are in most cases earmarked.

Human rights belong to the three pillars upon which the Organization is built. Although we have seen a dramatic increase in the work and visibility of OHCHR, both at Headquarters and in the field, the overall budget (regular and extra budgetary) did not grow at the same pace.

We all have a keen interest in ensuring that OHCHR, which is the leading impartial institution in promoting and protecting human rights in the UN system, can fulfill its mandate. Therefore, we urge our Governments to increase the relative proportion of the UN regular budget for human rights activities from the present three per cent share to at least five per cent, in order to guarantee the implementation of its mandatory human rights activities.

In addition, we ask our Governments, in collaboration with UN member States in other regions, to increase the share of their un-earmarked voluntary contributions to OHCHR.

Brussels, 26 November 2013

### List of Signatories

United Nations Association of Armenia  
United Nations Association of Belgium  
United Nations Association of Georgia  
United Nations Association of Germany  
United Nations Association of Lithuania  
United Nations Association of the Netherlands



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