

**The following is an excerpt from the official meeting records of the General Assembly on March 15, 2006.**

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**Mr. Yousfi** (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): My delegation welcomes the adoption of resolution 60/251, establishing the Human Rights Council, as our heads of State and Government decided at the September 2005 World Summit. In voting in favour of the resolution, Algeria sought to reaffirm its commitment to the cause of all human rights, which are universal, interdependent and inalienable, as well as our attachment to the universal values and principles that underpin the Charter of the United Nations and multilateralism.

My delegation believes that we have adopted a balanced text, in that it contains elements that enable us progressively to achieve the goal of promoting and protecting human rights on the basis of an approach rooted in dialogue and cooperation that ensures the authority of the General Assembly. The Assembly, under which the Council has been established, is the most representative body. We believe that its rules of procedure will make it possible for the international community to achieve the requisite objectivity in this sensitive area, as well as to overcome the problems associated with the previous practice of politicization, selectivity and double standards and practices in the area of human rights.

There are a number of elements that our delegation, like several others, would have liked to see included in the resolution, in particular an explicit reference to the right of peoples under colonial rule or foreign occupation to self-determination.

We also associate ourselves with the statement made by the Ambassador of Yemen on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Our adherence to multilateralism has of course led us to accept compromises. Throughout the process of negotiation, Algeria held firmly to the necessary principle of compromise.

We would like to sincerely congratulate you, Mr. President, as well as the Co-Chairmen — Ambassador Arias of Panama and Ambassador Kumalo of South Africa — and the members of the President's Bureau, for sparing no effort to secure this important achievement. Lastly, Algeria stands ready to work with all Member States to attain the noble goals set out by the resolution.