

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

The complete transcript is available at
http://www.hrw.org/un/elections/pdfs/ga_mtg_en.pdf (English)
http://www.hrw.org/un/elections/pdfs/ga_mtg_fr.pdf (French)
http://www.hrw.org/un/elections/pdfs/ga_mtg_ar.pdf (Arabic)

Mr. Jenie (Indonesia): The Indonesia delegation voted in favour of the resolution, as we feel that it represents a fair and reasonable compromise, thanks, Sir, to your able and skilful leadership, with the assistance of your two able co-Chairs, Ambassador Arias of Panama and Ambassador Kumalo of South Africa.

The resolution does not fully meet our expectations or fully address our concerns, as it without doubt does not fully satisfy other Member States either. The resolution in its entirety, however, should provide a basis for better human rights machinery than the one it is replacing.

The resolution is the fruit of our collective efforts and therefore every one of us is responsible for making it a success in its implementation. Likewise, each and every Member State, big or small, rich or poor, developed or developing, has the same right to benefit from that human rights body when it starts operating, since no country is perfect in its performance in the field of human rights anyway. Consequently, we have to work together to ensure that the Council meets the different capacity-building needs and priorities of each Member State by taking fully into account the significance of national and regional particularities, as well as their various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds.

As our collective endeavour departed from our common desire to address the shortcomings of the Commission on Human Rights, it is only pertinent for my delegation to stress at this juncture that the work of the Council should be faithful to the principles we have agreed upon — universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues — by treating all human rights, including the right to development, in a fair and equal manner, as well as by eliminating double standards and politicization. It is my delegation's understanding, in the absence of explicit reference in the resolution to the Council's modalities for addressing country-specific situations, that those principles should also be fully applicable in that regard and reflected in its methods of work and rules of procedure.

My delegation also wishes to place on record its understanding with regard to the hierarchical position of the Council within the United Nations system and its relation to other United Nations bodies. Since it is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the Council submits recommendations on issues within the scope of its mandate to the General Assembly, and to other United Nations bodies only through its parent body.

Finally, my delegation wishes to refer to the seriousness of what has unfolded as the result of the recent publication and republication of blasphemous cartoons depicting the prophet Mohammed in various newspapers. In that regard, my delegation fully associates itself with the statement made by the Ambassador of Yemen on behalf of the countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The mention of that issue in your statement, Mr. President, when you introduced the draft resolution earlier underscores the relevance of the work of the Council with regard to the issue. It is my delegation's understanding that one of the Council's tasks will be to undertake measures to prevent the recurrence of that unfortunate incident and to devise a strategy to better promote understanding and respect for the various religious and cultural values of all States and societies. Among other things, the purpose of that would be to ensure that freedom of expression is exercised in a responsible manner and within the confines of its limitations laid down by universally recognized international human rights law.

