

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

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**Mr. Westmoreland** (Malaysia): We are certainly very pleased today that we have finally fulfilled the mandate given to us by our leaders at the 2005 World Summit. The resolution that we have just adopted, following several months of intense negotiation, provides a solid framework and sets in motion the process for the establishment of a new and improved human rights body that is credible and more objective and effective in the promotion and protection of human rights, based on cooperation and dialogue.

Malaysia also fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, regarding the need for dialogue and understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions for the promotion of tolerance and respect for, and freedom of, religion and belief.

Like many other delegations, we accept the reality that the resolution does not reflect all our concerns and wishes. We also recognize the fact that no country or group of countries got everything that it wanted in the resolution. With the many divergent views expressed and the various formulations presented for the establishment of the Human Rights Council during the discussions and negotiations over the past several months, we believe that the resolution has managed to strike a delicate balance and an acceptable compromise to our fundamental differences and positions. It is with that in mind that Malaysia voted in favour of the text.

We would like to commend you, Mr. President, as well as the two Co-Chairmen — Ambassador Kumalo of South Africa and Ambassador Arias of Panama — for this historic achievement, as well as for your tireless efforts and dedication, Mr. President, throughout the whole process, which you have conducted in a transparent, inclusive and open manner.