

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. Arifi (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/60/L.48 because we believe it to be a compromise text establishing a fragile balance between the sometimes divergent positions of the Member States.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by South Africa and Yemen, respectively, on behalf of the African Group and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The resolution just adopted is the result of joint efforts by all States to strengthen the set of international instruments in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was also a response to the call made by heads of State and Government at the 2005 World Summit.

In that regard, I have the particular pleasure of warmly congratulating you, Mr. President, for your tireless efforts and sacrifices. I would also like to congratulate the facilitators and all the delegations that contributed to the achievement of these results.

The Kingdom of Morocco participated actively in both the negotiations on the Summit Outcome and on the resolution. We have always demonstrated our willingness to contribute to the establishment of the Human Rights Council. Throughout the entire process, we reaffirmed our belief that such a body would be an effective and appropriate framework to bolster international achievements in the area of human rights and to strengthen the international consensus in this area.

Moreover, Morocco has adhered to all the relevant instruments and conventions in this field. We firmly favoured the establishment of a Human Rights Council that is both effective and able to remedy previous actions of the Commission on Human Rights. We believe that truly strengthening the rule of law is the best guarantee for the sustainable development of individuals and societies as a whole.

It is in that spirit that the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, inspired by the will to promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, would like to contribute to the attainment of the Council's goals. We will therefore stand as a candidate for the newly established Council. We count on the support of Member States devoted to the protection of human rights.