

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. Alsaidi (Yemen): I have the distinct honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your tireless efforts to advance the cause of human rights and the adoption of this resolution. I also take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the members of the OIC to the two Co-Chairmen, Ambassador Kumalo and Ambassador Arias, for their patience and their tireless efforts in that regard.

The members of the OIC are far from happy with this resolution on the Human Rights Council. We wanted it to contain unequivocal, unambiguous references, in both the preambular and the operative parts, to acts of incitement, hatred and religious intolerance. After all, we live in a world that seems to be rife with tensions between cultures. That is why it is essential that you yourself, Mr. President, take the lead in promoting dialogue with a view to agreed action by the General Assembly on this important and sensitive issue.

In any case, despite our unhappiness with the draft resolution, we opted not to take steps that might have led to its unravelling or blocked its adoption. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful that the international community will recognize that incitement to hatred and religious bigotry, even when promoted under the rubric of freedom of speech, will be recognized and disdained for what it is.