

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)

Ms. Tincopa (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Peru voted in favour of draft resolution A/60/L.48 because human rights are a decisive factor in our foreign policy. Without respect for and protection of human rights, there is no human civilization, for they are at the epicentre.

Peru has participated in the Commission on Human Rights as a member, off and on, for the last 20 years, and at present holds in the Chair of the Commission — the Commission that is to be replaced, as decided today, by the Human Rights Council. This reflects our firm commitment to the defence and promotion of human rights at both the international and national levels. In Peru there has been important progress in human rights, particularly with regard to women and the attention due to victims, the latter through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We welcome the birth of this new multilateral body, the mandate of which is more robust and focuses essentially on victims of human rights violations. The victims have been looking for the United Nations to take up its responsibility and adopt, as was done this morning, a system for stronger and more effective global protection, with greater powers and authority, following the logic of human rights law rather than politicization, which is what eroded the legitimacy of the Commission.

Since 1948, the international community has seen the United Nations capacity to protect and promote human rights grow. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights raised human rights to the status of universal ethical and legal values shared by all civilizations and religions. We hope that with the creation of the new Council, its members will respect and observe human rights in the wider sense. We hope that the Council will protect human rights from the perspective of the victims, that it will adopt its decisions on the basis of criteria with recognized legitimacy, without discrimination or political selectivity, and that it will enjoy the essential contributions of international civil society and non-governmental organizations. We also hope that dialogue and cooperation will be essential components of the prevention of human rights violations.

Peru associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Brazil on behalf of Uruguay, Paraguay, Colombia, Guatemala and Panama concerning the regrettable decrease in the presence of Latin America and the Caribbean on the new Council.

Finally, we wish to express once again our appreciation to you, Mr. President, and to the two Co-Chairmen for all the efforts that culminated in the establishment of the new Human Rights Council, an important triumph for humanity.