



**Statement by
Mr. Jonny Sinaga
Indonesian Delegation**

**before the Third Committee
Sixty-First Session of
The United Nations General Assembly**

on

Item 68: Report of the Human Rights Council

Friday, 10 November 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia recognizes the significance of today's discussion as we pursue our goal of writing a new chapter for the UN's work on human rights and consider ways to improve relations between the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

As the Human Rights Council has begun to implement its mandate, it finds itself automatically involved in the process of laying down the basic groundwork for its full operation in the future, as mandated by its founding resolution. The report before us covers the first session and the two special sessions of the Council. These provide clear evidences of the commitment and hard work of the Council to ensure that it operates effectively.

My delegation notes with appreciation some positive concrete developments during the Council's three months of work in June, July and August 2006. These developments relate to the participation of NGOs in the work of the Council and its preservation of this practice as one of its work methods.

Although the Council is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, resolution 60/251 permits NGOs to participate in its proceedings based on an ECOSOC concession arising out of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 as well as the convention established by the Commission on Human Rights, its predecessor body.

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Civil society, which includes NGOs and national institutions, plays a significant role in the promotion and protection of human rights. This fact is deeply appreciated by Indonesia and is reflected in the Government's strong partnership with civil society to promote and protect human rights, considered critically important by the Government of Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman,

To deepen this process, it is the view of the Indonesian delegation that the Council should fully observe the principle contained in GA resolution 61/251 that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings.

In addition, it is Indonesia's hope that the work of the Council will create an environment encouraging observance of the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of human rights issues globally.

For this purpose, the Council should maintain and continue to enjoy the full support and confidence of Member States, in contrast with the Commission on Human Rights which suffered a serious deficit in this area. The early work of the Council and our deliberations today are therefore crucial to the Council's progress. They will contribute significantly to building confidence in the Council itself.

Mr. Chairman,

On another important matter, despite the fact that its founding resolution calls for the Council to submit an annual report to the General Assembly, there seems to have been some confusion about the status of that report. This was revealed during General Committee discussions on the allocation of the agenda item pertaining to the report of the Human Rights Council.

As a result, it would be wise for the Council to use the next session to discuss and agree on its cycle of work. This will serve to clarify which session is the main session, incorporating a high level segment, and which one will be the round-up session in relation to the creation of the annual report.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, my delegation strongly believes that important recommendations of the Council which require implementation or follow up action by other UN bodies should be considered and approved by the General Assembly. The Third Committee, as the expert body, must also play a key role in this whole process.

I thank you.