

**South Africa `s Explanation of Vote:
Resolution on the Elimination of all forms intolerance and of
discrimination based on religion of belief**

Mr President.

The resolution before us contained in document A/HRC/6/L.15/Rev.1 entitled the "Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief" presents challenges to my delegation and its terms of reference do not reflect all the issues pertinent to this mandate.

It is our view that this resolution also does not conform to the minimum requirements for a structured format in the context of the process of review, rationalization and improvement of mandates as consistently called for by the African Group and other members of this Council. We find it inconceivable that the terms of reference of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief could be so silent on a key issue of monitoring the role that may be played by the media in inciting religious hatred.

As we further engage in this process of strengthening the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, we believe that it is imperative to take cognizance of the contemporary challenges that face the international human rights system in this regard. A strengthened mandate would enable the Council to contribute better to the protection of victims of human rights violations, maximizing remedies for victims, eliminating impunity and maintaining the delicate requisite balance in the exercise of the right to freedom of religion or belief as juxtaposed to the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Finally, Mr President my delegation will therefore abstain on this resolution.

I thank you Mr President.