Comments by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC on the RRI of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar, during 7th Session of HRC, 17 March 2008

Mr. President

I am making these comments on behalf of the OIC.

The OIC believes in a non-selective approach while dealing with situations of human rights. It has, therefore, always expressed its strong opposition to the country mandates.

The OIC's position is based on the experience that led to the demise of the Commission on Human Rights. We hope that the past approach of selectivity and double standards will be replaced by a cooperative, transparent and universal review of the human right situations under the new Council.

The newly created mechanism of UPR provides a useful opportunity for the review of the commitments of member States to human rights. The application of this rule should be without exception and double standards should be avoided for some developing countries.

The OIC is of the view that a change in approach with regard to Myanmar is needed. This debate should be used to examine the validity or effectiveness of this mandate especially its impact on the stability and integrity of Myanmar.

The OIC supports the efforts by the Government of Myanmar to promote the human rights in the country and cooperation extended to the Special Rapporteur during his mandate by receiving him seven times. We urge the international community not to politicize this case for extraneous reasons.

I thank you.