

**Remarks by the Indonesian delegation
on the reports of the Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Religion or Belief
and on Freedom of Expression
at the Second Session of the Human Rights Council**

Geneva, 20 September 2006

Mr President,

As I take the floor on behalf of the Indonesian delegation, I should like to thank the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion, Ms Asma Jahangir, and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, Mr Ambeyi Ligabo, for their comprehensive reports detailing their activities in discharging their mandates.

First of all, I should like to address a query to both special procedures to seek an elaboration from them on how they would advocate using the right to freedom of opinion and expression in a responsible manner in view of a corresponding need to respect the right to freedom of religion and belief. Or, put another way: "how can certain reasonable limitations be applied to the exercise of the right to freedom of expression in its interaction with the freedom of religion or belief – both sets of rights being provided for by international human rights law and other international standards – in such a way as to avoid a clash between these two sets of rights in their practical application?"

In this respect, we would like to seek your comment on the principle that whereas the right to freedom of expression is one of the fundamental human rights, its exercise should be guided by wisdom, especially if it is likely to impinge on other rights.

Furthermore, we also consider the coordination among mandate-holders an important element in the achievement of more effective outcomes, including in avoiding overlapping. We would welcome an insight into the way the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion coordinates with other mandate-holders, in particular with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, ~~in carrying out her mandate.~~ Like many others, we are very interested to learn more as to how the issue of a rigorous and responsible approach to imparting information can contribute positively to protecting the right to religious freedom.

In this connection, while we appreciate the efforts made by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in developing a so-called framework for

communications with governments, the framework seems to be broad and cross-cutting in its approach of various thematic human rights issues. This means that the framework will inevitably touch upon or expand into areas of work under the jurisdiction of other thematic mandate-holders. How does she propose to use such a framework effectively in accordance with her mandate?

Lastly, there has been a debate on the necessity and importance of having some form of code of conduct for the media – we would be interested to have the views of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression in this regard.

Mr President,

My delegation looks forward to hearing the valuable inputs of the special procedures on these important issues so that the right to freedom of religion and belief and the right to freedom of expression can be enjoyed in optimal conditions and in a climate of harmony by all the world's communities. Meanwhile, Indonesia will continue to promote a frank, open and moderate dialogue and mutual respect among different communities, both inside and outside its borders, in accordance with its commitment to the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights.

Thank you.

and by the application of judgement with regard to the effects it will produce and their