



# MÉXICO

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Statement by  
H.E. Ambassador Enrique Berruga Filloy,  
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the  
United Nations, on the establishment of  
UN Human Rights Council

New York, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006

*(Check against delivery)*

Mr. President

This is a very important and special day for the United Nations. The establishment of the Human Rights Council represents the most important advance and update of the multilateral work in favor of the human rights in the latest decades. Through this decision of the General Assembly, human rights are consolidated as one of the three pillars for the collective action of the contemporary international community.

As agreed by our leaders during the World Summit of 2005, the promotion of human rights is the most solid basis for the advancement of security and well-being for our peoples. A peaceful, prosperous and democratic world will only come true, as long as basic conditions for the full enjoyment of human rights are assured.

The dwindling efficiency and credibility of the work of the Commission on Human Rights turned the strengthening of the United Nations Human Rights Machinery into an urgent matter. For that reason, the main challenge of this reform was to ensure that the new Council would be substantially better than the Commission. This objective has been achieved.

The negotiating process which ends today provides a clear picture of the multiple existing views surrounding this complex issue. The resolution does not reflect the ideal world, but the real one. In this sense, we can affirm today that there is a prevailing divide between those who perceive human rights as a way to promote dignity and fundamental freedoms and those who see them as an uneasy obligation or as one that is difficult to implement because of certain costumes, ideological postures or ways to exercise power. Therefore, the international community's next challenge, within the new Council, will be to narrow this gap to reach universality and effective promotion of human rights.

Indeed, the Council must end those habits and flaws that had become common practice in the Commission: particularly, the double standards, selectivity and the lack of real impact of its decisions in the field. Mexico considers that the new organ makes for significant progress in the following areas:

- It places the human rights agenda at a higher institutional standing in the United Nations
- It sets out a standard for the election of its members, by which candidatures would be considered on the basis of their merits, linking them to the contribution of States to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments.
- The principles of dialogue and co-operation will guide its work, in order to strengthen the capacity of States to fulfill their obligations and abide by international standards on human rights.
- The General Assembly will have the ability to suspend a Council member which commits gross and systematic violations of human rights.
- The universal periodical review mechanism will allow both, raise the bar to wider scrutiny of the international community on human rights situations and provide greater co-operation with countries that may need it.

It is for those reasons that Mexico supports the creation of this new body and welcomes this crucial step of the international community.

The Human Rights agenda is at the forefront of the Mexican foreign policy. In accordance with this priority and with the founding spirit of this new mechanism, Mexico has decided to adopt a policy of not exchanging votes on candidatures to elect members of the Human Rights Council. The purpose of this measure is to make sure Mexico always grants its support to those candidates who, as set out in the resolution, have the most merits and demonstrate the highest level of commitment to the human rights cause. Furthermore, as part of this policy, Mexico will not disclose its voting intentions thus avoiding the influence of factors foreign to human rights agenda.

By adopting this policy we seek to preserve the highest international standards for the defense of human dignity.

The task ahead is to make sure that the Council that is up to the important role granted to the United Nations in this delicate matter. It our collective responsibility to consolidate it as the center piece of this endeavor.

Mexico would like to commend the President of the General Assembly for his good judgment and for furnishing us with proposals that have garnered the widest possible consensus to create the new Human Rights Council. My delegation also recognizes his leadership in carrying out a process of extensive, open and transparent negotiations.

In light of this experience, Mexico reaffirms its conviction that this type of negotiations is the only equitable and effective mechanism of the General Assembly to carry on the entire reform of the United Nations, with the necessary legitimacy and respect for the sovereign equality of States.

I thank you.