

First Session of the Human Rights Council

High Level Segment (HLS)

Possible transitional modalities

Note: Based on modalities developed by the Secretariat for the 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights. Suggested deletions are ~~strikeout~~ and additions are underlined

1. **Timing:** The high-level segment (HLS) will take place during the first week of the session. It will begin on Monday, ~~14 March 2005~~ 19 June 2006, at 3.00 p.m. and last from two to three to four days, depending on the number of speakers.
2. **Location:** One rationale for the HLS is to provide a higher level of protocol for dignitaries and, accordingly, the Salle des Assemblées would be the appropriate venue for the meetings. Protocol issues for the HLS will be based on the arrangements developed at CHR59 in close cooperation with the UNOG Chief of Protocol. To facilitate the proceedings, the Council Commission will hold its opening session in the morning of 19 June ~~14 March~~, also in the Salle des Assemblées.
3. **Definition:** Dignitaries, to be determined by the respective State, are usually considered to be government representatives of ministerial or higher rank or heads of intergovernmental organizations. When speaking in the Salle des Assemblées, all dignitaries will address the Council Commission from the rostrum located on the podium.
4. **List of speakers:** The list of speakers will be prepared by the secretariat taking into consideration the preferences registered by the concerned delegations. The sequence of the speakers will be based on the interests and availability of the dignitaries. As a matter of principle, the list will be drawn up in chronological order of receipt of requests. Thus, for planning purposes, interested Permanent Missions, intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies are requested to express a preferred date/time (one only) for the intervention by their respective dignitaries during the HLS. ~~Upon the election of the Expanded Bureau of CHR61, modalities for the HLS will be discussed and a deadline for inscription communicated to all Permanent Missions, intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies. It is anticipated that~~ The deadline for indicating a preferred date/time will be the end of May 2006 ~~February 2005~~, taking into account lessons learned from the past sessions of the Commission. Inscriptions on the list of speakers should be addressed to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
5. **Speaking-time limits:** It would be preferable if dignitaries were to speak for less than ~~15~~ no more than 7 minutes.
6. **Rights of reply and points of order:** ~~Legally speaking, s~~Statements by dignitaries will be ~~are~~ part of the general debate of the Council Commission. ~~The only difference is that dignitaries are not bound by the item(s) under consideration, or even by the agenda of the Commission. In practice, this means that~~ Guest speakers may address any human rights issue. Since their statements are part of the general debate, the same procedural rules apply, including the possibility for any State to disagree with the statement. The normal channels for such disagreement are: (a) to express it in the course of the general debate as a regular statement; or (b) to exercise a right of reply at the end of the meeting.

According to rule 113.42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly functional commissions of ECOSOC, a speaker may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. Consequently, the Chairperson will not allow the use of points of order to express disagreement with or provide any argument in favour of or against questions of substance raised by dignitaries.

~~Following the usual practice of the Commission,~~ Rights of reply will be limited to two replies, of two ~~three~~ minutes for the first and one ~~two~~ minutes for the second, and all rights of reply will be exercised at the end of the meeting, at the end of the day, or at the end of the HLS.

7. **Timetable:** It cannot be excluded that some gaps may arise between the time slots allotted to dignitaries. Short gaps (of, say, 15 minutes) will easily be absorbed. Should longer gaps arise, two options are contemplated:

- (a) The proceedings will be suspended until the next speaker; or
- (b) Since the HLS will be referred to in the report under an agenda item 3, some statements could be made in connection with any uncompleted matter under that item.

8. **Parallel activities:** No parallel activities will be programmed during the HLS.

9. ~~**Participation of dignitaries outside the HLS:** The participation of dignitaries outside the HLS should be an exception. As agreed at CHR59, dignitaries attending the sixty-first session outside the HLS will not be given the possibility of addressing the Commission from the podium in room XVII (with the exception of heads of State and Government).~~

Delegation of Chile
May 23, 2006