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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
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**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz**

**Permanent Representative
Of
The Arab Republic of Egypt**

**Before
The 61st Session of the General Assembly**

**On Agenda Item 68
Report of the Human Rights Council**

10 November 2006

Check Against Delivery

Mme. President

Permit me at the outset to extend my delegation's deep appreciation for Ambassador De Alba President of the Human Rights Council for his report and for his diligent leadership of the Council. We believe that under his capable leadership, the Council will be successful and will be able to overcome all the difficulties that are in the way of achieving its objectives.

Mme. President,

We have substituted the Commission of Human Rights with the Human Rights Council. This was an important step to eliminate all the problems that troubled us related to the way in which the international community dealt with human rights issues as a result of politicization, double standards and selectivity. It was hoped that this step would gear international political will towards overcoming these difficulties. In this regard, we need to develop a clear vision on how the new Council will deal with various issues of Human Rights. In the view of my delegation, this starts with revising the means by which Country Specific Resolutions are dealt with in the Council and in the General Assembly alike. There is a need for a firm stand against such draft resolutions that are not based on objective and unequivocal evidence of systematic violations that truly require the attention of the International Community. On the other hand, we need the HRC to take firm decisions against such grave and systematic violations of Human Rights such as in Palestine and Lebanon and by consensus not by divisive votes. Condemnation is simply not enough.

Mme. President

We need to establish the ground rules for a meaningful relationship between the Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly. This was the fundamental reason why the CHR was detached from the ECOSOC and substituted by Human Rights Council to become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. Therefore, any attempts to replace the role of the Third Committee by the Council will eventually fail, since this is the will of the majority in this August Body. It is therefore not only necessary, but also coherent, that the Council reports on all its recommendations, including its resolutions and decisions, to the body that is institutionally responsible for this purpose here, namely the Third Committee and subsequently the General Assembly.

Mme. President,

We are full of confidence that the Council will overcome the inherited problems in dealing with Human Rights issues. In this regard, my delegation believes the following steps to be of utmost importance:

First, to institutionalize dialogue and cooperation, not confrontation, as the means of tackling issues of human rights with due regards for the diversity of cultures and civilizations. This does not only require us to expand the scope of the work of the Council to encompass dialogue and interaction with states, but also to pool our technical and financial resources to enable member states to fulfill better their obligations in promotion and protection of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms.

Second, there is a need to maintain a healthy and interactive relation between the Council on the one hand, and the Third Committee on the other, since the latter is the only international forum where all states are represented in the field of human rights. It was out of this belief that we have extended an interactive dialogue for the President to hold annual interactions with the Third Committee.

Third, we need to provide this Council with the necessary financial, administrative and technical resources needed for it to perform its tasks, as well as to implement them, so as not to be faced with financial constraints or technical disabilities as it is now facing. Our support to the HRC in this regard should not be less than the support that we have furnished for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Fourth, it is important to complete successfully the transitional state from the Commission of Human Rights to the Human Rights Council by updating the mandates of the whole galaxy of committees, commissions, working groups and institutions in such a way where the interests of all states and diverse thematic issues on the agenda are preserved and maintained.

Fifth, we need to coordinate our efforts so as to guarantee that equal importance and attention be given to all aspects of human rights, so as to avoid selectivity in prioritization.

Mme. President

In conclusion, permit me once again to extend our welcome to the President of the Human Rights Council and to wish him and members of the Council all the best in their future endeavors to promote better understanding of international dealing with Human Rights issues and to overcome all the problems pertaining to the establishment of this Council. My delegation will further study the contents of the report and present its comment on it when discussing this agenda item at the Third Committee.

Thank You Mr. Chairman