

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UPR
2 OCTOBER 2006**

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE

Mr President,

- Singapore fully supports the statement by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Asian Group. We also thank the facilitator of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review for his report on the progress made so far.
- Since the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council, we have had a number of informal consultations on the Universal Periodic Review. These have been useful. But the utility of such unstructured informal consultations is fast receding. The time has come for the Council to implement Decision 2006/103 without delay by putting in place a proper schedule for formal meetings of the intergovernmental Working Group. Only a more structured approach to developing the modalities of the UPR mechanism will bring us to the conclusion that we all desire.

Mr President,

- Our views on the UPR are well-known. I would only urge the Council to keep in mind two key principles. First, the UPR is meant to be a cooperative mechanism. It is not and cannot be a tribunal. Nor should its objective be to name and shame. Accordingly, the outcome must be one that the State under review agrees with, so that the State itself would be fully committed to its implementation, and we can truly achieve improvements in the human rights situation of the people on the ground.
- Second, the creation of the UPR mechanism and the review of mandates and mechanism are inextricably linked and equally important in the larger picture of improving the overall UN human rights system. Hence, work on both should proceed in parallel so that the final outcome is an enhanced and coherent human rights system.
- My delegation looks forward to making more substantive contributions when the formal meetings of the Working Group are convened.