## Statement by the United States Institution Building for the Human Rights Council March 15, 2007

The United States would like to congratulate the facilitators and thank them for their hard work in producing these papers. Since the papers were just released, we have not yet had an opportunity to study them in depth. It is clear, however, that a distinct effort was made in all the working groups to identify areas of consensus, where they exist, and to identify areas where further discussion will be required.

U.S. positions on most of the outstanding issues are well-known. We will be prepared to comment in detail on the facilitators' papers at the informal informals later this month, and again at the working group sessions in April. Like many other delegations, we have already demonstrated our willingness to consider creative options for bridging gaps between different perspectives. We look forward to continuing discussions between delegations about these critical issues, which are so key to the Council's ability to promote and protect human rights, in the spirit of cooperation and dialogue that we all value.

Thank you.