Thank you Mr. President.

I have the pleasure to introduce to the HRC, a simulation of the system that will determine the order of review of the 48 first States that will be considered under the Universal periodic Review Mechanism. The system has been developed with the support of OHCHR IT colleagues and takes into consideration the parameters set forth in HRC resolution 5/1. You may wish to note that the draft note prepared by the Secretariat describing the system is being distributed for ease of reference. I would also like to recall that the system was presented last week to the members of the Bureau.
However, before getting to the simulation itself, allow me first to briefly inform the HRC of the steps taken so far by the OHCHR to implement UPR related provisions of resolution 5/1.

Since the adoption of the institution-building package, a team of colleagues working on UPR, within the HRC Unit, has become operational and is fully dedicated to the implementation of UPR-related issues. Those colleagues took the lead in translating into concrete steps the most pressing issues of resolution 5/1 and embarked in OHCHR in-house consultation processes on several issues.

- Regarding the general guidelines, an OHCHR task force was established to assist the facilitator in his task on the UPR guidelines. Elements were submitted to his consideration along with all the other proposals and suggestions he received. OHCHR is now closely following the discussions around the guidelines, as it is aware that they will also guide the documents it is responsible for, i.e. the compilation and the summary of stakeholders' information. Colleagues are also giving careful consideration to the best way to compile information from TBs and SPs and UN documents, in order to respond to requirements contained in resolution 5/1 and concerns expressed regarding the fact that OHCHR documents should be based on objective and reliable information and submitted in a balanced manner.

- On documentation related-matters, OHCHR is putting into place a pool of colleagues who will be working on the preparation of the documents for which OHCHR has the responsibility. Once the guidelines are finalized and adopted by the HRC and the countries to be reviewed are identified, those colleagues will resume preparation of the papers.

- On technical requirements such as the identification of countries to be reviewed and the troikas, the Council Unit, together with OHCHR technical colleagues, worked on identifying a selection system which is divided into two main phases, namely the preparation phase and the selection one. This system will be presented in a while.

- The Council team also worked on a selection system for the troikas. Although. it was our intention to proceed already this morning to a preliminary simulation of the system developed so far, the Secretariat would like to request more time to fine-tune the system so as to take due consideration of concerns

expressed yesterday during the informals, especially by the Ambassador of Pakistan on behalf of the OIC. Regarding the possibility for a State under review to ask for the replacement of one of the members of the troika, or for a member of the troika to be excused from reviewing a particular country, the Secretariat is still considering ways on how to replace only the particular State rather that swapping the entire troika. Another issue would be to ensure the same opportunity for all States to request a change in the troika which is attributed to them. The Secretariat hopes to be able to present the HRC with a suitable system in due course.

Regarding the selection of countries to be reviewed:

The preparation phase:

1) The Secretariat prepared five lists of countries in alphabetical order, each list corresponding to a regional group. The lists used for the different regional groups are based on lists used by the General Assembly in NY for voting purposes.
2) In accordance with paragraph 9 of the institution building text annexed to HRC resolution 5/1, council members whose terms of membership ended in June 2007 and whose terms of membership will end in June 2008 are clearly identified in each list. Similarly, those countries volunteering for review are also identified in each list. Thus, priority criteria for countries to be reviewed are:

- first: countries whose mandate ended in June 2007 (including those who were re-elected in 2007)
- second: countries whose mandate will end in June 2008
- third: countries which are volunteer to be considered among the first

The selection phase

1) The order of review will be determined for each regional group separately. For that purpose, the president will draw by lot a State among each regional group.

2) Once a particular State is drawn by lot, the list of countries in each regional group will then by re-organised so as to reflect:

- first, the countries whose terms of membership ended in June 2007,
- second, the countries whose terms of membership will end in June 2008,
- third, the countries which volunteered for the UPR, and
- fourth, the list of the countries re-organized in alphabetical order starting with the country drawn by lot by the President.

3) In accordance with paragraph 11 of resolution 5/1, 48 countries will be reviewed per year over a period of four years, corresponding to 16 countries to be reviewed per session of the WG on UPR. Moreover, paragraph 9 of resolution 5/1 also calls for the full respect for equitable geographic distribution in the order of review. To respond positively to such requirements, it is necessary to make a calculation based on the number of countries per regional groups, as well as the number of sessions throughout a four year review period. As a matter of example, for the African group, since this group is composed of 53 countries to be reviewed over twelve sessions of the WG (3 sessions per year during 4 years), the average number of African States to be reviewed in each of the sessions is 4.41. This is the reason why there would be 4 African

countries reviewed in the first session, 5 in the second, and then 4 again for the third session. Therefore the calendar for 2008 will consider for:

the first session: 4 countries for the AG, 5 countries for the Asian group, 3 countries for GRULAC, 3 countries for WEEOG and 1 country for the EEG

the second session: 5 countries for the AG, 4 countries for the Asian group, 3 countries for GRULAC, countries for WEEOG and 2 countries for the EEG.

The third session: again like for the first session 4 countries for the AG, and 5 countries for the Asian group, then 2 countries for GRULAC, 3 countries for WEEOG, and 2 countries for the EEG.
These results take into account the composition of each regional group.

4) It is on the basis of the above that the system will draw the corresponding number of countries from each regional group for the first three sessions of the UPR WGs.

5) Following the identification of the countries to be reviewed during the first session, the Secretariat will put the name of the countries selected for each regional group into a same box. The Chairman will then draw by lot the countries thus identifying the order of review for that particular session of the WG.

Let's proceed to the simulation

- In this particular group, countries whose terms of membership ended in June 2007, as well as countries whose terms of membership will end in June 2008 are identified in bold. We will also highlight the countries that volunteered, if any. Once this is done, the President will draw by lot a country. We will click on the name of that country, the system will then reorganize the list so as to identify, first, the countries which were members until June 2007, then countries which are members until June 2008 and then volunteers. As from the last volunteer, the list of the group will be reorganized by alphabetical order starting with the country just drawn by lot. *[the same for each of the five groups]*

- We now have the reorganized lists for each regional groups.

- On the basis of the table contained in Annex .., and as explained earlier, the system has also identified the number of countries per group to be reviewed during the first three UPR sessions. The system gives us the names of the countries per regional groups to be reviewed at each of the three sessions. Let's take the first session of the UPR working group.

- The Secretariat will now put into a single box all the countries from the different regional groups that should be reviewed during the first UPR session

- The President will now draw by lot the countries thus determining their order of review during the session.

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