

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR  
DR. ABDULWAHAB ATTAR,  
COORDINATOR FOR THE ASIAN GROUP  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES,  
AT THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS  
ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW  
7 September 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asian Group in Geneva.

The Asian Group highly appreciates the convening of these informal consultations in pursuance of Human Rights Council decision 2006/103. We are fully confident that your able leadership will undoubtedly steer the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) consultation process in an effective and constructive manner. We can assure you, Mr. Chairman, of our full cooperation and contribution in this process.

Mr. Chairman,

The Asian Group realizes the importance of the institution-building process of the Human Rights Council and looks forward to constructive, consensual outcomes that will determine the future work of the Human Rights Council. Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, we all have obligations to fulfill by continuing to present our inputs to these consultations, among other inputs that we are monitoring closely, bearing in mind that they should be concluded successfully within the one-year period stipulated in resolution A/60/251.

Mr. Chairman,

The UPR mechanism is viewed by Asian members as one of the most important features of the Human Rights Council. Based on Op-5 (e) of resolution A/60/251, the UPR should be a cooperative mechanism through an interactive dialogue process. It should emerge as an asset of the Council that should lead to enhancing and protecting human rights throughout the world. The Asian Group holds the view that the UPR should seek incremental improvement in the human rights situation of all sovereign States by enhancing their capacities to promote and protect human rights. The social and cultural specificities, the universality of human rights, as well as the level of development, should be taken into consideration throughout our deliberations. The Asian Group wishes to emphasize that the review should be based primarily on objective and reliable information in order to review fulfilment of the human rights-related obligations of the member States in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment for all States. In our efforts we should bear in mind that the UPR is a complementary process to the work of the treaty bodies and not a duplicate.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the conclusion of the work of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Council in June, the Asian Group has been working to submit to your esteemed Working Group its views on the process and modalities of the UPR. I must say that we intend to contribute by presenting our views as an additional input which we hope will enrich the inputs already provided.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, I wish to reiterate that the Asian Group will continue its cooperation, will engage fully in the endeavours and deliberations aimed at reaching constructive outcomes to this process, and will contribute to the process of developing the modalities for UPR mechanisms as well as the review of mandates. The Asian Group will remain, Mr. Chairman, a major player among the international community in the field of enhancing and promoting human rights.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.