

US

**L.10 Freedom of Opinion and Expression (Item 3)**  
**U.S. Introductory Statement**  
**Human Rights Council**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**  
**March 24, 2011**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The United States is pleased to join with Egypt in introducing a resolution to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression. We would like to express our great appreciation to the [45] co-sponsors from around the world for their support of this initiative.

As this resolution reflects, the freedom of opinion and expression essential for the enjoyment of other human rights and freedoms, and the open exchange of ideas constitutes a fundamental pillar for building a democratic and thriving society. In renewing this important mandate, the Human Rights Council gives clear support to this ideal, that freedom of opinion and expression should play a central role in society, and is key for the realization of many other rights.

Continuation of this mandate is vital to the work of this Council and the international community as a whole. The Special Rapporteur's monitoring will continue to encourage all countries - including my own - to fully uphold the freedom of expression for their citizens. I am therefore pleased to see this Council reaffirm the importance of this fundamental freedom by renewing a mandate that provides for its promotion and protection.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their contributions and cooperation. It is my hope that this important initiative will be adopted by consensus.  
Thank you, Mr. President.