

**Statement by the Indonesian Delegation
At the Third Session of the Human Rights Council**

Geneva, 29 November 2006

Update by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr President,

As this august Assembly begins its Third Session today, I should like, on behalf of the Indonesian delegation, to thank the High Commissioner for her update on the activities of her Office ~~[including a number of visits which she has carried out personally.]~~ ^{the} Likewise, we welcome the fact that she has touched on the subject of the Universal Periodic Review and the Special Procedures, two major institutions for the work of the Council that we are in the process of developing.

Before going further, I would like to associate myself with the statement of the OIC as presented by Pakistan

At this juncture, let me say that the move by the High Commissioner to provide us with an outline of her update in the form of bullet points the day before making her statement was certainly appreciated. However, we hope that this courtesy can become practice so that in future, a more detailed advance version of her reports and updates is made available to us sufficiently early to give any countries concerned by her remarks enough time to react to them. It is our conviction that the cause of the promotion and protection of human rights will ~~not be~~ ^{be better} served by ~~discarding~~ ^{adhering to} transparency and mutual respect. ^{the principles of}

Mr President,

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the submission of the reports that document the various missions mentioned above, which attest to the desire of the High Commissioner and of her Office to maintain rhythm in actively pursuing their mandate. In this regard, country visits and missions such as those carried out by the High Commissioner should, in our view, be undertaken first and foremost in accordance with her given mandate as well as at the request or invitation of the UN member States concerned or as mandated by the Council.

We would like to commend the High Commissioner for her recent visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In view of the extreme pitch of violence that events had reached in the last few months in the region, this visit did not come one moment too soon to bring some hope to a population in despair. We are hopeful that it will also help foster a renewed will in the beleaguered combatants to search for a negotiated solution towards peace.

Together with the other members of the Council, we urge the parties to the conflict to renounce violence and any aggression targeting defenseless civilians. Let them abide strictly by the current cease-fire and their obligations to the Geneva Conventions and the treaties, putting aside any divisions among themselves in favour of dialogue leading to a lasting political solution. Only if these conditions are created and respected can the necessary reconstruction begin for a return to normality in the territories.

On the situation in Darfur, we would like to urge all parties concerned as well as the international community to work actively to implement and strengthen the Abuja Peace Agreement. All actors in the community must therefore lend their support to help relieve the suffering of the most vulnerable. In this highly complex crisis in a complex situation, reaching a satisfactory solution is fraught with difficulty. For this reason, we believe that the positive involvement of countries from the region, and notably of the African Union, offers the more promising chances of success. Hence, we should also urge the international community to bolster the African Union's efforts.

Mr President,

With regard to all specific country issues, my delegation has always affirmed the importance it attaches to the principle of transparency, non-selectivity and impartiality in the handling of such issues. We strongly believe that by observing these criteria and by giving countries experiencing difficulties the benefit of logistical support in a spirit of cooperation, better results are achieved. The international community must continue to give such countries its support in their endeavours to redress the situation, while encouraging them to abide by their obligations to respect the human rights of all their citizens at all times.

Lastly, Mr President, we note the High Commissioner's remarks on the issue of the UPR and the Special Procedures. In view of the key role of these procedures in the future work of the Council, the modalities for their efficient functioning as well as the process of their composition and constitution must be very carefully thought out. This is an issue in which our delegation has involved itself actively in the debates of the two Working Groups. Without expanding on these aspects just now, we shall nevertheless elaborate on them again in a separate statement.

In conclusion, Mr President, let me reiterate our commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in all their forms, as well as to the work of the Council in the furtherance of these rights. We hope that this Third Session will see some meaningful progress in giving it strong and efficient structures.

Thank you.