

**Statement by the Indonesian delegation
on the Progress report of the Working Group on the implementation of
OP-6 of GA resolution 60/251**

Geneva, 3 October 2006

Mr President,

On behalf of the Indonesian delegation, allow me to air some views on this important issue of the implementation of OP-6 of GA resolution 60/251. By the same token, I should also like to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Asian Group, and Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

Mr President,

The implementation of OP-6 of GA resolution 60/251, specifically the review of mandates, is a key issue in terms of the sense and significance of the Council's objectives and mission.

Our views and comments on the issue of mandates are fully documented in the non-paper we presented in the context of the First Session of the Council and have been further elaborated in many informal discussions and consultations since then. Thus, our thinking on the salient aspects of this issue remains unchanged. On this basis, we are a little concerned that the Working Group on the review of mandates has been losing ground since the First Session of the Council and is now lagging behind the UPR. A brisker pace is therefore called for at this stage to maintain the two procedures working in tandem.

OP-6 of GA resolution 60/251 mandates the Council to assume, review and, if necessary, improve and rationalize the mandates and mechanisms of the human rights body. Although we have recently assumed these mandates in the form of the reports that the special procedures have presented to us in this session, we have not as yet reviewed, let alone rationalized, any of them. Therefore, it is imperative that the Council now make greater headway with this process and implement the recommendations of OP-6, especially in view of the one-year deadline for the completion of this review.

Mr President,

Given these prescriptions and the need to act upon them, we are pleased to learn that the Bureau is now studying the provisional dates and modalities for the Working Group to meet in open-ended and formal session. This is a welcome development. The Council should therefore adopt the relevant decision to formalize the work of the Working Group.

On the review of special procedures, we have seen the revised draft manual of operations. We believe that the Council should further develop this draft. Therefore, in this context, we support the suggestion that this draft be submitted to the Working Group as one of the contributions for its consideration. However, we would like to emphasize that such a draft should make provisions for a unified code of conduct, criteria of admissibility, as well as guidelines for reports by special procedures as well as on their visits.

As far as the 1503 procedure is concerned, it has proved its value and served its purpose well. Therefore it should be further improved and strengthened, while maintaining the elements that work. Notably, we believe that the principle of staged deliberations and the confidential nature of the procedures are important and should be retained, as should the *experts' assessments, the intergovernmental stages and the criteria of admissibility, which are indispensable elements of the procedure*. The way to improve the 1503 mechanism is to improve the current 1503 resolution that governs this procedure. Since we are no longer working under the auspices of the ECOSOC, the 1503 procedure as a product of the ECOSOC is indeed no longer relevant. This should not be understood to mean that the substance of the resolution is no longer valid – it still is – but that it needs to be enhanced to conform to the requirements of the Council.

Finally, as regards the Sub-commission, Indonesia shares the view of many other delegations that a successor expert mechanism is essential to assist the Council in its task of developing and setting human rights standards and other thematic human rights studies. Needless to say, care should be given, when establishing the respective mandates of the future advisory mechanism, to avoid any kind of duplication and overlapping in the work of the various human rights mandate-holders.

Mr President,

In concluding, let me assure the Council that Indonesia will continue its active and constructive engagement on this issue, notably by means of its further substantive contributions and views in the framework of the formal and informal sessions of the Working Group.

Thank you.