

**EGYPT**



**مصر**

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Unofficial Translation

**Statement by  
HE Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz  
Permanent Representative of the Arab  
Republic of Egypt**

**Before the  
Third Committee  
Agenda Item 71: Human Rights Questions**

**31 October 2005**

Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman

Our discussion today regarding human rights has acquired additional importance in light of the unfolding developments in the past years. This coincided with an international development towards recognizing Human Rights as an integral element in policies of reform and development.

Despite our firm belief that there is a constant need for further developing the respect for human rights, this task will not be achieved unless a conducive environment is created, and this requires the following:

First, there is a need to establish the link between further respect for human rights on the one hand and the respect for the firm principles of justice and equality, not only at the national level but also at the level of relations among states, especially in the multilateral framework.

Second, we should begin by respecting the specificities of our societies, including its population, its religious trends, its level of economic development, its culture and education as well as its traditions and customs which formulate an integral part of its social fabric that protects it from shocks and its peoples from turbulences.

Third, there should be no interference in the domestic affairs of the others so with the aim of imposing certain patterns of human rights. Such interference violates the fundamental concept of voluntarism in dealing with such issues on the one hand, as well as its contradiction to the principles of international law on the other.

Fourth, that we must work together to eliminate all selectivity, politicization, double standards that marred the international behavior towards such issues. This should lead to the universalization of human rights treaties so as to evaluate Human Rights in states in accordance with its own properties and away from the shadow of using it as means of pressuring states to achieve political or economic gains.

To achieve all this, a reform of the international machinery of human rights must encompass all issues, including the fulfillment of states, particularly nuclear ones, of their obligations in the field of disarmament and achieving the universality of the NPT, since this is also an embodiment of the fundamental right to life and to live in security. States, particularly the developed and industrialized ones, should also fulfill their commitments agreed upon by consensus in the field of development, since this is also an embodiment of the right to development which is fundamentally linked with all human rights. These are but few examples that reflect our vision that human rights should not be limited only to a state's abilities to provide for the maximum protection of these rights for its citizens, but it should also include the contribution of states to the protection of these rights through its fulfillment of its international obligations,

Fifth, we should not begin our quest for achieving respect for human rights by focusing on a particular civilization or cultural or religious background. Moreover, we should not establish a link between the respect for human rights and the rising phenomena of terrorism, for we shall not be able to eliminate terrorisms without dealing first with its root causes, of which occupation and depriving peoples from their inalienable right to self determination are major ones. .

Mr. Chairman,

In our quest to promote and protect the respect for human rights, we have agreed to establish a council on human rights to substitute the CHR. This council will not achieve its goals unless there is a political will to use its resources to promote capacity building in states so as to enhance their capabilities to extend the maximum possible respect for human rights in accordance with the aforementioned points.

Furthermore, it must begin by reiterating that the respect for these rights is the responsibility of the state, and that the international community should enhance its capacity in this regard within a framework of respect for the principles of international law, which require no alteration nor development. Since this Council will be a subsidiary body of the GA, its borders with the Third Committee must be clearly marked, particularly with regard to its mandate, in such a manner that could permit the GA to direct its work.

Mr. Chairman,

In the process of political reform, Egypt has undertaken important steps in the field of promoting and protecting human rights, as well as promoting public participation in the forging of national priorities and its execution. In the political sphere, we aimed at achieving pluralism and now we have seventeen political parties representing the political rainbow, as well as extending the limits freedom of opinion and expression. For the first time, presidential elections were held based on individual secret ballot to choose a president from ten candidates, as opposed to the previous method of a referendum to approve a parliamentary nomination for the post. These elections were held under the full supervision of the judiciary. Moreover, they led to amending several laws mainly the law of exercising political rights and the electoral law, as well as the law regulating political parties and the parliament. This led to an increase in the percentage of public participation in these elections, and this represents a prelude to a larger turnout in the next parliamentary elections scheduled for the beginning of next month under the same rules.

In the context of applying the principles of public participation and full transparency, Egyptian women have achieved important strides in the field of political participation, and so did the civil society as a result of the conscious belief of the state in the fundamental role played by this sector in all fields of life.

Egyptian progress in the field of human rights did not cease progressing at this stage, for several additional important steps were undertaken primarily through the creation of an independent human rights council in 2004, the adherence of Egypt to the Arab Covenant on Human Rights in 2004, the creation of a human rights committee in the parliament and a special branch in the office of the district attorney for the promotion and protection of Human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion my delegation would like to reiterate that the respect of human rights is a humanitarian mission and an undeniable duty. But it is also a collective responsibility encompassing all relevant parties. This responsibility has to be undertaken without confusion in commitments nor politicization. The state is responsible for protecting human rights and its responsibilities in this regard is clear. The framework of responsibility of the international community in assisting the state to perform this task is also clear. This should be the basis for any international partnership to promote and protect human rights.

Thank You Mr. Chairman