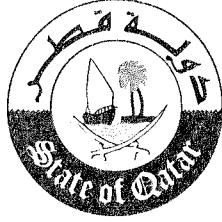


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## Statement

**By H. E. Mr. Khalid Bin Jassem Al-Thani**

**Director , Bureau of**

**Human Rights Affairs**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**State of Qatar**

**At**

**the Informal Consultations**

**of the Plenary of the General Assembly**

**on the Human Rights Council**

**New York, 18 October 2005**

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**Mr. President,**

My delegation welcomes the process you have initiated to take us forward on the historic decision made by our Heads of State and Governments endorsing the Secretary General's proposal on the establishment of a Human Rights Council (HRC). My delegation supports your decision to begin with a period of informal consultations before moving into the negotiations phase. My delegation also welcomes the appointment of the two Co-Chairs, Ambassador Arias of Panama and Ambassador Kumalo of South Africa and we look forward to work with all of you in close and full cooperation.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation would like to endorse the statement delivered last week by the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and would like to add the following contributions.

1. On the status of the HRC, my delegation prefers that the HRC would be a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. In this regard, we should keep in mind the mandate of the Third Committee and try to avoid duplication between the two bodies.
2. On the mandate and functions of the HRC, my delegation believes that the HRC should promote international cooperation and dialogue to enhance the capacity of the States to meet their international human

rights obligations. In this regard, the mandate and functions of the HRC should endorse the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights; addressing situations of gross violations of human rights in a non-selective and politicized manner; and raising public awareness on human rights issues.

3. On the size of the HRC, my delegation believes that the membership of the HRC should not be smaller than the size of the Commission on Human Rights or ECOSOC, and that the members should be elected by a simple majority vote in accordance with the principles of equitable geographical distribution and balance representation reflective of the UN membership.
4. On the rules of procedure and method of work, my delegation believes that the HRC, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, can adopt the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. However, we may need to consider how to involve national human rights institutions and NGOs. The HRC should consider maintaining the positive heritage of the CHR, including, *inter alia*, the special procedures, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, relation with treaty bodies and relation with OHCHR.
5. My delegation believes that transitional arrangements might be needed to ensure a smooth transition from the Commission on Human Rights to the Human Rights Council.
6. The process of the informal consultations and negotiations should be inclusive, open-ended, transparent and guided by consensus.

*I thank you, Mr. President.*