



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

at the Informal Plenary Meeting

of the General Assembly on the Human Rights Council

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**Mr. President,
Co-Chairs,**

First of all, let me join the previous speakers in thanking you for convening this meeting and for providing us with a clear timetable for our work. Mr. President, you and the Co-Chairs, can be assured of my delegation's full cooperation. Having listened carefully to the views expressed by the speakers before me, I would like to offer a few inputs.

On the status of the Human Rights Council, my delegation is flexible on whether the HRC would be a principal organ or a subsidiary body to the General Assembly. In view of the prevailing wish to speed up the setting up of the Human Rights Council, I feel that to initially start from a subsidiary body might be a good idea as there will be no need for any amendment to the Charter and would allow us to move quickly on this matter.

On the mandate and functions of the Human Rights Council, my delegation believes that the Human Rights Council should assist States in the promotion and protection of human rights. Addressing gross violations of human rights in a non-selective manner should be one of its top priorities. Technical assistance and capacity building should be stressed. Raising public awareness on human rights should also be one of its tasks. We, nevertheless, should avoid duplicating the work of the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee. The Human Rights Council should be allowed to focus its attention on addressing grave human rights violations and on promoting and protecting human rights of people worldwide. The function of norm development should perhaps be better left to the General Assembly with its universal membership.

On the size of the Human Rights Council, my delegation is quite flexible, but would think that it is realistic to be comparable to the size of the Commission on Human Rights or the ECOSOC, and to also take into account an equitable geographical representation.

On the rules of procedure and method of work, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council can adopt the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. At the same time, we may need to consider how to involve NGOs and national human rights institutions in the Human Rights Council's work. We need to also ensure that NGOs abide by the rules and principles governing their participation. The Human Rights Council should also consider maintaining the CHR's subsidiary bodies which it may deem useful. The special procedures to be established should also improve their working methods, basing on past experiences and interaction with States. The Human Rights Council should rationalize its work with the Treaty Bodies and avoid duplicating their work. Closer coordination, dialogue, and exchanges of experiences and views should be considered between the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the ECOSOC, if and when situation

warrants. Doors should be open for these bodies to make use of one another's good offices. Treatment of human rights should be in a balanced manner, giving an equal importance to civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development.

On a final note, we also feel that **transitional arrangements** will need to be made to ensure a smooth transition from the Commission on Human Rights to the Human Rights Council. Issues pending in the CHR should be transferred to the HRC or the GA as appropriate and should not be left unattended.

I thank you, Mr. President.

human rights as seriously as those of security and development” and “meet the expectations of men and women everywhere”. World leaders responded to this call by resolving to create a Human Rights Council and requested you to lead negotiations. My delegation spares no effort in working with you and the Co-Chairs and looks forward to beginning “intensive negotiations” in the coming weeks.

Thank you.