

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR
DR. ABDULWAHAB ATTAR,
COORDINATOR FOR THE ASIAN GROUP
ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES,
ON THE ISSUE OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Asian Group in Geneva, I have the honour to deliver this statement reflecting the views of the Group on the issue of the UPR.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the facilitator of the Working Group for this report (update) on the progress made to implement op-5(e) of the resolution A/60/251.

Mr. President,

The Asian Group realizes the importance of the institution-building process of the Human Rights Council and looks forward to constructive, consensual outcomes that will determine the future work of the Human Rights Council.

The Asian Group has been closely monitoring developments and the different views that have been expressed on the best way to address this particular issue which will contribute positively to promoting and protecting human rights all over the world. I am sure, Mr. President, that the UPR mechanism is viewed by all as one of the most important features of the Human Rights Council. Op-5 (e) of resolution A/60/251 has clearly outlined the nature of such mechanism, indicating that the UPR should be a cooperative mechanism through an interactive dialogue process.

Mr. President,

The Asian Group holds the view that the UPR should seek incremental improvement in the human rights situation of all sovereign States by enhancing their capacities to promote and protect human rights. The social and cultural

specificities, domestic law, the universality of human rights, as well as the level of development, should be taken into consideration throughout our deliberations. Furthermore, the UPR should not be overly burdensome, and the discussion should be a non-adversarial process that should be conducted in a fair, constructive and cooperative spirit. In order to ensure constructive discussions for this process, the Asian Group wishes to emphasize that the review should be based primarily on objective and reliable information in order to review fulfilment of the human rights-related obligations of the member States in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment for all States. Needless to mention that we should bear in mind – through our deliberations – that the UPR is a complementary process to the work of the treaty bodies and not a duplicate.

Mr. President,

The setting up of the UPR, as well as the review of special mechanisms are widely considered as crucial elements in the endeavour to ensure a positive orientation of the new Council. The Asian Group is following all discussions closely, and supports the emerging view that the two processes are and should be complementary and of equal importance and that both discussions should follow a parallel track.

Mr. President.

The Asian Group has been working to crystallize its views on all aspects of this process, including the preparatory process, the discussion process and the anticipated outcome. The Asian Group has been and is still working to submit its views fully and comprehensively on this issue, hoping thereby to enrich the various inputs already provided.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to reiterate that the Asian Group will continue its cooperation, will engage fully in the endeavours and deliberations aimed at reaching constructive outcomes to this process, and will contribute to the process of developing the modalities for UPR mechanisms as well as the review of mandates. The Asian Group will remain, Mr. President, a major player among the international community in the field of enhancing and promoting human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.