

Statement by the Indonesian delegation
on reports, studies and other documents prepared by the Secretariat,
the HC, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights or the Secretary-
General

Geneva, 28 September 2006

Mr President,

Allow me, to express my delegation's heartfelt appreciation for the reports prepared and presented by the Secretariat, the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General and for the sum of hard work and expertise that goes into this task. We are very grateful for these documents.

We therefore welcome this opportunity, Mr President, to offer some comments and to engage in dialogue on the substantial dossier of reports and studies - 64 in all - which have been submitted to us in this Second Session of the Council. We have studied them with interest; however their sheer number and the time constraint do not allow us to address them all.

Our first remark will be to note that all the reports in fact derive from various resolutions of the late Commission on Human Rights. These resolutions mandated the High Commissioner, her Office as well as the Secretary-General to prepare some important thematic studies to assist the then Commission fulfil its mandates. Indonesia has always supported the action-oriented format of any mandates or recommendations of the CHR outcomes, especially in the framework of normative standard-setting and promotional work associated with human rights issues.

Of the vast array of important issues covered by the reports, the issues that my delegation is known to have at heart range from the importance of the rule of law in combating terrorism, to the right to development and the realisation of Ecosoc rights; the role of education in raising awareness on the promotion and protection of human rights; the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination; combating the defamation of religions; advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights subject to and upon request of countries concerned; and, last but not least, the issue of the composition of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner. We also appreciate the mention which the High Commissioner makes in her report of the important role of national human rights institutions. In this regard, we are proud that Indonesia has had an active and independent national institution established in 1993.

We are pleased to see that these issues are comprehensively covered in the reports presented to us, Mr President. However, let me also stress that mentioning these topics should not in any way be construed as prejudicing the importance of the others.

I should like now to return briefly to the matter of the composition of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner. We take note the report which also includes some statistic with regards to the details of the composition of the staff in the professional and geographical distribution categories on the basis of nationality, grade and gender for posts subject to geographical distribution as of December 2005.

However, we are still concerned that despite the longstanding call for the HC to correct the unbalanced as well as under-representation of several Member States, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner, which many of them also non-represented or underrepresented at the level of the whole Secretariat, as stipulated in resolution 2005/72, of April 2005, only little improvements have been made.

While appreciating her commitment to do her utmost to remedy the inequalities in the geographical composition of her staff which she and her Office strive to do through several concrete measures, we would welcome her response on what these measures will involve and how they will be implemented, in particular taking into account as a result of the increased budget, the Office has been able to create 91 new posts, as documented in the last annual report of the High Commissioner.

This is an issue which we regard as important from the point of view of inclusiveness and equity, and which moreover will do much to enhance the trust of member countries in the institution's transparency and even-handedness. To this end, allow us to stress again that the oversight role of the Council can also be devoted to making sure that this call is heard and effectively implemented.

I should like to conclude by highlighting the need to ensure that there is no overlap between the reports prepared by special procedures and other reports on similar subjects emanating from the Office of the High Commissioner. We are hopeful that the spirit of transparency, non-selectivity and impartiality will continue to guide the work of the Secretariat in preparing reports and studies in the future to assist the Council in the discharge of its mandates.

Thank you, Mr President.