

**Draft national comments by Pakistan on the Report of the Special  
Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Belarus  
19 September 2006**

Mr. President,

We have read the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights situation in Belarus with deep interest. In a year when we are reviewing the mandates, we can see how well meaning initiatives to monitor the human rights situation in a particular country can turn into sprawling enterprises. Because the Special Rapporteur has not been able to visit Belarus, he has had to be all over the place organizing seminars and travelling to many destinations. Despite his hectic schedule the information that he has collated is not first hand.

The report sound<sup>s</sup> like a political platform of an opposition party. Having discarded the Government of Belarus, ~~which should be~~ the first interlocutor ~~of~~ the Special Rapporteur, he has been appealing to the international community, civil society, and opposition parties to undermine the Government. Both the analysis and recommendations have lost focus. In fact if the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur to create multiple mechanisms are implemented, the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner will have to quadruple their resources and divert them to the Belarus mission. We are not fully convinced that highest standards of impartiality and objectivity have been maintained. But his recommendations are useful in highlighting what a country Special Rapporteur should not be doing.

Finally, Mr. President, several OIC countries have asked me to inquire whether the Special Rapporteur's mandate requires keeping an eye on the UN Register for Conventional Arms, because he has also been monitoring transfer of arms from Belarus to Sudan, Algeria, Cote, d'Ivoire, Morocco, Uganda, Iran, Yemen, Angola and Ethiopia. In one go, he also says that human rights records of these countries are also not up to the mark. He says that their human rights record should bar them from receiving arms, any arms from anywhere, not just Belarus. On the one hand one sees a syndrome of loadalitis, where Belarus is the centre of the universe; and on the other hand, the Special Rapporteur has turned his Belarus mandate into a global mandate. Congratulations.