



CHAIR OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

FOURTH SESSION

PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS ON THE INSTITUTIONAL
BUILDING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT

(Check against delivery)

Geneva, 15 March 2007

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement of behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

From the very beginning, the Non Aligned Movement has been fully engaged in the process of the institutional building of the Human Rights Council. The NAM has been active and constructively participating in the work of the three Working Groups. In this regard, substantive contributions have been presented on behalf of the Movement, namely on agenda, on rules of procedure for HRC special sessions, and on Universal Periodic Review. At the same time, discussions have started among NAM Members on proposals related to other issues of the institutional building process, such as the annual programme of work of the Council, the Complaint Mechanism, and the Expert Advice Body, with a view to submit additional contributions to help the process moving forward.

Mr. President,

In its XIV Summit in Havana, the Heads of State or Government of the Movement calls for the early adoption of a standard and structured agenda for the sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC). They request also that the items on the agenda of the Council be allocated to each of its sessions in an equitable and balanced manner and also to allow for effective participation of developing countries and NGOs.

In this spirit, the NAM proposed an agenda with concrete items, to allow predictability and transparency, which is at the same time general enough to guarantee flexibility in the work of the HRC.

For NAM, the consideration of all economic, social and cultural rights, and civil and political rights, the promotion and protection of the rights of all peoples, groups and individuals, the realization of the right to development, an inalienable right, the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the right to self determination of the Palestinian people and the consideration of human rights violations in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, as well as the capacity building, technical cooperation and UPR, should be an integral part of a well structured agenda of the HRC.

Mr. President,

The NAM also submitted a written contribution on rules for Special Sessions of the HRC, aimed at complementing the general framework established in paragraph 10 of the GA resolution 60/251. In this proposal, the NAM reflected the experience and practice observed in the four Special Sessions held by the HRC to date, and stated that rules of procedure for Special Sessions shall be

the same of those applied for regular sessions of the Council, which should be based on the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

The Non-Aligned Movement also attaches special importance to the establishment of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, and a contribution was also submitted in this regard, inspired in the principled position on this issue agreed in the Final Document adopted during the XIV Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The UPR mechanism is an important tool in our hands that could contribute to promote an approach of cooperation and genuine dialogue and to end past practices of political manipulation and double standards. It is vital to avoid from the very beginning of the works of this new mechanism any attempt of imposing selective and politically motivated treatment to any country. In this connection, the NAM opposes those proposals directed to use this mechanism to impose country specific resolutions and mandates or any other punitive measure.

The NAM considers that UPR should be an intergovernmental process, conducted in HRC plenary meeting, and based on an interactive dialogue involving all Member States of the United Nations, with the full participation of the Government concerned.

In this process, due respect should be paid to the different political, economic and social systems, to national and regional particularities, and to various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds. Different levels of development, as well as external challenges and obstacles affecting the capacity of governments to implement policies and programmes to ensuring the realization of all human rights for all should also be duly considered.

The outcome of the review should be a report consisting of a summary of the proceedings that may be accompanied by possible recommendations on areas of agreement on technical cooperation and capacity building's assistance, upon request of the Government concerned, aimed at enhancing cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights for all.

Funding facility should be provided to guarantee technical assistance and national capacity building for States, upon their request. This fund could also be used to assist developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries, upon their request, to allow capital-based experts to travel to and stay in Geneva for the interactive dialogue.

Mr. President,

The NAM is committed to move forward, in a constructive and flexible manner, the institutional building process, with a view to have a fully operational Council at the beginning of its second working year.

The cause of human rights cannot wait. The outstanding issues in the process of institutional establishment of the Council can be resolved without any traumatism before 18 June 2007. All it takes is the prevalence of political will in order to guarantee the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 60/251.

The NAM calls upon all States committed to the advancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights for all to engage in a final effort of negotiations instrumental in overcoming the outstanding elements.

I thank you.