

**African Statement
in presentation of draft resolution L.8
on complementary standards to the ICERD**

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the African Group, I have the honor to introduce draft resolution L.8 entitled "Elaboration of International Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination".

The draft resolution comes in continuation of HRC decision 3/103 of 8 December, 2006, by which the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards was established, and a concrete roadmap for the process leading-up to its convening was set-up.

We would recall that HRC ^{Decision} 3/103 requested the Ad Hoc Committee to hold its first meeting before the end of 2007, but due to the exceptional circumstances surrounding the present transitional phase of the Council, and in view of the initial proposed timing of November 2007, for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, rescheduling was necessary, in order to avoid overlap with the session of the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

The resolution, though procedural in conception, touches upon the context in which the inaugural session of the Ad Hoc Committee will be convened, as well as some aspects of the general substantive framework for the fulfillment of its mandate, in accordance with the Council decision by which it was established. The draft also recognizes the fact that the mandate of the Group of Five Experts on Complementary Standards was not fulfilled in conformity with requirements set out in HRC decision 3/103, and at the same time, provides for the possible use by various relevant stakeholders, of all contributions and studies which are necessary for the realization of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The African Group hopes that the resolution will enjoy the support of all Member States of the Council.

I thank you.

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revisions*