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NAM contribution on the agenda of the Human Rights Council

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and, at the request of the President of the Council, has the honour to forward attached herewith a contribution by NAM on the agenda of the Human Rights Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'GL'.

7 December 2006



**CHAIR OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

RS-45/06



(December 7nd, 2006)

To: H. E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Ambassador, PM of Mexico,
President of the Human Rights Council.

From: H. E. Mr. Juan Antonio Fernández, Ambassador, PM of Cuba,
in his capacity as Chair of the NAM.

Subject: NAM initial contribution to the agenda for the Human
Rights Council.

Excellency,

Luis Alfonso

First of all allow me to send you my regards.

I have the honor to address this letter to you in your capacity as President of the Human Rights Council.

In this regard, it is my pleasure, in my capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, to send you enclosed hereto the initial proposal of NAM to the agenda for the Human Rights Council.

I would like to inform you that this document is presented as a first step in order to contribute to the work of the Working Group established for the elaboration of the agenda of the HRC. In this connection, it is the intention of NAM Members to continue the discussions on this matter with a view to further improve, if necessary, this proposal and address other issues of the interest of delegations that were raised during the process of consultations.

I would highly appreciate the dissemination of this contribution to all Regional Groups and through the extranet page of the Council.

Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Juan Antonio Fernández
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Cuba

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Afghanistan	Mongolia
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Bangladesh	Nicaragua
Barbados	Niger
Belarus	Nigeria
Belize	Oman
Benin	Pakistan
Bhutan	Palestine
Bolivia	Panama
Botswana	Papua New Guinea
Brunei Darussalam	Peru
Burkina Faso	Philippines
Burundi	Qatar
Cambodia	Rwanda
Cameroon	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cape Verde	Saint Lucia
Central African Republic	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Chad	Sao Tome and Principe
Chile	Saudi Arabia
Colombia	Senegal
Comoros	Seychelles
Congo	Sierra Leone
Côte d'Ivoire	Singapore
Cuba	Somalia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	South Africa
Democratic Republic of Congo	Sri Lanka
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Equatorial Guinea	Timor Leste
Eritrea	Togo
Ethiopia	Trinidad and Tobago
Gabon	Tunisia
Gambia	Turkmenistan
Ghana	Uganda
Grenada	United Arab Emirates
Guatemala	United Republic of Tanzania
Guinea	Uzbekistan
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Honduras	Yemen
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Kenya	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Kuwait	Brazil
Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic	China
Lebanon	Costa Rica
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Liberia	El Salvador
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Kazakhstan
Madagascar	Kyrgyzstan
Malawi	Mexico
Malaysia	Paraguay
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Mauritania	Uruguay
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	African Union
	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization
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	League of Arab States
	New Movement for the Independence of Puerto Rico
	Organization of the Islamic Conference
	United Nations

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6th DECEMBER 2006

CONTRIBUTION BY NAM ON THE AGENDA OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

In its XIV Summit in Havana, the Heads of State or Government of the Movement call for the early adoption of a standard 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 NGO's.

NAM decides that the agenda of the Council should promote and advance sustainable development, through programs and partnerships with governments and it should also promote the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, they call the Council to agree on a program that will lead to the elevation of the right to development to the same level and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms, elaborated in the core human rights instruments.

Proposal of Principles guiding the definition of the agenda:

1. Predictability:

- provides all stakeholders with the clarity of the program of work of the Council
- allows all stakeholders to plan their activities and attendance to the meetings of the Council.

2. Transparency:

- strengthens the confidence building process and the climate of genuine dialogue and cooperation needed.

3. Accountability:

- facilitates the preparation for interactive dialogues with mandate holders.
- facilitates also the interaction with the rest of the components of the UN human rights machinery.

4. Balance:

- ensures that all human rights, civil, cultural, economic, political, social and the right to development, be universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and treated in an equal footing and with the same emphasis.

5. Objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity:

- eliminates double standards and political manipulation; avoid confrontation and promote cooperation, genuine dialogue and respect for cultural and religious diversity, as well as national and regional particularities.

6. Flexibility:

- enables the Council to consider emerging issues as needed.
- The Council should have only one agenda.

The Council will decide in an annual program of work allocating the consideration of its agenda items throughout the year. The only exception to this would be the High Level Segment, which would occur only once a year at the Main Session.

The NAM proposes the following Agenda (*):*

- a) Implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/141, including the annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (report at main session) and the effective functioning of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- b) The realisation of the Right to Development.
- c) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- d) Civil and Political Rights.
- e) Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. Comprehensive follow up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action (sub items under this agenda item will be developed in the future to cover, inter alia, the incitement to racial and religious hatred).
- f) Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Peoples, Groups and Individuals (children, women, indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, human rights defenders, human rights of civilians in armed conflict, and others recognized as such in International Human Rights Law).
- g) Situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan:
 1. Violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the occupied Syrian Golan.
 2. Right to self determination of the Palestinian people.

* This is a first contribution of NAM to the fulfillment of the mandate of the Working Group established for the elaboration of the agenda of the HRC. The Movement will continue developing this proposal in the near future.

- h) Report of the expert advice body and the complaint mechanism.
- i) Effective functioning of human rights mechanisms.
- j) Universal Periodic Review.
- k) Capacity building and technical cooperation.
- l) Adoption of the report of the session.