



**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council,  
Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba**

**June 17 2007**

*Check Against Delivery*

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Further to the texts on Institution Building of the Human Rights Council that I presented on June 4 and 13, I have the honor to introduce a revised version of the draft, which constitutes an effort to achieve a final agreement on the issues before us. I believe that after the thorough and extensive work undertaken jointly in the course of a year, the Council is prepared to successfully conclude this important mandate given to it by the General Assembly. Allow me to stress the great value that I attach to the collective, extensive and inclusive nature that has characterized the process.

The discussions that we held on the draft since I first presented it, as well as the concrete proposals that were submitted to me, allowed me to identify compromise solutions. At the same time, given the important work that was done in the Working Groups on Institution Building, I have avoided as much as possible the reopening of issues that were dealt with in the Groups. We need to move forward and this process will not benefit from repeated discussions of the same issues.

The draft that I am presenting today includes to the maximum extent possible the concerns put forward by all delegations. At the same time, given the complexity of the issues and the diversity of the proposals presented, it is not possible for the draft to reflect all of them.

I am aware that among the proposals that I have not incorporated in the text, there are some that remain on the table, including one related to the adoption of decisions. In this regard I want to stress once again that no proposal on institution building of the Council has yet been formally tabled, and in that sense they all have the same status. I understand the need to keep all proposals in mind during our discussions, as they have not been discarded. As I have indicated before, the President's text will not be formally tabled unless it can be accepted by all Members of the Council without a vote.

I would also like to underscore the importance of deciding on the President's text as a whole. The draft's ultimate objective is to fulfill the mandate given by the General Assembly to the Council in resolution 60/251. In order to be viable, the text must preserve its integrity. Therefore any decision on parts of the draft would seriously compromise the entire process.

If the Council should be faced with such a decision, I repeat, I would be forced to withdraw the text completely.

For the purpose of achieving our mandate in the spirit in which this Council has been created and has worked since then, all Members of the Council are required to make a serious assessment of the situation and the importance of an agreement at this historical stage.

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

With regards to the content of the text itself, I would like to point out that the revised version now includes issues that had were pending, such as: the issue of country – specific mandates; the agenda and a framework for a programme of work of the Council.

Concerning country – specific mandates, I have included criteria based on the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation, which have been set out by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251.

I would also like to point out that the annexes regarding the review of mandates and the renewal of mandate holders terms have been adjusted accordingly. It should be noted that the footnote included in annex I indicates that the list of mandates contained therein has been elaborated following specific criteria equally applicable to all mandates.

With regards to the Agenda, my approach has been to reflect as much as possible the main priorities expressed by all delegations, while avoiding a detailed list of issues. This constitutes the basis for the compromise proposal. Regarding the framework for a programme of work, it is structured in the same manner as the facilitator's proposal and it is understood that it should constitute a general framework in which delegations may address any issue related to the Council's work.

I would also like to briefly refer to other aspects of the text that have been subject to discussion and I believe require clarification. I do this in the light of above considerations and without meaning to be exhaustive.

In connection with the issue of International Humanitarian Law in the UPR, I thank in advance those delegations that have been engaged in consultations to bring this matter to a solution. I understand that this should happen very soon if not yet.

Other areas in the text have also been modified in particular to clarify and improve the drafting. It is my sense, however, that many of the concerns and proposals raised during our discussions are somehow covered in the text as it currently stands.

I do not need to stress the significance of our decisions and the need for us to continue to work collectively and in the spirit of cooperation and flexibility in order to fulfill our mandate. I trust that we will be able to do so and I wish to extend to you once again my sincere gratitude for your continuous collaboration, hard work and support to the institution building process of the Council.

I thank you.