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**STATEMENT BY**

**AMBASSADOR HENRI-PAUL NORMANDIN  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA**

**TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE  
OF THE 61<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION L.41:  
THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**NEW YORK, 9 NOVEMBER 2006**

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**ALLOCUTION DE**

**L'AMBASSADEUR HENRI-PAUL NORMANDIN  
REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT ADJOINT DU CANADA**

**À LA TROISIÈME COMMISSION  
DE LA 61<sup>e</sup> SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE**

**PRÉSENTATION DU PROJET DE RÉOLUTION L.41 :  
LA SITUATION DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE EN  
RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D'IRAN**

**NEW YORK, LE 9 NOVEMBRE 2006**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Last year, at its 60<sup>th</sup> session, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The resolution called for a re-examination of the situation at this current, 61<sup>st</sup> session.

Following-up on this previous decision, Canada and 37 cosponsors have tabled a resolution in the Third Committee concerning the human rights situation in Iran, now before you as draft resolution L41.

Last year's resolution expressed serious concern regarding the human rights situation in Iran and called on its Government to abide by the obligations it has freely undertaken under international human rights instruments, and to take immediate action to improve in a number of specific areas.

Since then, there has been a continued deterioration in the Government of Iran's performance in protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its people. Positive developments in 2006 have been sporadic, and the lack of progress and action by the Government of Iran are cause for serious concern. This assessment is shared by many members of the international community.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The resolution before you has been carefully drafted to ensure accuracy and balance. The resolution is by no means exhaustive. Yet, it highlights specific and serious concerns on a range of human rights issues, from widespread denial of basic freedoms to inhumane treatment and punishment, and it calls the Government of Iran to action.

Opportunities for Iranians to express themselves and to advance human rights in their own country are severely constrained. Iranians who speak out find themselves at risk of further human rights violations.

All of us are fully supportive of cooperation in the field of human rights. But when a government is not cooperating, does not acknowledge that it faces serious human rights issues, shows no commitment towards making progress, and does not engage constructively with its own citizens – then, it is necessary for the international community to express its views. The UN General Assembly and its Third Committee have both the jurisdiction and the responsibility to address the most serious human rights situations.

Our profound hope is that by calling the world's attention to the situation of human rights in Iran, this resolution will encourage progress. We look forward to the day when the commitment of the Government of Iran to abide by its international obligations and to respect the basic rights of its citizens is such that this resolution is no longer necessary. Thank you.