

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الامم المتحدة
نيويورك

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Maged A. ABDELAZIZ

**Ambassador
Permanent Representative**

In explanation of vote

New York, 15 March 2006

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Explanation of Vote

Mr. President

The Delegation of Egypt voted in favour of the Draft Resolution L.48 establishing the Human Rights Council in a clear reaffirmation of our firm conviction of the need for a new vibrant subsidiary body to the General Assembly to deal successfully and progressively with Human Rights issues based on cooperation and dialogue.

It is within this spirit that my delegation would like to explain its understanding of some of the provisions of the resolution we just adopted:

First, the Human Rights Council is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, and this institutional link must not be jeopardized. Our interpretation hence is that the human rights council should present all its recommendations and resolutions to the General Assembly for consideration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure applicable in this universal body.

Second, The Human Rights Council will uphold basic principles such as sovereign equality of states, respect for their territorial integrity and the right to self determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation. The Council should work diligently to promote the respect and application of these principles.

Third, The Council during its functioning should safeguard the fundamental obligations to respect the cultural, religious and social backgrounds of different peoples and societies. In this regard, our interpretation of the term "*Highest Standards*" in OP9 are those standards that have been internationally recognized and agreed upon by all states collectively.

Fourth, The suspension of the rights of membership as stipulated in OP.8, even though it is derived from art. 18 para. 2 of the Charter, should be an exceptional application to this body only and limited to cases of committing gross and systematic violations of human rights "*stricto sensu*". This case should not represent a precedent that would be a basis for the proliferation of such a practice in different bodies of the United Nations.

Fifth, My delegation fully associates itself with the explanation of vote made by the Ambassador of Yemen on behalf of the States members of the OIC. Our understanding of PP7 is that it entails the responsibility of states and international organizations in ensuring full respect for religions and prophets and we stress the responsibility of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in ensuring that all states abide by their responsibilities in this regard.

I would conclude by expressing -to you Mr. President and to your Co chairs-our appreciation for your tireless efforts within a transparent and all inclusive process in sincere fulfillment of your mandate in the Outcome Document.

Thank you.