

**Statement by the Indonesian delegation
on the report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial
discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
further to Human Rights Council decision 1/107**

Geneva, 21 September 2006

Mr President,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to open these remarks by expressing our thanks and appreciation to the Special Rapporteurs, both of them, for the timely report which they have jointly drawn up at the request of the Council in implementation of its decision 1/107 in its first session. We would like to thank the two special procedures for the sum of work and efforts which have gone into compiling this very scholarly document in time for this Second Session.

The report's findings and conclusions illustrate in a most pertinent manner the very great complexity of the issues arising from the articulation of a number of fundamental human rights, on the one hand, and a set of very different perceptions and sensitivities, together with the reactions they engender, on the other. We have studied with great interest the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report.

Our delegation concurs with the views whereby the present predicament in which the global community finds itself with regard to the way different religious and cultural denominations perceive one another, arises from a state of confrontation. This confrontation is exacerbated by a sense of injustice and persecution which feed essentially on the raft of measures introduced in the campaign against terrorism, and which are entirely premised on the overriding principle that security comes before all other considerations.

The clear and present danger of confrontation is that it contributes to creating ever more entrenched and hardened positions and the splitting of communities into camps. This, as the report points out, has a direct bearing on the impregnation of society with dangerous ideologies that in turn lead to discrimination, to harassment of this or that community, to stereotyping, and to religious hatred.

In such a climate, it is not difficult to understand the extreme sensitivity with which the press is perceived as an actual and potential vehicle of some of these

attitudes. Thus, we agree with cautions against unlimited freedom of expression and the risk it presents of inhibiting the balance that international norms seek to establish between freedom of expression and religious freedom. Only and specifically by maintaining this balance can the prohibition of the incitement to religious and racial hatred contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, endorsed by all the States members of the United Nations, be guaranteed.

Furthermore, in seeking to resolve these difficult issues wisely and peacefully, we are of the same view with the report's recommendation that governments take very seriously their role and responsibilities in defusing tensions and in propagating a culture of dialogue and integration throughout society. They must show political will and apply vigilance in eradicating divisive concepts and, through education, information and communication, uproot the culture of confrontation and hatred. As the report also points out, reversing the negative spiral of confrontation is an undertaking that engages all actors in society.

In conclusion to these remarks, Mr President, my delegation also supports the recommendation that governments and member states continue to work towards the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action and its guidelines as a key element in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

Thank you.