



CHAIR OF  
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
SIXTH SESSION

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JUAN ANTONIO FERNANDEZ,  
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CUBA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED  
MOVEMENT

(Check against delivery)

Geneva, 13 September 2007

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

2. The Non Aligned Movement would like to take this opportunity to express some general comments on the sixth session of the Council as well as on the yearly cycle that we are embarking on.
3. The Non Aligned Movement considers that the main priority for the sixth session of the Human Rights Council should be the completion of the pending tasks of the institutional building process, as well as the continuation of the process of the review, rationalization and improvement of mandates.
4. From the very beginning, the Non Aligned Movement has been fully engaged in the process of the institutional building of the Human Rights Council, and we remain committed to it.
5. Members of the Movement have actively engaged in the informal consultations that we've had this week with the facilitators appointed for these tasks: Ambassador Loulichky of Morocco, for the elaboration of the general guidelines for the preparation of information under UPR, Ambassador Gallegos of Nicaragua, for the elaboration of technical and objective requirements for members of the Advisory Committee, and with you Mr. President on the technical and objective requirements for mandate-holders.
6. While we look forward to continuing the consultations with a view to achieving an agreeable solution for all, It is our firm believe that the elaboration of technical and objective requirements for members of the Advisory Committee and mandate-holders must not in any way hamper the right of member states to submit the candidates of their election, especially for developing countries where such high requirements are sometimes more difficult to find.
7. It must be clear that any technical and objective requirement that we decide on should not be interpreted as obligatory, mandatory nor in any way exclusionist.

Mr. President,

8. It is vital that during this session the Council agree on a structured and balanced program of work for the next year, so as to ensure predictability, transparency and preparedness of all delegations for the months ahead. In that sense, the Non Aligned Movement stresses the integrality of the agenda, the need to clearly define the timing for the consideration of all items, and the right of all member states to decide on

the more appropriate moment to present initiatives or take up specific issues of interest or concern.

9. With regard to the UPR, the Non-Aligned Movement considers that members that will undergo review in 2008 must be given sufficient time to prepare for such a demanding exercise. We have taken note Mr. President of your proposal to begin the first UPR session by February 2008 but for developing countries in general it would be more feasible if it begins at some point after the main session of March 2008. We therefore request that the Human Rights Council calendar for 2008 be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. President,

10. The Non-Aligned Movement is closely following the developments in New York with regards to the relations between the Human rights Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly. For the sake of the success of this new Council, we hope that the institution building package agreed last June is preserved in its integrity.
11. As we are embarking on a new Era, the Non Aligned Movement calls upon all member states to make the new Council profit this unique opportunity to transit through new avenues of genuine cooperation, good faith, dialogue and constructiveness in its approach to the promotion and protection of all human rights for all.
12. Stamping out politicization, double standards, and selectivity is the only way to make a real contribution to the noble cause of human rights, which we all embrace.

I thank you