

BANGLADESH

Mr. President,

My delegation appreciates the High Commissioner Ms, Louis Arbor for updating us on her activities in the past few months and sharing her views on the institution building works.

Adoption of resolution 5/1 will remain a milestone in the history of the Council. Our collective wisdom, sagacity and pragmatism have been reflected in resolution. We have been able to offer the Council a strong foundation. The same spirit should prevail in dealing with the remaining works of institution building. We have already made significant progress in the informal meetings. We do lag behind in the area of review of mandates. We need to expedite the review process with a view to streamlining the special procedure system. The review has offered opportunity not only to identify protection gaps but also to look into areas of overlap that exist in the system. An open mind, rational and objective thinking will be essential. The task will not be very easy but we will have to make it. The Council has adopted a detailed procedure for the appointment of mandate holders. Independence is no doubt important but let us not forget other four equally important elements, <sup>professionalism</sup> including impartiality, personal integrity and objectivity. With the institution building works accomplished, the Council will resume its business as usual.

Our collective action in the field of human rights should be founded on the principle of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, dialogue, cooperation and action. UPR can be a valuable addition to the <sup>right direction</sup> human rights mechanism. But the countries would need time to understand and internalize the new tool. <sup>Any haste in starting the process may be counter-productive.</sup> Developing countries particularly the LDCs would require enough time to prepare and present before the Council. (A voluntary trust fund could be created to support this group of countries for the preparation as well as participation in the review process.) I appreciate the High Commissioner for her <sup>commitment</sup> endeavor to establish a trust fund to facilitate participation of LDCs in the works

of the Council. In the era of former Commission, such support was available to the delegates from LDCs. This has been discontinued since creation of the Council.

We have always supported the idea of greater coordination between the Council and the High Commissioner's office. We are ~~most~~ <sup>of our view,</sup> thankful to the High Commissioner for her acceptance (in principle) the idea. An institutional relationship will bring synergy in the activities of these two bodies and strengthen <sup>global efforts</sup> promotion and protection of human rights. Transparency is an issue of importance to any organization. Structural relationship will ensure greater transparency. The General Assembly resolution 48/141 which created the Office and resolution 60/251 which created the Council can provide necessary guidance. We look forward to engage ourselves in <sup>an exercise</sup> ~~this~~ exercise <sup>in the coming days.</sup>

~~The concerns of human resource management of the High Commissioner's office particularly geographical representation in the staff position remain a concern.~~

Madam Arbour refers to some <sup>level</sup> new field recruitment. We hope due attention would be paid to this principle of equitable geographic representation.

~~Despite repeated~~ ~~request~~ <sup>request</sup> from the membership the situation on the staff composition of the OHCHR is far from satisfactory. Perhaps for the timing positive discrimination would be an option to ~~more~~ remedy the situation.