



BRAZIL

THIRD COMMITTEE

**Item 65: Report of the Human Rights Council
Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Sergio Abreu e Lima Florencio,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations and
other International Organizations in Geneva
(New York, 5 November, 2007)**

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the beginning of the negotiating process that led to General Assembly Resolution 60/251, Brazil has fully supported the establishment of the Human Rights Council as a major contribution to the strengthening of the promotion and protection of human rights.

We believe that the Human Rights Council must live up to the great expectations deposited by Member States and civil society. We reaffirm our conviction that a robust Council constitutes a step forward towards the strengthening and improvement of the Human Rights machinery.

At the present moment, our priority must be the consolidation of the Human Rights Council as the main multilateral body to the promotion and protection of human rights. In line with this goal, Brazil reaffirms its strong support for a consideration of the Human Rights Council's report in such a way to preserve its integrity.

My delegation views the relationship between the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee as complementary, rather than competitive. We are concerned with the lack of clarity on the division of labor between these two organs.

Mr. Chairperson,

This is a crucial moment for the future work of the Human Rights Council. During its first year of existence, the Human Rights Council has devoted immense efforts to its institutional building process. The institutional package adopted by consensus in Geneva is instrumental to fulfill the mandate provided for in Resolution 60/251. It is a result of strenuous negotiations during the first year of the Council's existence. The package was carefully drafted in an inclusive and transparent process, enabling all members to actively participate. Its final text reflects a balanced compromise.

The adoption by the Council of its institutional package opened the way for promising developments in the human rights system. Allow me to refer specifically to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a fundamental mechanism to avoid excessive politicization and selectivity which sometimes prevailed at the previous Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation understands the circumstances that led to the decision adopted by the General Assembly this morning. We joined the consensus on this issue with the main purpose of preserving the integrity of the institutional package. It is our understanding that the present arrangement constitutes a decision at the 62nd session, and that it does not set a precedent.

Brazil is convinced that the institutional building process must be reinforced and consolidated. The present institutional package has created structural foundations for a more robust and effective system of promotion and protection of human rights.

It is our expectation that there will be no reopening of the Human Rights Council Report by the Third Committee. Any discontinuity in this new phase will be detrimental to its credibility. We remain confident that the constructive atmosphere which gave rise to the institutional package of the Human Rights Council will prevail.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson