

**Remarks by Mr. Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze  
Human Rights Day 2007  
Palais des Nations, Room XVII  
Monday, 10 December 2007, at 10:25 a.m.**

**Mr. President  
Madam High Commissioner  
Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**The protection and promotion of human rights is one of the  
core pillars of the mission of the United Nations. Ensuring the  
dignity and well-being of every human being is a challenge for  
the entire United Nations family.**

**Making the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a reality for all peoples is our solemn responsibility. It is the foundation of our collective work for peace and development. Let us re-dedicate ourselves over the coming year, and beyond, to ensuring that all of us here in Geneva make human rights an important dimension of our activities.**

The Universal Declaration is the embodiment of the conscience of mankind. Much has been achieved since its adoption. It has shaped the aspirations and guided the actions of peoples across the world. Yet, much remains to be done. The Universal Declaration belongs to all of us, and the commemoration must be a celebration for all peoples. I therefore call on Governments, civil society and ordinary people everywhere to join in efforts to ensure that the principles of the Declaration enter the consciousness of all.

**In the words of the architects of the Declaration: Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual persons. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.**

Today, we unite in our shared resolve to fight inequality in justice, inhumanity and intolerance wherever they occur. The anniversary and the year-long campaign we launch today is an opportunity to intensify our efforts to narrow the gap between the promise of the Declaration and its effective implementation on the ground as part of our efforts to build a peaceful, prosperous and fair world for all.

Thank you very much.