

## ALGERIA/AFRICAN GROUP

Mr. President.

I am speaking in the name of the African Group.

We thank the High Commissioner for her address this morning and congratulate her for her valuable report. We would have hoped that this report or an outline thereof could have been made available to the Council at least 24 hours in advance so that we could prepare a broad and in-depth response to the important issues raised therein. We appeal to the OHCHR to prevent a recurrence of such impediments in the future.

Be that as it may, we have noted the assurance renewed by the High Commissioner at this meeting that she is implementing an Action Plan to redress the present unbalanced situation, in terms of the geographic representation of staff, which has further deteriorated this year to the detriment of the developing countries and in particular of Africa whose staff representation has been cut by half percentage wise between 1998 and 2005.

We share the concern of the Joint Inspection Unit that "the skewed nature of the actual composition of the staff could result in diminishing the effectiveness of the work of the Office if it is perceived to be culturally biased and unrepresentative of the United Nations as a whole".

We fully support therefore the statement just made by the Vice-President of the Joint Inspection Unit and also share his concern that representation by the HRC and ECOSOC to address this situation have been followed by a further deterioration of the situation.

We call for urgent affirmative action to reverse this unacceptable situation.

We consider that this is just one of the consequences of the fact that contrary to all Offices of High Commissioners set up by the League of Nations and by the United Nations, there has not been any institutional interaction between the resident intergovernmental body, i.e. in our case, the Council and the Secretariat on management issues.

We therefore welcome the response of the UN Secretary General in document A/HRC/2/CRP4, Annex para.5 to the Joint Inspection Unit report which clearly recognises the right for HRC to review management issues of OHCHR and hope that the Council's contribution in this regard may be more structured in the future, without prejudice of course to the role of other UN important bodies in New York.

We have taken note of the revised draft manual of Special Procedures on Human Rights of the UN of June 2006 (CHR/NCNE/2006/158) drawn up by the Coordination

Committee of Special Procedures and welcome its decisions to submit it to Governments and other stakeholders for comments and inputs

We would therefore request the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the review of mandates to review this revised draft and to make recommendations on possible additions or amendments thereto.

The African Group suggests that the Working Group elaborates a code of conduct regulating the work of special procedures taking into account inter-alia the procedural improvements suggested by Council members during the debates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council on the Reports of the mandate holders.

I wish now to refer to the statement just made by the Chairman of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures and to address to him the congratulations of the African Group.

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