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### Third session of the Human Rights Council

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The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions in Geneva, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and, at the request of the President, has the honour to forward attached herewith a non-paper prepared by the Asian Group on working methods of the Human Rights Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. A.', written over the date.

20 November 2006

Mission Permanente du Royaume  
d'Arabie Saoudite auprès  
des Nations Unies  
Genève



الوفد الدائم للمملكة العربية السعودية  
لدى المقر الأوربي للأمم المتحدة  
جنيف

Ref. No. 11/25/1461

Geneva, 17 November 2006

Excellency,

I have pleasure in attaching hereto a non-paper on the method of work of the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council that was prepared and endorsed by members of the Asian Group as a contribution that we hope will be considered during our deliberations on this subject.

The dissemination of this non-paper to the Regional Groups would be highly appreciated.

I take this opportunity, Excellency, to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Abdulwahab ATTAR  
Ambassador & Permanent Representative  
Coordinator of the Asian Group

H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso DE ALBA  
Designated Chair of Human Rights Council  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of Mexico  
Avenue de Budé 16 – CP 433  
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## **NON-PAPER - ASIAN GROUP**

### **Working Methods of the Human Rights Council**

With a view to enhancing the transparency, predictability, inclusiveness and efficiency of the Human Rights Council, the following suggestions on the working methods of the Council are being submitted for consideration. These working methods will be applied to regular sessions of the Human Rights Council and without prejudice to the rule of procedure.

#### ***1. Structured Agenda for the Human Rights Council***

Without prejudice to the outcome of discussions on the agenda of the Human Rights Council, every session should have a structured agenda and work programme, the draft of which shall be communicated in advance to the Members of the Council at least 2 weeks before the start of the session.

#### ***2. Early deadline for submission of draft resolutions/decisions***

It is important that all delegations be given adequate time to study draft resolutions/decisions. It is proposed that for future session of the Council, the deadline for submission of drafts, with a few appropriate exceptions preferably be the end of the first/second week, depending on the length of the Session. This arrangement will be operative until the adoption of the agenda of the Council.

#### ***3. Limit the number of open-ended informal consultations during sessions,***

Without prejudice to circumstances which may merit the holding of urgent consultations, it is recommended that the number of open-ended informal consultations be limited as much as possible, and all delegations be informed of the schedule of informal consultations at least 2 days in advance.

#### ***4. President's Open-Ended Consultations***

It is proposed that the President, or one of the Vice Presidents designated by him may hold Open-Ended consultations, when necessary, to be chaired by the President or a Vice-President to give an update on the status of all draft resolutions/decisions/proposals arising from the open-ended informal consultations by co-sponsors, informal informals, or tabled by individual countries or groups not considered in informal meetings.

The President or the designated Vice President chairing these consultations should provide a table of the most complete and updated information on drafts, allowing delegations to assess the situation of negotiations from a "bird's-eye point of view". It would not be a negotiating forum. If there were still need for delegations to discuss a certain draft, the President/Vice President could encourage discussions to continue in informal consultations on the draft in question.

#### ***5. Participation of non-members of the Council***

Participation of and consultation with the observers, including States that are not members of the Council, the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, shall be based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and

practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities.

Any change regarding future participation in accordance with EOCOSOC resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 should be endorsed by the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Council.

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