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to the United Nations
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**Statement of The Delegation of Egypt
Before the General Debate of the Third Committee on
Agenda Item 64: "Report of the Human Rights Council"**

14 November 2012

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Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Egypt wishes at the outset to welcome H.E. Ambassador "Laura Dupuy Lasserre", President of the Human Rights Council in the opening of the general debate in the Third Committee on the report of the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution (65/281), as the third committee is the main negotiating body of the General Assembly responsible for all issues related to human rights.

The General Assembly affirmed in its aforementioned resolution that the Council is a subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, and that the discussion on the report of the Council shall take place within the Third Committee, where the president of the council would present an annual briefing on the report of the Council to the committee, and a briefing on the activities of the Council to the General Assembly. Although the resolution of the General Assembly on the review of the council consolidated important practices and principles pertaining to the methods of work of the Council and reaffirmed its subsidiary status, however, the adoption of this resolution by a vote undermined without a doubt the main objective of the council which is to promote the respect for for all human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

The Human Rights Council has an important role to play in supporting the efforts of Member States, which has the primary responsibility for the protection of all human rights. The Council should work to ensure the promotion and realization of these rights with full respect to the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the domestic affairs in order to avoid the challenges which hindered the work of the Commission on Human Rights namely politicization, selectivity, and double standards when it dealt with these issues.

The annual report of the council on its regular and special sessions during the period from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012, reaffirmed that the council plays an

important role in building national capacities, monitoring the situation of human rights in the world, and promoting economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights on equal footing. The Council also played an important role with regard to the protection of human rights of the Palestinian people, and in the occupied Arab territories. The Council also strengthened the efforts of the international community in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerances; and promoting all human rights through the Universal Periodic Review, the complaint mechanisms, the forum on minorities, and mandate holders who should carry out their duties work in accordance with clear mandates given to them by the Council, and with full respect to their Code of Conduct approved by the Council in its resolution 5/2 and reaffirmed in its resolution 11/11 in June 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the strive of the members of the council during its early years to work in accordance with the principles of understanding, cooperation, and transparency, and to avoid confrontation, selectivity, and politicization in dealing with human rights issues, however, this strive is waning and will result in the Council facing similar challenges as did the commission on human rights in the past. We have a responsibility to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past by addressing such challenges most importantly:

1. Politicization of the Council's resolutions to achieve certain political objectives which don't necessary support the international community's efforts to ensure respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
2. Attempting to enforce certain controversial notions through the council without reaching an international consensus in a bid to legitimize them, such as sexual orientation and gender identity.
3. A member state, that has systematically violated the human rights of the people under its foreign occupation, have resorted to suspending its relation with the Council under the pretext that the work of the council is biased, and discriminatory, in a dangerous precedent that undermines the credibility of the Council.
4. Systematic attempts to use the council as a tool to legitimize the Security Council interference in situations of human rights around the world in a manner that undermines the effectiveness of the role of the Human Rights Council and the roles of the principal organs of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter.

Such challenges among others are driving us away from cooperation and towards a confrontational path. The international community has the responsibility to ensure that the council carries out its responsibilities and functions within a transparent, and cooperative framework; and to avoid turning the council into a political tool to enforce the trusteeship of the few on human rights issues, or to enforce controversial notions that has no legal foundations in international humanitarian and human rights law, in complete disregard to the diversity of social, cultural, legal and religious values of member states.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt reaffirms its commitment to support the work of the Council to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review by all States without distinction, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and civil society; and encouraging the interaction of all States with the mandate holders who should fully respect their mandates, code of conduct, and establish a dialogue with the Member States on the basis of transparency and mutual cooperation.

Furthermore, the international community has a responsibility to strengthen the role of the Council through ensuring the full cooperation of all member states with the international fact-finding missions, and missions of inquiry created by the Council resolutions, and to ensure the implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of these missions, and avoid attempts to get around them, with a view to reinforce the credibility of the council and avoid double standards.

Thank you.