



**Statement by**

**Mr. Muhammad Anshor, Representative of the Indonesian Delegation  
Before the Third Committee  
60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
on  
Item 67 (b) and (c)  
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights**

**New York, 30 October 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation attaches great importance to the discussion of the promotion and protection of human rights in this forum. Indonesia has always believed in upholding the importance of the commitment to the protection and promotion of these rights, and we continue to update our domestic laws and institutional structure in this regard.

It is important, in our view, to remember that human rights promotion and protection must be a collective and persistent pursuit of all of us.

In this direction Mr. Chairman, my delegation is pleased to observe certain positive developments in recent times. We are extremely gratified by the creation of the Human Rights Council this year which has strengthened the human rights machinery of the United Nations in taking forward the protection and promotion of human rights.

Similarly, in the area of standard setting, several important steps have been taken in recent times. These include the adoption by the Human Rights Council, during its first session, of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Agreement was also reached on the draft Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. My delegation warmly welcomes these developments, and looks forward to the formal adoption of those instruments by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is also quite pleased by developments in the area of monitoring, including the preservation of the system of special procedures in the Human Rights Council. Of particular importance here is the proposal last March by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour, to create a Unified Standing Treaty Body.

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This proposal has led to some debate by Member States. We welcome ideas which simplify the reporting mechanism, enhance efficiency and save resources, thereby reducing the burden of reporting obligations for state parties, especially the developing countries. We note with interest the draft harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international legal framework, including guidelines on the common core documents and treaty-specific documents for reporting. We believe that focus should also be given to the efforts to address problems of duplication, backlogs, non-reporting and visibility of human rights treaty bodies under the current legal framework. My delegation is ready to continue to participate in the process in order to make progress in this regard.

While continuing discussions on the strengthening of the international human rights system, we should not lose sight of the need to address one of the main challenges before us, namely how to implement international human rights instruments in the most effective way at both national and international levels. Numerous problems of non-implementation of the existing human rights instruments have been identified by mandate holders of special procedures who presented their reports to this Committee. We even found ourselves dealing with the same issues year after year without tangible progress registered: pervasive human rights violations resulting from continued foreign occupation; country situations which raise serious concerns; people being deprived of food, shelter, access to healthcare, education and employment; extreme poverty which violate human dignity; practices of discrimination on the ground of religion or ethnicity or gender; and lack of respect and intolerance among different cultures and religions.

Tackling these problems is mostly beyond the questions of creating or codifying human rights norms and standards as well as of strengthening monitoring mechanisms for their implementation, especially in the context of developing countries. We really need to review the current approaches employed in global human rights promotion and protection. We also need to continue to explore innovative ways of addressing various human rights problems, cognizant of the significance of national and regional particularities, various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds as well as levels of development. What is clearly important is to give practical meanings of the principles of international cooperation and a holistic approach in human rights promotion and protection, in full appreciation of the fact that security, development and respect for human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

We should take this into account when we work on various draft resolutions and decisions here.

My delegation supports the current efforts which put emphasis on respect for human rights as an approach and an end in itself in addressing human rights problems resulting from foreign occupation and armed conflicts, while taking fully into account their root causes.

In dealing with human rights problems resulting from intolerance, discrimination on various grounds and xenophobia, we support the on-going campaigns in various quarters to confront the different problems. We, however, believe that we need to step up our efforts by strengthening existing mechanisms, within and outside the United Nations, to promote mutual understanding and respect among various religions, cultures and civilizations. In addition, continued special attention must be given to the protection of human rights of vulnerable groups of people.

The lack of national capacity in the field of human rights is a common problem in the developing world, as it affects their capability to fulfill their obligations under international human rights laws. A system of technical assistance provision which enjoys their confidence and responds to their

needs should be developed. A scheme similar to the newly established Democracy Fund (UNDEF) is worth considering.

Established last year, UNDEF is charged with financing projects that build and strengthen democratic institutions, promote human rights, and ensure the participation of all groups in democratic processes.

Indeed, only last August, Mr. Chairman, UNDEF awarded its first round of grants, a total of US\$ 36 million, to 125 projects selected from over 1300 proposals received from all over the world. The projects cover such areas as the promotion of civic education, voter registration, democratic dialogue and access to information. It is difficult to argue that over time, these grants and projects will not have a major impact on the ground.

This is why my delegation is convinced that a scheme of this nature, established within the Human Rights Council and supported by the capacity building and field presence unit of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, could take us beyond the perennial politicization of human rights issues. This is in line with the founding resolution of the Human Rights Council which stipulates that the envisaged Universal Periodic Review should give due consideration to the capacity building needs of member countries.

This system will be far more accommodating of home-grown human rights initiatives in various developing countries, and would bring the promotion of human rights into the mainstream by enhancing the active participation of local non-governmental organizations, human rights institutions, universities and national human rights bodies. A human rights fund will therefore become a tremendous force the world over in promoting and protecting human rights.

My delegation believes that it is important for us to continue to discuss these issues in order to find more effective ways to confront the human rights problems before us. It is the failure to do so that has left us in a situation where we find ourselves dealing with the same issues year after year.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we are of the view that renewed consideration should be given to the revitalization of the Third Committee. Given the universal nature of its membership and its role in assisting the General Assembly on social and human rights issues, we need to examine ways and means of maintaining its substantive role in the General Assembly in the field of human rights, while at the same time recognizing the leading role of the Human Rights Council in this field.

Thank you.