

INTERVENTION MADE BY AMBASSADOR C CHIPAZIWA : HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL 3RD SESSION – INTERCESSIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL
WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH SPECIAL PROCEDURES :
GENEVA, 5 DECEMBER 2006

We take the floor Mr President to join others in thanking Ambassador Husak for his work and statement, together with his preliminary conclusions, on Special Procedures and Mandate Holders. We also fully align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Algeria on behalf of the African Group.

We wish to underline our preference for the election of Mandate Holders by members of the Human Rights Council. This would remove misgivings and engender a sense of ownership in our new Human Rights Council by the general UN membership. It is not too long ago that the majority of the UN membership felt alienated in the appointed of non-other than a UN High Commissioner. Let us not compound such controversial practices by reposing on such office-holders the sole responsibility to appoint Mandate Holders and any other officers.

There should be full democracy in the functioning of the Human Rights Council. Only in such a manner can we remove the cultural narcissistic trance which seemingly afflicts some members who have a strangle-hold on some human rights processes and use fig-leaf NGOs which confect falsehoods which victimise too many developing countries too persistently.

There are many of us who will never accept that certain members think that their jurisprudence is superior to those of others and that, therefore, their particular point of view should always prevail. In the absence of consensus on these weighty matters of human rights, the will of the majority must prevail. By the way, that majority is one of all humanity on our planet.

A great deal of work remains to be done before we arrive at Special Procedures mechanisms which serve all of us impartially and without rancour.