



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

STATEMENT

BY

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MRS. EDITH HARXHI**

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Geneva, June 21 2006

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Honorable Chairman,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to express my personal content that today I witness the beginning of a new "Chapter" in the long path for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights.

In this very first inaugural session of the Human Rights Council, I would also like to show my highest appreciation for the work done so far by United Nations in general and all its agencies and employees who have so often given their lives for the protection of human rights in different parts of the world. A special remark goes also to the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as to the representatives of all countries present in this hall.

Albania has supported the founding of the Human Rights Council – as a stronger international body, devoted to the protection of human rights, guided in its work by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation. In this field the Republic of Albania supports the stand of the European Union on the Human Rights Council, aligns with the statement made by Her Excellency Ursula Plasnik the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria on behalf of European Union and encourages other countries in the world to adopt this agenda.