

**ADDRESS BY MR. JORGE TAIANA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND WORSHIP OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC  
IN THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE FIRST SESSIONAL PERIOD  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Geneva, June 19, 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,

Madam High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Heads of Delegation,

Representatives of Civil Society Organizations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to participate in this historic opening ceremony of the sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Since the inception of the reform of the United Nations system, my country strongly supported the upgrading of human rights within the organization.

Issues relating to international development, peace-keeping and security have so far received maximum attention from the UN.

The time has now come for human rights.

From a historical perspective, the gradual development of international human rights law as we know it today is only 60 years old, dating back to the adoption of the Universal Declaration in 1948.

This is very short time if we consider that for 300 years, since the Peace of Westfalia, the relationship between the State and individuals submitted to its jurisdiction was not an issue of interest to the international community, which remained indifferent in the face of mass and systematic abuses by both authoritarian as well as democratic governments.

Resolution 60/251 of the General Assembly requires that we "reaffirm the commitment to strengthen the United Nations human rights machinery, with the aim of ensuring effective enjoyment by all of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development."

This is a great responsibility and we should not miss the opportunity of consolidating a strong, effective, efficient and impartial universal system.

This means a system which encourages the full respect of human rights stressing the importance of dialogue and cooperation, and that at the same time does not subordinate itself to the interests of the *realpolitik*.