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**Statement by
Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan
H.E. Mr. Mahmud Mammadquliyev**

1st session of the UN Human Rights Council

Geneva, 20 June 2006

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great honour and pleasure to address the first session of the newly established Human Rights Council.

At the outset, I would like to sincerely congratulate you, Mr. President, and other members of the Bureau on your election and express our confidence that your able guidance will lead us to successful and productive activity.

I wish to congratulate the first Member States of the Council and thank all countries, which considered us worthy of this honorable membership. Let me assure you that the Government of Azerbaijan realizes fully its responsibility and will do its utmost to use the years of membership in the Council for close contribution to the process of formalization of strong and efficient human rights body.

Dear Colleagues,

Let me share with you our approaches to some of the important and concrete issues that need to be addressed.

We believe that Council should focus on the implementation of the obligations and commitments undertaken, as well as on the mandates and mechanisms that need further scrutiny. In this regard, we suggest to reduce the number of resolutions to the expedient one, with due regard given to the main aspects of human rights and roots and conditions conducive to their violations. Effective monitoring mechanism for decisions' implementation within the Council should be established. The General Assembly should not only take note of decisions of the Council, but assist in making them workable in reality.

We also favor enhanced interaction between the Council and the **Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights** that would increase the sense of collective ownership by the Members of the overall UN human rights machinery. We would welcome stronger emphasis on the part of the Office on areas like human rights education, capacity, first of all, human capacity building and other forms of technical assistance to countries in need.

The role of the **Sub-Commission** on the protection and promotion of human rights in development of relevant standards and examination of complaints should be reviewed and enhanced as a subsidiary body of the Council providing the latter with much needed expert advice.

Recognizing the instrumental role of **special procedures** in highlighting issues and providing independent expert contribution, we look forward to participating in the