

ПОСТОЯННО ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛСТВО НА  
РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ ПРИ СЛУЖБАТА НА ООН И  
ДРУГИТЕ МЕЖДУНАРОДНИ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ В ЖЕНЕВА



MISSION PERMANENTE DE  
LA REPUBLIQUE DE BULGARIE AUPRES DE L'ONU ET  
LES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE

**Check against delivery!**

## **S T A T E M E N T**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. IVAILO KALFIN**

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**FIRST SESSION  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
GENEVA  
20 JUNE 2006**

Mr. President of the Council,  
Madam High Commisisoner,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to speak before the new Human Rights Council today.

President de Alba, let me first congratulate you on behalf of the Bulgarian Government on your election to this high office. A word of sincere appreciation also to our Swiss hosts, for their contribution to the success of this momentous event.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to pay special tribute to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, to President Eliasson, to the Co-Chairs Ambassadors Kumalo and Arias, and to all those who worked hard throughout the process that brought us all here. And I believe we all came here hoping that we can make a significant step forward in the matter of defending human rights and upholding human dignity.

Bulgaria welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly Resolution 60/251, which confirmed the commitment of the international community to ensure the **effective enjoyment by all of all human rights**.

It is our genuine wish that the Council will indeed preserve and build on the undeniable achievements of the Commission on Human Rights, while we all should share the responsibility for redressing its past shortcomings.

In this respect I am convinced that the new Council would fulfill the high expectations of the international community only if its work is based on the principles of universality and impartiality. The Council should function as a forum for constructive international dialogue and cooperation, and strive to provide that civil, economic, political, social and cultural human rights, including the right to development, are equally accorded serious consideration.