



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
PERMANENT MISSION AT GENEVA

Please check against delivery.

(Translation)

**Work in Cooperation for
A New Chapter in the
Cause of International Human Rights**

Yang Jiechi

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
At the Inaugural Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Geneva, 20 June 2006

Mr Chairman,

I would like to start by congratulating you, on behalf of the Chinese Government, on your assumption of the Chair of the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council. I have every confidence that under your able leadership this session will be successful.

Mr Chairman,

The inauguration of the Human Rights Council opens a new chapter in the cause of international human rights. Just a few days ago, on 16 June, the chapter of the Commission on Human Rights, the Council's predecessor, was formally closed. Over a period of 60 years, the Commission accomplished much in drafting international human rights instruments, fighting colonialism and apartheid, and promoting human