



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Address

**by H.E. Mr. Fuad Hasanovic, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Macedonia before the Inaugural Session of the Human Rights
Council of the United Nations**

Geneva, 19 June 2006

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my privilege and honor to be part of the historic event expected to give new strength and provide a new fresh start to our common endeavors in the sphere of promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms. We embarked on a new path. The aim is an effective body covering all human rights for all and making a genuine contribution for all. The Human Rights Council is a powerful tool to regain the UN values and principles, as was originally envisaged by the creation of the United Nations.

But let me first of all congratulate Ambassador de Alba on his appointment as President of the Council. He has a challenging task of leading a process to shape the agenda and working methods of this important body. Rest assured that you will have a genuine support of the Republic of Macedonia.

We are happy that Geneva has been and continues to be the symbol of our shared cause – credible and effective human rights machinery.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have already passed a long path since our Heads of State or Government made a solemn commitment at the Summit of September 2005. The negotiations leading to the adoption of the resolution 60/251 were long and difficult. Many compromises have been made.

Yet, we trust that the resolution have established a solid foundation to advance the cause of human rights. In this regard, we must not forget that the responsibility rests with the states. Their commitment to build on the strengths of the former Commission and put to life important innovations to overcome the identified loopholes and shortcomings will be of vital importance. Speaking in the context of the general reforms of the United Nations, we are convinced that the effective and efficient Human Rights Council will contribute to strengthening credibility and legitimacy of the entire UN system.

Mr. President,

From the outset, the Republic of Macedonia has joint those who advocated a Council equipped with the status, mandate, structures and membership necessary to give human rights the central role foreseen by the Charter. The inclusiveness, non-selectivity, dialogue and cooperation should be the fundamental principles in the Council's work. We consider it necessary to solemnly try to avoid the stereotypes of the past. A fresh start is not possible with old habits. The work of the Council, which starts today, must not be confined to reaction, but focused on prevention. It must provide states with guidance and assistance to reach highest human rights standards. Human rights crises must be addressed promptly and effectively. The same applies to long standing human rights violations. As I have stressed earlier, the UN GA Resolution 60/251 provides solid elements to boost our inventiveness in regard to our engagement on human rights issues.

The universal periodic review is a new mechanism we all take pride in. In order to be effective, it must be developed as a true mechanism for cooperation between the Council and the respective country, based on interactive dialogue with and full involvement of the country concerned. It must have an effective follow-up mechanism essential to its proper functioning. The approach to the development of UPR modalities