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**SPEECH BY H.E. MR. GEORGE MANJGALADZE**  
**DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA**  
**1<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

21 June 2006  
Geneva  
Permanent Mission of Georgia  
To the United Nations Office  
And other International Organizations at Geneva

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to express my congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba who has been elected President of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Council, as well as other Members of the Council's Bureau. I align myself with previous speakers in wishing you and your team every success in your activities.

Mr. President,

It is my honour and privilege to address the newly established United Nations Human Rights Council. Georgia always supported the initiative to establish the Council, with a stronger mandate to monitor and ensure the implementation of commitments undertaken by Member States.

Human rights issues are among key priorities for Georgia. Having gained its independence, Georgia made its choice to build a state based on democratic values and the rule of law, to integrate into international community, European structures.

In general , the Constitution of Georgia and our laws meet human rights requirements and our international obligations in this sphere. Nevertheless, Georgia continues working to have them fully harmonized with international standards.