

STATEMENT BY

THE MINISTER FOR

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA,

NANA AKUFO-ADDO, MP,

TO THE

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

OF THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

MONDAY, 19TH JUNE 2006, GENEVA

Mr. President, may I begin by congratulating you and your Bureau on your election and for the able manner in which you conducted the wide-ranging consultations leading up to this First Session of the Human Rights Council. I salute also Foreign Minister Jan Eliasson who presided over negotiations at the United Nations General Assembly which resulted in the creation of the Human Rights Council. Without the professionalism, dedication and commitment exhibited by you and your Bureau, we may not have been here today. I daresay all of us owe a great debt of gratitude to our illustrious compatriot, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, for his tireless efforts in pursuing the agenda of reform of the United Nations to enable it meet more effectively the challenges of our new age, an agenda that has made possible the establishment of this Council. I extend my appreciation too to Madam High Commissioner and her staff for their dedication to the cause of human rights, particularly during this transitional period.

Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that the Ghanaian delegation has come here to this famous city of Geneva to participate in today's historic proceedings, which marks the beginning of a new human rights chapter in the book of the United Nations. I have the instruction of the President of the