



*Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations
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Statement

by

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Islamic Republic of Iran**

before

**the High Level Segment of
the first session of the Human Rights Council**

Geneva, 22 june 2006

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to you Ambassador De Alba on your election as the first president of the Human Rights Council. My congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau on their election. Allow me also to extend my felicitations to Madam Louise Arbour the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The international community is at a decisive juncture of its human rights history, as it confronts new challenges and threats of different nature against the people of different cultures and religions worldwide. The international debate on human rights is expected to assume new dimensions and new direction as a result of the ongoing structural reform which has now led to the establishment of the new Human Rights Council. We all gathered here in Geneva to combine our wisdom and mobilize our abilities to make this happen. I referred to the current state of affairs as a decisive juncture because the wrong diagnosis of the strengths and weaknesses of the past and present and the erroneous analysis of what the international community should undertake to make a difference in future, will indeed take us back to a situation where we will be left again with the same malaise faced by the Commission on Human Rights over the past years.

Clearly, the Commission on Human Rights made considerable progress in the field of both standard- setting and implementation. It is truly a disservice and distortion of facts if we fail to recall the strengths of the Commission of Human Rights. It is true that the Commission has built a consolidated framework of international instruments on various fields of human rights. It is true that the system of special procedures and the mandates created by the Commission as the instruments of implementation should find its rightful place within the Council's framework as early as possible. It is true that the