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**STATEMENT BY
THE HONOURABLE MR. AHMAD SHABERY CHEEK
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MALAYSIA
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
MONDAY, 19 JUNE 2006**

GENEVA

(Please check against delivery)

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Mr. President

Madam High Commissioner

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an historic moment for the international community, and indeed a coming of age for the United Nations. And so today, we witness the coming into being of a new human rights body, holding out the renewed promise of “promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner”.

2. The Malaysian Delegation extends to you, Ambassador De Alba, our congratulations on your election as the first President of the Human Rights Council. Indeed, the