



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

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ON BEHALF OF THE HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK**

**AT THE 1ST SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

22 JUNE 2006

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address the first session of the Human Rights Council on behalf of the Human Security Network, namely Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, Slovenia and the observer country South Africa. Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Mr President, and other members of the Bureau on your election and wish you wisdom, courage, strength and success in performing your tasks in this challenging period of transition and development of the Human Rights Council.

We find ourselves at a historical turning point. This session is held just days from the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Commission on Human Rights under Economic and Social Council. The establishment of the Human Rights Council presents a major step in strengthening the UN machinery in the field of human rights. It is our common responsibility that the new body becomes a strong, effective and transparent one.

Mr President,

(On the Human Rights Council)

We, the members of the Network, consider the commitment to human rights, humanitarian and refugee law to be the foundation for building a better and safer world for our people. The Human Rights Council has a very important contribution to give in this regard. In order to contribute effectively it must deal with the transition process in an efficient and timely manner. We express our hope and expectation that it will do so. The Human Security Network members stand ready to jointly and individually contribute to the efforts in this direction, to promote concrete implementation and fresh approaches to addressing human rights issues and situations of concern. We also welcome the fact that the work of the Council shall be guided by the principle of