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PRESS RELEASE**Adoption by 60th UN General Assembly of a Resolution on the Human Rights Council**

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On March 15, the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly at its plenary meeting adopted by a majority vote of 170 (including Russia) in favor with 4 against - Israel, the Marshal Islands, Palau and the United States - with 3 abstaining (Belarus, Venezuela and Iran) a resolution setting up a Human Rights Council. The vote was held at the United States' request.

The Human Rights Council, as provided by the 2005 Summit Outcome Document, is called upon to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights, regarding whose work many countries have had not unfounded complaints recently.

Having voted for the resolution, the Russian Federation presumes that this document, even though far from perfect, is the result of an extremely complex compromise necessary for qualitatively improving the Organization's human rights activities and for ridding this sector of selectivity, politicization and the use of double standards. At the same time, we regard the resolution only as a certain basis or starting point for the activities of the future rights body.

It is appropriate to recall in this connection Rule 100 of Annex II to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly which states that new bodies must be set up only after mature reflection. We hope that the Council itself too, in particular at the stage of its organizational and procedural formation, in cooperation with the UN General Assembly, so far as is practicable, will make more precise the parameters of its functioning.

March 16, 2006