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Unofficial translation from Russian

Statement by Andrey Denisov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, at the Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly Upon the Adoption of Draft Resolution L. 48: Human Rights Council

388-16-03-2006

Esteemed Mr. President,

The Russian Federation has backed up the draft resolution contained in document L. 48. We presume that, although far from perfect, the text is the outcome of an extremely difficult search for a compromise necessary for starting qualitative improvement of the work of the Organization in the human rights field and for eliminating double standards, selectivity and politicization. We regard the resolution only as a certain basis or, if you will, a starting point for the activities of the future rights body. It is appropriate to recall Rule 100 of annex 2 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure which states that new organs should be set up only after mature consideration.

Already, in various formats, we had repeatedly drawn attention to the ambiguous nature of a number of provisions in the adopted HRC resolution. This applies fully to operative paragraph 7, which envisages limiting membership to two consecutive terms. That appears to contradict the principle set out in the United Nations Charter on universal membership, which indicates that all States can submit candidacies for membership to any United Nations body. The Russian Federation hopes that States will determine their positions on candidacies for the HRC with due regard for the specific circumstances and features of candidate countries.

The situation is also not totally clear, with regard to whether or not membership in the Council "shall be open to all Member States of the United Nations"; it seems to be bound by certain criteria.

Hopefully, the Human Rights Council itself, 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.

Thank you, Mr. President.

March 16, 2006

