



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY MS. FARISHA SALMAN
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
ON
AGENDA ITEM 64: REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

THIRD COMMITTEE
OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, 2 NOVEMBER 2011**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation warmly welcomes Her Excellency Ambassador Laura Dupuy Lasserre, President of the Human Rights Council, to address this Committee and to present the report of the Council.

2. Malaysia would like to commend the Human Rights Council on the success of its review process as mandated by resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006. Countries showed great flexibility and compromise in coming to a fruitful outcome. However, despite the understanding achieved in the process, some countries seem keen to use HRC as a platform to impose their values on other parties, instead of working together to build an institution based on principles of dialogue, cooperation, consultation and mutual-respect.

3. The current international trend of politicization of human rights by some has not served the cause of human rights. Some countries continue to emphasize political and civil rights to the virtual exclusion of economic, social and cultural rights. Malaysia is of the view that civil and political rights cannot be separated from economic, social and cultural rights.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Allow me to touch on the review questions relating to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the special procedures mandate holders.

5. Malaysia is heartened to know that majority of the countries are cooperating in the UPR process and that the first cycle of the UPR has been concluded successfully. Malaysia looks forward to the second cycle of the review which will begin in May 2012. The gap between the last session and the next would give Member States ample time to take stock of the recommendations received and could focus on its implementation and the developments of the human rights situation in their countries.

6. Reviewing the Human Rights Council and its issues should be a continuous effort. With regard to the UPR, although some recommendations were genuinely made to improve a country's human rights system, a number of the recommendations were made by friends of the country under review which lacks value-adding to the process.

7. To ensure the full participation of all countries to the UPR process, Malaysia agrees that the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance, established by the Council in its resolution 6/17, should be strengthened and operationalized in order to provide a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to implement the recommendations emanating from their review.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Parallel to the outcome of the review, the Council workload continues to increase through the newly established country and thematic mandates, leading to serious resource constraints and stretching existing resources too thin. Malaysia is of the view that the Human Rights Council needs to be adequately resourced in order to discharge its mandate effectively. Even though the issue of special procedures have been reviewed, further assessment on the mechanism needs to be undertaken. The number of mandate holders on thematic issues and others is far too many. There is a need for the Human Rights Council to prioritise issues. Some issues might be considered to be studied biennially or more.

Mr. Chairman,

9. It is Malaysia's view that Member States should focus on reinforcing the strengths of the Council and not to reconstruct, reframe or unravel existing arrangements. It cannot be denied that the establishment of the Council and its many achievements to date, among which include the successful implementation of the UPR mechanism, stand out as concrete and positive examples of the success of the international community in the promotion and protection of human rights for all. However, Malaysia believes that more can always be done to ensure the promotion and protection for the victims of human rights violations.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.