

PERMANENT MISSION OF PANAMA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

12 October 2005

Excellency,

In our capacity as co-Chairs for the negotiations on the establishment of the Human Rights Council, we would like to express our appreciation for your thorough contributions made in the first informal consultations of the plenary on the Human Rights Council.

Based on the different comments made by you, we suggest that the next consultations be focused on those specific issues on which we need to reach agreement in order to establish the Human Rights Council, as follows:

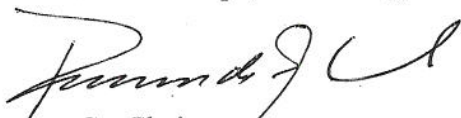
18 October	Mandate and functions
24 October	Status, size, composition and membership
1 November	Rules of procedures, working methods and transitional arrangements

With regard to our next meeting that will be held on 18 October at 10:00 a.m., in a venue to be announced, on the issue of mandates and functions, we recall that our Heads of State and Government have agreed upon a general framework that is contained in paragraphs 158 and 159 of the Summit Outcome Document. Further to that and after having listened to the many substantive comments that were made by you during the first informal consultations, we suggest to address more thoroughly the following issues:

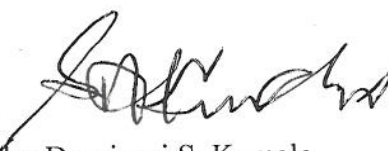
- Thematic forum
- Promotion of cooperation and technical assistance
- Development of norms
- Universal periodic review
- Assumption and review of the mandates of the Commission on Human Rights

This list is not exhaustive but a starting point for our interactive exchange of views.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Co-Chair
Ambassador Ricardo Alberto Arias



Co-Chair
Ambassador Dumisani S. Kumalo

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York