



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 March 2006

Excellency,

On 23 February, I introduced a proposed text for a draft resolution on the Human Rights Council to an informal consultation of the plenary. This was in pursuance of the mandate given to me by our leaders at the 2005 World Summit, and a result of five months of consultations and negotiations.

Since then, you have had the opportunity to consider my proposed text carefully. I have been encouraged by the very broad support it has received. While no Member State has achieved all its objectives, very many of you have indicated that you could support the text as it is. This is both welcome and essential to the process of consensus-building.

I had intended to put the draft resolution on the Human Rights Council to you for action before the opening of the sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. You will be aware that I had scheduled a meeting of the plenary on Friday in order to do so.

I believe there is a collective wish to have the strongest possible support for the new Council. Some delegations have asked me to allow more time in order to further broaden support for my proposed text. In addition, the Fifth Committee has not yet concluded its work on the Programme Budget Implications. In my search for consensus, I have therefore decided to postpone Friday morning's meeting.

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

There are many other important matters on our reform agenda in this session of the General Assembly. We need to give them our full attention. The commencement of the next session of the Commission on Human Rights also remains imminent. I will therefore re-schedule the plenary meeting to the early part of next week.

I am confident that you will all use the time between now and then to ensure we can bring our work on this issue to a successful conclusion.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Eliasson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Jan Eliasson