

Introductory Statement

Mr. Chairman,

Dear Colleagues,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the honorable members of the bureau for your election to your posts. I am confident that you will be able to make the work of the Committee a success. I believe that we will achieve a lot during our current session especially the situation and the issues before hand is different from the eleventh session.

We are ready to discuss the four new issues before the Committee such as promoting human rights through sport & the Olympic ideal, local government and human rights, attacks against persons with Albinism, and human rights and unilateral coercive measures as well as previous issues which the Committee was able to discuss since our last session in August. In fact, the new mandates entrusted to the Committee are helping our agenda.

We should recognize that we are meeting, during this session, in a better environment. The discussions and contacts succeeded in getting four new mandates for the Committee. This is not the end. I believe, however, that the Committee should be utilized fully by the Human Rights Council. Such utilization would benefit human rights worldwide. The Committee should be able to give its opinion on important matters that deal with human rights. It is not enough to have these four mandates, but it should have more. I think that the Committee should have a mandate to discuss and report on important issues dealing with human rights which concerns the whole world including strengthening the justice system which are not dealt fully in any other fora.

I believe that we should work in close consultations with the Human Rights Council. We were hopeful that during this session we would meet the bureau of the Council since we were unable to meet it last August. Such meetings should be given priority in the next sessions. Moreover, it is

important to exchange views with the H.E the High Commissioner on the issues which are discussed by the Committee especially the High Commissioner is attending meetings of other human rights bodies. Therefore, we are hopeful to have an opportunity for discussion with her during the session.

Meantime, our efforts should be focused during this session and forthcoming sessions on finalizing the previous items and on working on the new mandates and try to get more mandates. Concerning the current new mandates, I believe that it is important to organize our work in order to arrive to concrete results that would guide the Council. For getting new mandates our resolve should not be weakened because we had new four new mandates, but we should continue to seek more mandates and convince the Council to utilize the Committee to the maximum.

Thank you.