



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Concluding remarks by General Assembly President Jan Eliasson  
Human Rights Council Elections  
9 May 2006**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

We have now concluded the election of the first forty-seven members of the Human Rights Council. A further step has been taken to make the Council operational. But much work remains. You, the elected members, will now have a particular responsibility to bring the structures in place and prepare the first meeting of the Human Rights Council on 19 June. I trust that all Member States will actively engage in the work of the Council, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 60/251.

I would in this context like to recall that op 11 of the resolution provides for participation and consultations with observers, including States that are not members of the Council, the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations.

We are now witnessing a new beginning for the promotion and protection of human rights. The work of the Council will be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and constructive international dialogue and cooperation with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights.

By the election today we have also in concrete terms implemented another mandate from the World Summit Outcome agreed by our leaders in September last year. Let me thank all of you for your commitment to this part of the reform agenda.

Let me also express my gratitude to the Secretary-General for his strong attachment to human rights as evidenced in his report “In Larger Freedom” and his steadfast support during the negotiations earlier this year.

The process and preparations for the new Human Rights Council will now move to Geneva. As I have already stated I have great confidence in our Geneva colleagues and that the newly elected members will agree on the measures necessary for having a successful first meeting of the Human Rights Council, starting on 19 June. I look forward to the result of these preparations and to participating in the meeting in June.

The General Assembly will regularly be able to consider the work of the Council on the basis of the annual report provided for in resolution 60/251, thus ensuring a strong link between the Council and this our chief deliberative body of the United Nations.