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STATEMENT

by

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at High Level Segment of the Fourth session
of the United Nations Human Rights Council

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Distinguished Mr. President,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is our great honor to address from the high podium of 4th session of the main human rights body of the United Nations – Human Rights Council (HRC).

We have gathered here with a purpose to bring preliminary results of the process of institutional building of HRC, on which activity depends the effective functioning of one of the important pillars of the United Nations alongside with security and sustainable development.

Having started the implementation of provisions of the Resolution 60/251 of the UN General Assembly on the establishment of HRC, in December 2006 at 61st session of GA Members of the UN have adopted the Resolution "Promotion of equitable and mutually respectful dialogue on human rights".

In essence these resolutions are directed at overcoming the negative consequences of activity of the former UN Commission on Human Rights and the following main principles of activity of HRC are specified in them:

Firstly, all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind;

Secondly, the Human Rights Council should undertake a universal periodic review, in a manner that ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States based on an interactive dialogue as well as on objective and reliable information;

Thirdly, politically motivated and biased approach on situations of human rights in countries severely undermines the principles of objectivity and non-selectivity in the consideration of human rights issues and is counterproductive to the cause of promotion of human rights.

Mr. President,

For fifteen years of its independent development Uzbekistan ratified more than 60 international treaties in the field of human rights, including 6 basic instruments of the United Nations.

Uzbekistan consistently carries out its international obligations within the framework of these international instruments.

Since the year 2000 we have presented 18 periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies of the United Nations.

In Uzbekistan the effective system of implementation of recommendations of the treaty bodies and also special procedures and mechanisms of HRC is created.

We build our approach to the development of international cooperation in the field of human rights on the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and other international documents on human rights with the purpose of strengthening

dialogue and deepening of understanding between civilizations, cultures and religions.

Uzbekistan proceeds from the unity of all human rights, including civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Thus for us the ensuring of the right to development and the full-fledged realization of the Millennium Development Goals is priority.

It is pleasant for us to inform that Uzbekistan, being the country with hundred per cent literacy, has completely provided the access to primary and secondary education, thus has implemented one of the Millennium Development Goals. For example, in 2007 for education it is allocated one third of the state budget.

Strong social protection of the population is a priority direction of the state policy. This year 54,3 % of an expenditure part of the budget will be directed at financing the social sphere.

The year 2007 in Uzbekistan is announced as "The Year of Social Protection" and for the implementation of this goal a special state programme is currently in progress.

Democratic processes in Uzbekistan have got systemic, gradual and irreversible character.

First, a number of serious steps on reforming, democratization and increase of an openness of the society is carried out.

Second, the legislative base in the sphere of protection of human rights is created. The Parliament has adopted 15 codes and over 300 laws regulating fundamental rights and freedoms of a person.

Third, an imperative of democratic development has become the adoption by the lower chamber of the Uzbek parliament of the Constitutional law «On strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of state governance and modernization of the country" and Law entitled "On introducing the amendments to particular articles (Article 89; paragraph 15 of Article 93; Part 2 of Article 102) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan", which has been introduced by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan as legislative initiative. The strengthening of role of political parties, legal consolidation of status and rights of opposition parties and the implementation of provisions of these laws will be a strong impetus to further democratization of political system and multiparty development.

Fourth, the institutional base of protection of human rights is created, i.e. the effective system of national institutions on human rights, which closely cooperate with independent human rights protection organizations and institutions of civil society whose number is exceeding 5000.

Fifth, the continuous education system in the field of human rights is created. At all schools and universities the training course of "Human rights" is introduced. The programme of improvement of professional skills of judges, lawyers, police and offices of Prosecutor includes human rights topic. The National programme for strengthening the legal culture of society is successfully in progress.

Mr. President,

I have the pleasure to state from this high podium that from 1 January 2008 in Uzbekistan the death penalty shall be completely abolished. The institution of *Habeas Corpus* shall be simultaneously entered into force.

Moreover, from the time of adoption of decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, i.e. since August 2005 in our country the moratorium on execution of death penalty operates *de facto*.

Mr. President,

For the coordination and finalization of the process of institutional building of the Human Rights Council remains a little time.

During our work on organizational and procedural building of HRC a special value, in particular, gets an issue of ensuring the objectivity and transparency in the activity of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In our opinion, in OHCHR it is necessary to accomplish radical reforms on streamlining the methods of its work directed at overcoming all existing problems and ensuring a *constructive dialogue* with all Members States of the United Nations.

In conclusion, we would like to note that the future of a new human rights protection architecture of the United Nations depends on results of our joint work, which according to the Resolution 60/251 of the General Assembly, should be depoliticized at maximum level, exclude the selective approach and "double standards", and is called to encourage the equitable, mutually respectful and constructive dialogue on human rights.

Thank you for attention.