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**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:
election of 47 members of the Human Rights Council**

Note verbale dated 14 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of **Romania** to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and, in response to the note dated 4 April 2006 announcing Romania's candidature to the Human Rights Council, has the honour to present a document detailing Romania's contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights as well as its voluntary pledges and commitments in accordance with General Assembly resolution 601251 (see annex).



Annex to the note **verbale** dated 14 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Human Rights Council: Romania's voluntary pledges and commitments on human rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 601251

1. The **Government** of Romania has decided to present its candidature for the Human Rights Council, as a **confirmation** of its long-standing commitment to developing **and** strengthening the role of the **United Nations** in the universal promotion and protection of human rights.

2. Over the **years**, Romania has been **actively** involved in promoting the principles upheld by the UN, including through the dissemination of the ideals and **universally** accepted principles **and norms enshrined in** the United **Nations Charter**, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights **and** relevant international human **rights instruments**.

3. Fully engaged in the efforts carried out universally to promote and protect the human rights and **fundamental freedoms**, Romania strongly **supports** all mechanisms **and instruments** aimed at the **full** and effective **implementation** and **further** development of international human **rights law**.

Romania has assumed the highest international standards **in** the area of human rights, becoming party to all the major regional and international treaties and protocols in the field of human **rights**, international humanitarian law **and** refugee **law**.

4. Up to the present, Romania has **ratified** the most important **universal** treaties, such as: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols, the International **Covenant** on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, **the International** Convention on the Elimination of **All** Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of **Discrimination** against Women, the Convention on the **Rights** of the Child and its Optional Protocol, the Convention **against** Torture and Other **Cruel, Inhuman** or **Degrading** Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Prevention **and** Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the four Geneva Conventions and the **two** Additional Protocols, and the Rome Statute of the **International Criminal Court**.

5. **The** provisions of these **treaties** and of the Universal Declaration of **Human Rights** are directly applicable within the Romanian legal framework. Furthermore, in accordance with the Romanian **Constitution**, where any inconsistencies occur **between** the **covenants and treaties** on fundamental **human** rights Romania is a party to, **and** the national laws, the international norms prevail, unless the Constitution or the **domestic** legislation provides for **higher** standards of protection.

6. The **Romanian** authorities pay constant attention to matters **related to** the implementation of human rights norms. Over the last sixteen **years**, a thorough process of reform has been carried out in order to bring the national legislation and institutional mechanism in full compliance with the relevant international requirements. The Romanian authorities and the civil society cooperate closely in order to ensure the full implementation of these **norms**.

7. The opinions expressed by international fora, **aiming** at developing and reinforcing **the** human rights protection system within Romania, **are** highly valued, and their implementation is consistently pursued by the Romanian authorities. In accordance **with** this policy, Romania issued a **standing and open invitation to the mandate holders of all special procedures** of the Human Rights Commission. Some **of** them have already paid such visits (e.g. the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing – 2002; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief – 2003, Special Rapporteur on the right to health -2004).

8. Romania has accepted the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under Article 14 of the relevant Convention and created a **National Council for Combating Discrimination – the first institution of this nature in Central and Eastern Europe**, whose main function is to ensure the implementation of the principle of equality among citizens, **without** interference from other public authorities.

9. The promotion of democracy, **rule** of law and human rights represents one of the **most important** objectives of the **Romanian** foreign policy, Romania **will continue to support actively any international organs and institutions aiming at** preventing and combating violations of **fundamental** human rights and **freedoms**, at developing existent standards, and **at supporting** Member States with the **necessary assistance** for the improvement of their human rights protection system.

10. **If elected**, Romania will work to **make the Human Rights Council a genuine contributor to the UN machinery to promote and** protect human rights **and**, in this respect, will **strive to**:

- Ensure that the new body will **become a powerful and effective** tool to be used, promptly **and** wherever need be, in the defense of human rights **and fundamental freedoms**, to be treated on the **same** footing **and** with the **same** emphasis;
- **Streamline and strengthen the mechanisms** represented by the Special Rapporteurs and other Special Procedures;
- Advocate for the establishment of a **peer-review** mechanism that provides for an **objective, accurate and balanced** analysis of the **human rights situations** in various countries;
- Promote **dialogue** between members of the Council and **all UN member states**, bearing in mind their **national and** regional particularities **and** various national, religious and **cultural** backgrounds, **with the view** to improving **the transparency and to ensuring inclusiveness** in the Council deliberations;
- Participate actively in the work of the Council, including **with initiatives such as** the **resolutions** co-sponsored by an **great number** of **states** from all regional groups, **successfully** adopted by the **Human Rights Commission**: "The promoting and the consolidation of democracy" (2000), "The **ways-and means** to promote and consolidate democracy" (2001), "The interdependence between democracy and human rights" (2003), "Enhancing the role of the regional, sub-regional and other organizations and arrangements in promoting and consolidating democracy" (2004) and "Democracy **and** the rule of law" (2005);

- Encourage' **the interaction** between Council and **various** components of the **civil society**, especially by stimulating **NGOs contributions** at various stages ;

11. The Romanian authorities remain committed to contributing **to the universal** respect and **implementation** the highest standards and norms in the field of human rights and, in this respect, undertakes to:

- Promote the recognition **and** acceptance of the **conclusions and** recommendation of the global conferences on human rights and related issues, including the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban in 2001;
- 3 Encourage **other** states to become parties to the **main human rights** treaties and implement their provisions and, in this context, to finalize its **domestic** procedure of **ratification** of the **Optional** Protocol of **the** UN Convention against Torture and **other** Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment **and** the ratification procedure;
- **Participate actively** in the debate over the elaboration of **new** international legal instruments **or** improvement of the existing ones, including by supporting the adoption of the draft International **Convention** for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance, the negotiation and an early approval of the draft of the Comprehensive and Integral **International** Convention on the Protection **and** the Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of **Persons with** Disabilities and the drafting of an additional Protocol to the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural **Rights**;

12. Romania will contribute, **through** bilateral dialogue and **using** the network of regional and sub regional **organizations and arrangements**, to the promotion of democracy, good governance and rule of law, including in the **Balkans and across the Black** Sea;

13. **Romania** will strongly back **the** efforts to strengthen the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner** for Human Rights, including the doubling of its resources from the UN regular budget, in order to enable it to **carry** its functions more effectively. Romania will seek possibilities, to the best of its abilities, to make **voluntary** contributions to structures within the UN **human rights** system.
