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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Fifth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 13 June 2007, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. DE ALBA (Mexico)

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15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED "HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL" (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251 OF
15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED "HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL" (agenda item 2)
(continued)

Institution-building

1. The PRESIDENT introduced an informal paper on institution-building which he was submitting on the basis of discussions that had taken place at the meetings of the various institution-building Working Groups, as well as on contributions from the members of the Council. He had suggested compromises to the text only where he deemed them to be necessary. As had been proposed, he had not systematically separated thematic mandates from country mandates in his proposed text; however, certain elements relating to the latter would need to be reviewed. The review of mandates in general and the proposed code of conduct for mandate-holders would also need to be considered.
2. Mr. JAZAÏRY (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced a draft code of conduct for special procedures mandate-holders. The draft code was also the result of lengthy consultations with delegations, but also with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and was intended to enhance the moral standing and credibility of mandate-holders. Ideally, such a code of conduct would never need to be used, as it should merely set out principles of common sense, good governance and ethical behaviour. The code was not intended to promote the interests of his regional Group, but sought to improve United Nations institutions with a view to ensuring that their components worked together successfully. The text had been submitted in a spirit of partnership and should be received in the same way; he would also welcome any contributions that members of the Council might wish to make.
3. The PRESIDENT announced that the meeting would adjourn so that delegations might hold informal consultations on the two texts that had just been introduced.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.