

Draft

**STATEMENT
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**AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT
OF THE 7TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**4 March 2008
Geneva**

**Mr. President,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

This session of the UN Human Rights Council is of particular significance and importance for all of us as institution-building of the Council has been practically completed. This coincides with the start of a year-long campaign to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The UDHR had withstood the test of the time and remained as relevant today as it was on the day of its adoption.

It still serves as a fundamental pillar of the UN machinery aimed at the protection of human rights of each and every individual.

The development of the UN system for protection and promotion of human rights was crowned by the emergence of the Human Rights Council which is the most recent effort of the international community to make positive changes and secure greater freedom, basic rights and social justice for all.

Mr. President,

Now renewed and improved machinery of the Council is in place. The Council is well positioned and equipped to do its job.

What we need today is resolute action to use potential of the Council for the benefit of those who are still afflicted by poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy or suffering from discrimination, intolerance, arbitrary arrests, torture or other forms of human rights violation.

The implementation of human rights normative framework was in many instances accompanied by a double standards approach, confrontation and politicization. It marred the work of the former Commission, especially in the last years of its existence.

To overcome this and to make the work of the HRC productive we have to proceed from understanding that universal human values do not have boundaries and to call for the earnest and genuine cooperation on the objective, non-selective, impartial and fair basis, and by the concerted efforts of all members of international community.

Mr. President,

Consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are in the center of domestic and foreign policy of Ukraine.

As a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2006-2008 Ukraine exerted every effort to ensure that the Council exercises its mandate responsibly and effectively.

Ukraine has fulfilled all of its voluntary pledges and commitments, particularly by extension of a standing and open invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

I am proud that Ukraine is a party to an impressive number of international treaties in the field of human rights, including six major UN Conventions on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and most of their Optional Protocols.

The primary focus of Ukraine's humanitarian policy is the universal promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in line with the UN Millennium Goals. Ukraine considers civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as indivisible, interdependent, interrelated and as an indispensable foundation for democracy, development, and good governance.

We believe that particular attention should be paid to the environmental dimension of human rights as increasing degradation of Earth Nature and climate change have growing negative impact on human rights and even on the right to life

itself throughout the world, endangering the very existence of peoples of some low-laying countries.

The threat of a global ecological disaster determine the need for constructive dialogue between governments, businesses, science and civil society in order to find a new approach for protection of ecological rights and human security of peoples and individuals.

In its endeavors to contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide Ukraine has decided to run for the membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2008-2011 at the elections to be held in May 2008. If reelected Ukraine will continue its active and constructive engagement in the promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all on non-selective, objective and impartial basis.

Mr. President,

This year international community marks 60th anniversary of Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, approved by the UN General Assembly 9 December 1948. This event coincides with the 75 anniversary of Golodomor, the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, artificially organized by the communist totalitarian regime with the aim to exterminate the vital core of Ukrainian nation. This crime resulted into the death of up to ten million of innocent men, women and children amounting up to 25% of Ukraine's population.

We need as many people as possible to learn about this tragedy and believe that this knowledge will strengthen the effectiveness of the rule of law and enhance the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide.

This crime deserves international recognition, particularly by the UN, as the genocide against Ukrainian nation. By exposing violations of human rights, preserving historical records and paying tribute to victims of Holodomor through acknowledgement of their suffering, the UN will contribute to the prevention of similar catastrophes in the future.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me express the hope that by our common efforts we should make the Council credible and responsible body, able to develop culture of fruitful dialog, constructive cooperation and concerted action needed for effective implementation of international standards in the field of human rights worldwide.