

With respect to one major procedural difficulty which has been discussed at previous sessions of the Commission, my delegation believes that, in general terms, the mandates of special rapporteurs should be continued in all country-specific situations until there is a marked and recognized restoration of respect for human rights. We disagree with the idea of dropping special procedures at the first sign of political change. Political change, while important, is not always effective in ensuring that human rights are fully restored. Political change in Haiti was short-lived and disappointing, and the situation of human rights in that country remains highly disturbing.

To return to my opening theme Mr. Chairman, in any difficult political situation the process of "reconciliation" can never be truly concluded until the governments concerned are reconciled to fully respecting the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.