

06.05.2009

**Statement by the United Nations Democracy Caucus of the  
Community of Democracies on the Human Rights Council election**

The members of the Community of Democracies, gathered as the United Nations Democracy Caucus, reaffirm the commitment contained in the Santiago Ministerial Commitment (A/59/814, annex) and in the Bamako Consensus (A/62/662, annex) to support the candidacy of countries contributing effectively to the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights worldwide in bodies focused on elements of democratic governance such as the Human Rights Council.

On the eve of the forthcoming elections for the Human Rights Council, and in accordance with the 60/251 General Assembly resolution, that calls on all Member states to “take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments” when electing members to the Council, we the members of the community of democracies appeal to the membership of the United Nations to favour those Member States which have demonstrated a genuine commitment to human rights, both in practice and in their pledges.

We reiterate our belief in the importance of the composition of the Council to its credibility and effectiveness as a human rights body, and therefore reiterate the importance of electing to the Council only those Member States whose commitment to human rights can be demonstrated by their pledges and commitments but that also have been demonstrated in practice.

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