

Resolution on the fifth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) (Geneva, 11-19 June 2007)

2007/2562(RSP) - 07/06/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a joint resolution sponsored by the PES, ALDE, UEN, Green/ALE and GUE/NGL groups on the fifth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), taking place from 11 to 18 June. It welcomed the ambitious programme the UNHRC set itself, and the organisation of special sessions to respond to urgent crises, but was concerned at the failure of the UNHRC to take action to address many of the world's most urgent human rights situations.

Parliament regretted in particular the weakness of the UNHRC resolution on Darfur, as well as the decision taken under the confidential procedure to discontinue consideration of complaints of human rights abuses by Iran and Uzbekistan. However, it welcomed the fact that Belarus had not been elected to the UNHRC, in view of the condemnation of Belarus four months earlier by the UN General Assembly for human rights abuses and its lack of cooperation with Special Procedures.

Members regarded the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism as a potential means of improving the universality of the monitoring of human rights commitments and practices throughout the world by subjecting all UN Member States to equal treatment and scrutiny. They stressed that this objective could be achieved only if the review involves independent expertise at all stages of the review process and an effective, result-oriented follow-up mechanism. Parliament expressed its deep concern at the current trend with regard to this issue, and called on all UN Member States to ensure that the review was based on objective and reliable information, as well as on common standards for review such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other obligations and commitments, including election pledges.

It called upon the EU to reaffirm and consolidate its firm position regarding the concerns raised regarding the UPR and the review of Special Procedures, which were crucial for the effective future functioning of the UNHRC. The EU must reject any compromise that would put at risk the capacity of the UNHRC fully to play its role of protecting and promoting human rights throughout the world.