



Traditionally in the spring, the Chairperson of the Committee participates in the session of the Commission on Human Rights - due to the decision to create a Human Rights Council, the Commission did not have a substantive session and instead, convened to complete its mandate. As you all know, elections to the Council took place on 9 May, and the first session of the Council will open on 19 June. I wish to emphasize the importance of ensuring that strong institutional links be established from the very outset between the Committee and the newly established Human Rights Council.

Let me now turn to the informal meeting of the Committee hosted by the Government of Germany from 2 to 4 May in Berlin. I wish to express the Committee's sincere and wholehearted appreciation to the Government of Germany for this invitation. This was the Committee's fifth informal meeting, and the second one hosted by Germany. With this second invitation, the German Government also wished to mark the

