



United Nations Association-UK

3 Whitehall Court
London
SW1A 2EL
www.una.org.uk

all media enquiries to:
Veronica Lie,
e-mail: lie@una.org.uk
telephone: 020 7766 3451

Press Release: 23 February 2006

Statement by Lord Hannay on the UN Human Rights Council

Lord Hannay, a former member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and Chair of the UN Association, today called on the British government to throw its full weight behind the proposal tabled by the President of the General Assembly to establish a Human Rights Council, and to use all its influence in the EU and the Commonwealth to secure an early and positive decision on the proposal.

Lord Hannay said, "The UN's human rights machinery is not working as it should do. The Human Rights Commission has become a forum for diplomatic manoeuvring rather than a means of improving observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Heads of state and government agreed last September at their Summit in New York that the Commission should be replaced. The world needs a body which can promote human rights throughout the year, not just for six weeks of it, and which can work effectively with the High Commissioner."