Algeria

H.E. President,

Special Event: Education and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

27 March 2007

I wish to extend my congratulations to the Government of Algeria on the pioneering work of Mrs. Ibtisam Al Thani, the UN Special Rapporteur on Disability, as well as to Ambassador McKay and Mr. Fàntà and Ramthan.

Algeria expresses its solidarity to persons with disabilities across the world. We are all challenged to give concrete expression to our determination to uphold their rights as citizens and their mainstreaming into society.

This is not an issue of compassion but the expression of a duty which behooves every member of the community. It is an incontestable right based on principles and equality to which our hallmarks of civilization.

At the national level, Algeria adopted a law in 2002 which introduces a quota system for persons with disabilities which will be progressively extended to all our Civil Service legislation is being drawn up also to provide incentives for their employment in the private sector.

At the international level, we will be proud at the UN in New York on 30 March 2007 to join other Nations in signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Algeria