

GUATEMALA: U.N. Opens New Human Rights Office in Guatemala

June 2, 2005

Guatemala's Congress unanimously approved an accord signed in January by the Government and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) to establish a UN rights field office to monitor and report on the national human rights situation. UNHCHR's presence will continue the work begun by the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), which operated since the signing of the Peace Accords in 1996 until its mandate ended in December 2004. The new UN field office is to advise the Guatemalan government on defining, streamlining and implementing human rights policies, particularly the Presidential Commission Coordinating the Executive's Policy on Human Rights (COPREDEH). It will also advise members of civil society on promoting human rights.