

Durban Review Conference  
AFTERNOON

RC/09/3 Rev.1  
20 April 2009

**DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE STARTS HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT AND HEARS STATEMENT BY  
PRESIDENT OF IRAN**

**Also Hears from Dignitaries from Norway, South Africa, Cameroon, Tanzania, Botswana,  
Brazil, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Senegal, Tunisia, Morocco, OIC and Mexico**

to acknowledge and extend an explicit apology, reparation and full compensation to all victims of past injustices.

Dikgakgamatso N. Seretse, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security of Botswana, said that for those from Southern Africa who witnessed and lived the experience of institutionalised racism and State sponsored terrorism based on racial discrimination, this Conference was a moment for celebration. It would not serve any purpose if the Conference were used as a platform for demonising some States or dividing the world into descendants of the oppressed and the oppressors.

Edson Santos, Chief Minister, Special Secretariat for Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality of Brazil, said that the outcome document of the Conference was not a mere translation of national positions. Rather, it revealed a historical perspective and commitment to the very essence of the multilateral system. Nothing in the document denied the achievements of 2001; nothing in it hampered anyone from moving forward.

Fayza Aboulnaga, Minister of International Cooperation of Egypt, said it was undeniable that racial and religious discrimination, particularly against Arabs and Muslims, had reached unprecedented levels in the past few years. It was also undeniable that acts of incitement of religious hatred had resulted in numerous human rights violations of individuals and communities. Hence, it was incomprehensible why some would continue to turn a blind eye to this reality and deny their connection to racism despite the clear relation between the derogatory statements and the violations of the rights and freedoms of the followers of these religions.

Douglas Devananda, Minister of Social Services and Social Welfare of Sri Lanka, said Sri Lanka contained the greatest cultural diversity as well as biodiversity contained in the smallest space on the planet. This diversity within a compact space had















