





pathological states of mind. One should never forget as well that no durable peace was built from exclusion and rejection, as manifold striking examples around the world unfortunately attested daily.

Mauritania was an Arab and African country proud of its enriching diversity, aware of this wealth and accustomed to living in an age-old symbiosis between all of its ethnic components. Mauritania has adhered to the main international and regional instruments of human rights, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Efforts towards the repatriation of citizens formerly refugees in Senegal were redoubled and some 10,000 Mauritians previously separated from their homeland and prevented from their right to live in their country had over the past months returned home.

NDUMISO C. MAMBA, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of Swaziland, said that this Review Conference was a test of their resolve as Governments to confront discrimination, which unfortunately still existed even in today's modern world. They further had to take stock of the ravaging effects it had had in the past. This was an opportunity to turn the corner and send the right message of hope to those that were still treated as sub-human. Despite the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by consensus, nations had not been able to sufficiently quell the insidious acts of racism, not only in the main, but in organized sport and in the private sector. Racism was beyond justification, a prejudice and an evil that presupposed the innate superiority of one race, creed and culture over another.

Swaziland noted with much dismay that certain delegations who were initially engaged in drafting this compromise document, subsequently chose and at the eleventh hour, not to see through this most important exercise. Others had set the unfortunate precedent of summarily marching out of deliberations because they did not agree with elements of a speaker's address. The success of this instructive conference would stand or fall on the active participation and communal support for the document on the table today. This was as true today as it was in the day of the Irish political philosopher Edmund Burke said that "evil strives when good men do nothing". The compromise document was multilateral diplomacy at work. Mr. Mamba reiterated Swaziland's full commitment to the outcome of this Review Conference.

GERSAN JOSEPH GARZON, Executive Secretary of the National Council for People of African Descent at the Ministry of the Presidency of Panama, said at this historical moment, the adoption of the outcome document was something to be celebrated. Panama continued to work towards perfecting its democracy, and after its fight for sovereignty and control over its canal, it became a crossroads of cultures. Panamanians were a diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural people, where indigenous people, Asians, whites, and people of African descent lived together in harmony. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance undermined human dignity, and the fight against this scourge was established in the United Nations Charter as well as in other international texts including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Panama was committed to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and was thus participating in this historical Review Conference.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action with its recommendations had guided the Government of Panama as well as other Governments in Latin America in adopting measures to respond to the specificities of different populations that were affected by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including indigenous peoples, migrants, displaced persons, women, children, the disabled and those of African descent. In the search for mechanisms, actions and programmes to effectively take on this fight, the Government had created a National Council for the Black Ethnic Group and an Advisory Group, and established the Executive Secretariat, which existed to implement public policies that were inclusive and fair.

SEVERO S. CATURA, Undersecretary and Executive Director of the Presidential Human Rights Committee of the Philippines, said that the Philippines attached great importance to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, and therefore strongly supported the convening of this Review Conference. In 2001, the international community adopted the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action – a comprehensive and unequivocal statement against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance. Eight years on, it was an appropriate time to reflect and take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as to reaffirm its message and relevance in light of continuing challenges of the present day.



aimed to guarantee their civil, political and cultural rights in an equal and non-discriminatory way. August 9 of each year was the day to celebrate solidarity with the indigenous people.

The Republic of the Congo's commitment to fight aga

Argentina had created a National Action Plan to fight discrimination which was one of the most exhaustive and conclusive plans of its kind. It was important to conduct investigations into the Holocaust as it provided an opportunity for one to learn from past atrocities and most importantly to avoid repeating mistakes. Argentina signed the Stockholm Declaration which aimed to underline the truth about the Holocaust, benefiting generations to come. The international community was reminded that a lot remained to be done with respect to the goals identified through the Conference in order to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance.

J. EDUARDO PONCE VIVANCO (Peru) said that the international fight against racism was not new



United Nations and its Member States to lead the way in working towards societies free of inequalities and discrimination. Ireland was committed to supporting the efforts of all those who were here to

The United Arab Emirates was determined to combat all those who incited to hatred or tried to defame religions. The Palestinian people continued to live under excessive force, usurpation of land, and deprivation of economic and social rights. The United Arab Emirates supported a lasting solution for Palestine with an independent State. The United Arab Emirates reiterated that it cosdUto