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**DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**Preparatory Committee**

**Second substantive session**

Geneva, 6-17 October 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

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## I. FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR AFRICA FOR THE DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

*We, the African Regional Conference, having met in Abuja from 24 to 26 August 2008 in the framework of the review of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, hereby issue the following Declaration and Programme of Action:*

*Underlining* the importance of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which constitutes a solid foundation for the elimination of all scourges and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Underlining also* the importance of the Dakar Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Regional Conference for Africa held in Dakar, Senegal, in January 2001,

*Expressing* sincere appreciation to the Government of Nigeria for hosting the present African regional preparatory meeting,

*Recalling* the values and principles of human dignity and equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and all other related international instruments,

*Recalling also* the great importance that African peoples attach to the values of solidarity, tolerance and multiculturalism, which constitute the moral ground and the inspiration for our struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the inhuman tragedies which Africa has suffered for too long,

*Reaffirming* the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and recalling that all individuals are born equal in dignity and rights, and stressing that such equality must be protected as a matter of the highest priority, and recognizing the duty of States to take prompt, decisive and appropriate measures with a view to eliminating all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Expressing* deep alarm at the sharp increase in xenophobic tendencies and intolerance towards various racial and religious groups and cultures, where people belonging to minorities, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and illegal migrants are the worst affected victims of such tendencies and associated acts,

*Recognizing* that poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Regretting* the alarming signs of regression in efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly the upsurge in racist violence, and recognizing the crucial importance of political will in the refusal to trivialize racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the rejection of their use in politics and electoral campaigns, and in the systematic combating of racist and xenophobic political platforms,



*Emphasizing* that the victims' right to access to justice is of special importance to victims of racial discrimination in the light of their vulnerable situation, socially, culturally and economically, and that the principle of equality of victims in legal systems is meaningless unless it is accompanied by affirmative action,

*Emphasizing also* the importance of demonstrating goodwill to humanity and the

based on racism and discriminatory ideas directed at African, Arab, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other communities;

5. *Stresses* the need for an assessment to be conducted by the Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the extent to which racist phenomena are addressed through the implementation of specific laws, and underlines the importance of establishing national mechanisms with a view to specifically examining those phenomena;

6. *Welcomes* the convening of the first part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee

Racial Discrimination further clarifying and defini

were expressed following the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

29. *Calls upon* the Durban Review Conference to demonstrate the political will to confront those phenomena, and acknowledges that a failure of the Durban review process would, above all, pave the way for intensification of worrying racist and xenophobic trends, namely, the upsurge in racist violence, the political use of racism and its intellectual legitimization;

30. *Regrets* deeply the attempts at the intellectual and scientific legitimization of racism and in particular the revival of the stereotypes against Africans;

31. *Calls on* States to take appropriate measures to discourage the dissemination of intellectual and pseudo-intellectual ideas profiling Africans and people of African descent as inferior to other races, as slavery and colonialism have originated in such misguided ideas;

32. *Reiterates* its concern about the plight of the Palestinian people under foreign occupations, urges respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and calls for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

33. *Reiterates further* the importance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continuing to support those African States that are in the process of establishing national institutions by providing tra



41. *Recommends also* that the United Nations create a fellowship programme for people of African descent;

42. *Draws attention* to the impact of counter-terrorism measures on the rise of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the practice of racial, ethnic, national and religious profiling;

43. *Reiterates* the importance of the recommendation made by the Five Independent Eminent Experts to follow up on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action that a racial equality index be developed as a tool to assess more effectively discrimination that affects people of African descent and other vulnerable groups and to guide the adoption of policies to remedy their situation;

44. *Stresses* the need to assess the present situation and contribute to achieving racial equality, including through the collection and use of disaggregated statistics on various groups, the development of guidelines in that regard and the finalization of the racial equality index;

45. *Expresses* the view that States and other actors may require guidance and assistance to establish or improve national policy frameworks, administrative structures and practical measures to give effect to the Durban Programme of Action;

46. *Emphasizes* the need for the United Nations system and its relevant specialized agencies to provide targeted technical cooperation to enhance the effective implementation of the Durban Programme of Action;

47. *Acknowledges*

53.



78. *Urges* non-governmental organizations to continue to provide the Committee with relevant information in a timely manner in order to enhance its cooperation with them;

79. *Reiterates* its request to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue its efforts to increase awareness of the work of the Committee;

80. *Invites* relevant United Nations bodies to provide the Committee with adequate resources to enable it to discharge its mandate fully;

#### **IV. Identification and sharing of best practices achieved at the national, regional and international levels in the fight against racism, racial**



such as the right to freedom of expression, and to eliminate the projection and perpetuation through the media and new technologies of negative images and stereotypes of African people and people of African descent;

(e) Establishing the necessary complementarity and balance between human rights and fundamental freedoms with a view to fighting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

88. *Urging* the Human Rights Council to address the denial of genocide, as recognized by the United Nations, as an attempt to undermine the recognition of genocide as a crime under international law;

89. *Combating* impunity for acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and maximizing redress for victims of those violations;

90. *Advocating* and mobilizing the political will of relevant actors at the national level for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

91. *Enhancing* the roles of cultural diversity and human rights education in promoting tolerance and preventing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

92. *Sharing* best practices in the elimination of all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

93. *Establishing* national, regional and international bodies to monitor racist and xenophobic acts, including the Office of the High C

99. *Expressing* concern at the increasing incidence of racism in various sporting events, while noting with appreciation the efforts made by some governing bodies of the various sporting codes to combat racism and in this regard invites all international sporting bodies to promote, through their national, regional and international federations, a world of sport free from racism and racial discrimination;

100. *Inviting*, in this context, the Federation Internationale de Football Association, in connection with the 2010 Football World Cup tournament to be held in South Africa, to introduce a visible theme on non-racism in football, requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her capacity as the Secretary-General of the Durban Review Conference to bring this invitation to the attention of the Federation and to bring the issue of racism in sport to the attention of other relevant international sporting bodies;

101. *Inviting* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to upgrade the Anti-Discrimination Unit of her office to better serve the mechanisms established for the follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and effectively interact with all partners, including civil society, in the global work against racism;

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## **II. ORGANIZATION AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR AFRICA**

1. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa was held in Abudja, Nigeria from 24 to 26 August 2008, pursuant to the decision PC.1/11 of 31 August 2007 of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference. The Regional Preparatory Meeting held 4 plenary meetings.

### **A. Opening ceremony**

2. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa was officially opened on 24 August 2008 by H.E. Mr. Alhaji Tijjani Kaura, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria.

3. Mr. Bacre Ndiaye, Director of the Human Rights Procedures Division at the Office of the



## **E. Organization of work and other matters**

9. At the second meeting, on 24 August 2008, the Regional Preparatory Meeting considered the organization of its work.

10. The Regional Preparatory Meeting decided to establish two committees: a main committee (or plenary) and a drafting committee. The Main Committee would consider the four issues arising from the objectives of the Durban Review Conference. The Drafting Committee would undertake the elaboration of the draft outcome document of the Regional Preparatory Meeting and submit a report to the plenary.

11. At the same meeting, the Regional Preparatory Meeting elected Ms. Beulah Naidoo (South Africa) as Chairperson the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee held four meetings, from 24 to 26 August 2006.

12. At the same meeting, it was agreed that the list of speakers for all participants would be opened at the beginning of the session.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Regional Preparatory Meeting agreed that, following the practice of the Preparatory Committee, statements would be limited to five minutes for Member States and to three minutes for all observers.

14. For the list documents, see annex III.

## **F. Meetings of the plenary**

15. At the second plenary meeting, on 24 August 2008, statements were made by the following States: South Africa, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Rwanda, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, the Republic of Tanzania, Ghana and Guinea.

16. At the same meeting, Mr. Idriss Al-Jazzairi, Chairperson of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the



## **Annex I**

### **List of Attendance**

#### **Member States:**

Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

#### **United Nations departments, specialized agencies and regional commissions:**

## **Annex II**

### **Agenda**

1. Opening of the Regional Preparatory Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work and other matters:
  - (a) Establishment of the Main Committee (plenary);
  - (b) Establishment of the Drafting Committee;
  - (c) Other matters.
5. Issues arising from the objectives of the Review Conference:
  - (a) To review progress and assess implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, including assessing contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through an inclusive, transparent and collaborative process and identify concrete measures and initiatives for combating and eliminating all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to foster the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
  - (b) To assess the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to enhance them;
  - (c) To promote the universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and proper consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
  - (d) To identify and share good practices achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
6. Adoption of the final document.
7. Adoption of the report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa for the Durban Review Conference.

**Annex III**

**Programme of work**

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA PREPARATORY TO THE DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**24-26 August 2008 - Abuja, Nigeria**

	<i>Sunday</i> <i>24 August 2008</i>	<i>Monday</i> <i>25 August 2008</i>	<i>Tuesday</i> <i>26 August 2008</i>
<p><b>Morning</b></p> <p><b>10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><u>ITEM 1</u>: OPENING OF THE SESSION.</p> <p><u>ITEM 2</u>: ELECTION OF OFFICERS.</p> <p><u>ITEM 3</u>: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.</p> <p><u>Item 4</u>: Organization of work and other matters:</p> <p>(a) Establishment of the Main Committee (plenary);</p> <p>(b) Establishment of the Drafting Committee;</p> <p>(c) Other matters.</p>	<p><u>Item 5 (continued)</u>:</p> <p>(b) Assessment of the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to enhance them.</p> <p>(c) Promotion of the universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and proper consideration of the</p>	<p>Finalization of the draft final document.</p> <p>Preparation of the draft report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting by the Secretariat.</p>

	<i>Sunday</i> <i>24 August 2008</i>	<i>Monday</i> <i>25 August 2008</i>	<i>Tuesday</i> <i>26 August 2008</i>
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Item 5: Issues arising from the objectives of the Review Conference:

(a) Revision of progress and assessment of implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, including assessing contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia

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racism,  
racial discrimination, xenophobia  
and re75832(,)0.137916( )0.137916(x)0137916( )0.13791e

	<i>Sunday</i> <i>24 August 2008</i>	<i>Monday</i> <i>25 August 2008</i>	<i>Tuesday</i> <i>26 August 2008</i>
<p><b>Afternoon</b></p> <p><b>3.00 p.m. to</b></p> <p><b>6.00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><u>Item 5</u> (continued):</p> <p>(a) Revision of progress and assessment of implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, including assessing contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through an inclusive, transparent and collaborative process and identifying concrete measures and initiatives for combating and eliminating all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to foster the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.</p>	<p><u>Item 5</u> (continued):</p> <p>(d) Identification and sharing of good practices achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.</p>	<p><u>Item 6</u>: Adoption of the final document.</p> <p><u>Item 7</u>: Adoption of the report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting.</p>

**Annex IV**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

List of documents issued for the African Regional Meeting



General recommendation No.31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) (A/60/18, pp. 98-108)

Report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa. Dakar, 22-24 January 2001 (A/CONF.189/PC.2/8).

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