
I. Final document of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa for the Durban Review Conference

The African Regional Conference, having met in Abuja, Nigeria, from 24 to 26 August 2008 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/149 of 19 December 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006 and within the framework of preparations for the conference to be convened in 2009 for the review of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001 (the Durban Review Conference), hereby issues the following Declaration and Programme of Action:

Underlining the importance of the declaration and programme of action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban Declaration and Programme of Action), which constitutes a solid foundation for the elimination of all

Stressing the need to summon and sustain political will at the national, regional and international levels in order to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, taking into account the commitments enshrined in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the importance of enhancing national action and international cooperation to that end,

Paying tribute to countries and personalities who lent their valuable support to Africa during its struggle against institutionalized racism, colonialism and apartheid,

Acknowledging the suffering caused by colonialism and affirming that, wherever and whenever it occurred, it must be condemned and its recurrence prevented,

Acknowledging the important role of African and international non-governmental organizations, the media, national institutions and civil society in the fight against racism and encouraging them to intensify their endeavours in that respect,

Recalling the decision of the heads of State of the African Union on the Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery,

Reaffirming the historical fact that the most hideous manifestations of racial discrimination that the continent of Africa and the African diaspora have suffered, namely, the slave trade, all forms of exploitation, colonialism and apartheid, were essentially motivated by economic objectives and competition between colonial powers for strategic territorial gains and for the appropriation of, control over and pillage of natural and cultural resources,

Recognizing the enduring and tragic impact of the slave trade, which is a crime against humanity, particularly the African people and its successive generations,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/19 of 28 November 2006, commemorating the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, which acknowledges that the slave trade and the legacy of slavery are at the heart of situations of profound social and economic inequality, hatred, bigotry, racism and prejudice that continue to affect people of African descent,

Recalling further resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, by which the General Assembly decided to designate 25 March as an annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, beginning in 2008, as a complement to the existing International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition,

Reaffirming the recommendation of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent that the question of reparations be included in the Durban Review Conference,

Recalling article 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which affirms: "Every individual shall have the right to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his legal status. All forms of exploitation and degradation of man particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited",

Acknowledging the historic responsibility of Africans everywhere in the world to celebrate the abolition of slavery as part of their historical legacy in order to ensure that this tragic blot on human history is not forgotten and can never recur,

Reiterating that all individual human rights violations and collective violations such as racial discrimination should be condemned and that appropriate remedies must be provided,

Affirming that, by enhancing the right of victims to benefit from international recognition and protection of their right to remedies and reparation, the international community strengthens its credibility in the cause of human rights, shows faith and human solidarity with victims, survivors and future human generations and reaffirms the principles of the equality and dignity of all human beings, accountability, justice and the rule of law,

Emphasizing that 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 good will to humanity and the primacy of reconciliation by taking concrete measures toward the resolution of key issues of concern to the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which relate to the restoration of their dignity and equality as envisaged in paragraphs 98–106 of the Durban Declaration,

7. *Stresses* the need to assess the progressive contribution of civil society organizations to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and ways and means of enhancing the role of civil society in that regard;

8. *Reaffirms* that the basic premise of the protection of human rights is respect for the human dignity and integrity of all individuals, regardless of their racial, ethnic, religious, gender or group

21. *Calls upon* States to pay attention to the serious nature of incitement to religious hatred such as anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and, more particularly, Islamophobia, and to promote the fight against those phenomena by strengthening interreligious and intercultural dialogue concerning the common ethics of all religions and by adopting legislation aimed at ending impunity in this respect;

22. *Calls also upon* States to wage a systematic campaign against incitement to racial and religious hatred and to respect the complementarity of all the freedoms embodied in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing at the national and international levels an intellectual front and other practical measures to confront racism and, consequently, combating, inter alia, through education, scientific research and information ideas, concepts and images likely to cause

35. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to draw up guidelines on the collection of the disaggregated information referred to in the preceding paragraph and urges the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide support to the States that request it for the collection of such information;

36. *Recommends* that concerned States take measures that the disproportionately low level of representation of people of African descent in the judiciary and other areas of the justice system be addressed and calls upon States to identify factors that have resulted in the disproportionate number of arrests, sentencing and incarceration of people of African descent and migrants, particularly women, and to take immediate appropriate measures to eliminate those factors and to adopt crime-prevention strategies that include alternatives to incarceration;

37. *Recommends also* that States and international and regional organizations establish independent bodies, where they do not already exist, to receive complaints made by people of African descent and migrants regarding discrimination in access to housing, education, health, employment and other fundamental rights;

38. ~~To take into~~ *Recognizes* the important role of the United Nations and its relevant specialized agencies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization and others in helping to enhance their capacity to implement the Durban Programme of Action and invites the United Nations and its relevant specialized agencies to

B. Assessing, for the purpose of enhancing, the effectiveness of existing Durban Declaration and Programme of Action follow-up mechanisms and other United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

49. *Acknowledges* the significant role played by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action follow-up mechanisms and stresses the importance of creating the necessary synergies between them;

50. *Takes note of* the determination of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which was welcomed in General Assembly Resolution 61/149, to profile and increase the visibility of the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the intention to make it a cross-cutting issue in the activities and programmes of the Office of the High

74. *Calls upon* States to disseminate the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in an appropriate manner and provide the Committee with information on efforts made in that respect under the section of their periodic reports concerning article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

75. *Urges* States Parties to the Inte

(b) That model legislation on this issue is elaborated through a joint exercise to be undertaken by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee;

(c) That permissible limitations on the exercise of the right to freedom of expression are elaborated and, where appropriate, incorporated into national legislation;

(d) That a voluntary ethical code of conduct is elaborated, in association with the International Federation for Journalists, to address racism in the media and other modern information and communication technologies while taking into account fundamental issues, 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;

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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 Abuja, Nigeria, from 24 to 26 August 2008, pursuant to decision PC.1/11 of 31 August 2007 of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference. The Regional Preparatory Meeting consisted of four 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 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, delivered a statement on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

4. Mr. Sidiki Coulibaly, United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim in Nigeria, also made a statement.

B. Attendance

5. The Regional Preparatory Meeting was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations from the region, by representatives of specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, other entities, national human rights organizations and non-governmental organizations. For the list of participants, see annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

6. At its second meeting, on 24 August 2008, the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair: Mr. Martin Ihoeghian Uhomobhi (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairs: Mr. Rachid Benlounes (Algeria)
Mr. Luvuyo Ndimeri (South Africa)

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 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 main committee.

11. At the same meeting, the Regional Preparatory Meeting elected Ms. Beulah Naidoo (South Africa) as chair of 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.

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23. The fourth meeting of the main committee, held on 26 August 2008, was dedicated to the consideration and adoption of the final document and the report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting.

III. Presentation of the report of the drafting committee and adoption of the final document

24. At the fourth meeting of the main committee, held on 26 August 2008, the chair of the drafting committee introduced the draft final document prepared by the drafting committee. Statements were made by (listed in the order in which they spoke) Zambia, Mali, South Africa and Central African Republic.

25. At the same meeting the final document was adopted by the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa without a vote (for the text of the final document see chapter I of the present report).

IV. Adoption of the report of the Regional Preparatory meeting for Africa

26. At the fourth meeting of the main committee, held on 26 August 2008, the Vice-Chair/Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa (A/CONF.211/PC/RPM/2/L.2).

27. At the same meeting the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa adopted the present report without a vote.

28. At the same meeting concluding remarks were made by (listed in the order in which they spoke) the representatives of Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria and Nigeria. A statement was also made by the representative of the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations.

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 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;
 - (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>Morning</p> <p>10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Item 1: Opening of the session.</p> <p>Item 2: Election of officers.</p> <p>Item 3: Adoption of the agenda.</p> <p>Item 4: 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>Item 5: Issues arising from the objectives of the Review Conference:</p> <p>(a) Revision of progress and assessment of implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by all stakeholders at the</p>	<p>Item 5 (continued):</p> <p>(b) Assessment of the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with 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 recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.</p>	<p>Finalization of the draft final document.</p> <p>Preparation of the draft report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting by the Secretariat.</p>

Sunday

	<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>Afternoon</p> <p>3 p.m. to</p> <p>6 p.m.</p>	<p>Item 5 (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>Item 5 (continued):</p> <p>(d) Identification and sharing of good practices achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.</p>	<p>Item 6: Adoption of the final document.</p> <p>Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting.</p>

