

28/8/7  
NIGERIA

**Statement of Nigeria on the Objectives of the**  
**Durban Review Conference**  
(28 August 2007)

**Madam President,**

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate you and the members of the bureau, on your election. I have no doubt that with your vast experience in negotiation and tested leadership skills, this process will be steered to a successful conclusion. I want to assure you of the support of my delegation.

In 2001, the international community adopted, at Durban, the declaration and programme of action as a blueprint for addressing issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The vision is so profound in its scope and in conformity with the fundamental premise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights based on equality, dignity, freedom and rights of all human beings. While the DDPA had achieved certain expected objectives, its overall implementation is inherently hindered by certain distortions unforeseen at its adoption, arising from emerging issues that flagrantly violated the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

*Statement*

**Madam President,**

We must admit that the use of stereotypes and certain myths to impugn on the identity, integrity, culture and religious belief have coloured and indeed elevated the intensity of racism to a new level. It has also been observed that governments sometimes take decisions that deny basic rights to their nationals and nationals from other countries, without regard to due process, in pursuit of larger objectives of protecting and maintaining international law and order or in combating terrorism. This in effect, has led to the institutionalization of structural, cultural and psychological aspects of racism, which overall contributes to the deep-seated mistrust between peoples and among countries.

Such a trend demands certain scrutiny to reverse it and to put in place the legal protection and safeguards necessary to redress such an anomaly and thus create the pathway to equality of treatment and fairness.

**Madam President,**

It is imperative that the Prep-Com should address these issues in order to eradicate the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance for the common good of humanity. This can and should be done without losing sight of the provisions of OP 33 of GA Resolution 61/14 which provides that the review conference should be conducted within the framework of the General Assembly and OP 6 of HRC Resolution 3/2 that focused action on the implementation of the DDPA, including further actions, initiatives and practical solutions to combat racism.

We must therefore encourage reforms in the administration of justice. We must empower the people themselves who are fundamental assets to initiate and implement in the review of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

We accept the principles that the review in itself should not constitute a renegotiation of the DDPA but we must recognize and address the issues that were not envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action to protect the weak and the vulnerable. There is a compelling need for us to confront the past in order to set new rules to redress the challenges of the future. We must also address omissions which we did not envisage in the original document. In doing so, we must not distort the true meaning of racism by linking it to extraneous issues which do not fit in the category of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In conclusion, Madam President, this Prep-Com offers us and indeed, the global community, the opportunities to reaffirm to the true freedom without encumbrances of

racism, racial discrimination and Xenophobia our commitments to equality and freedom, and to render justice to universal aspirations that will ensure that the present and future generations of human kind will be spared from racial discrimination and inequality.

I thank you Madam President.