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**DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**Preparatory Committee**

**First substantive session**

**Geneva, 21 April-2 May 2008**

**Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

**Accreditation of non-governmental organizations for the sessions  
of its Preparatory Committee**

**Note by the secretariat\***

1. In accordance with decision PC.1/2 adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference at its preparatory meeting in August 2007, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 62/143, the following procedure was approved for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee.
2. Non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate fully in all the sessions of the Preparatory Committee, pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31, which governs the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. Those NGOs that do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council but that participated in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban in 2001 are invited to participate in the Durban Review Conference and its preparatory process, unless there are observations made by Member States. In such cases, the secretariat will request further information from the NGO and present this information to the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee will then take a decision regarding accreditation of the NGO.

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\* Late submission.

Non-governmental organizations interested in the processes for the first time and wishing to participate in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee should submit applications to the secretariat, in accordance with the criteria established in resolution 1996/31.

**Accreditation of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and which did not participate in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001**

3. Below is a list of NGOs not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and which did not participate in the World Conference against Racism in 2001 that have applied to participate in the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee, in accordance with resolution 1996/31.

- Swadhikar (India)
- International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) (Denmark)
- Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (Canada)
- Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign (Palestine)
- Mouvement international pour les réparations (MIR) (France)
- Foundation against Racism and Anti-Semitism (Switzerland)
- Community Security Trust (United Kingdom)

Requests for further information on several of these NGOs were received from some Member States and the secretariat forwarded this information to them.

4. On 25 February 2008, the Permanent Mission of Iran communicated to the secretariat that it had decided to object to the accreditation of the following NGO: Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy.

**Accreditation of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council but which participated in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001**

5. On 23 August 2007, the secretariat sent a list of all NGOs not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that participated in the World Conference against Racism in 2001 to Member States, inviting them to send any comments they might have concerning any of these NGOs to the secretariat. On 3 September 2007, the secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of India indicating that it wished to receive further information on 40 NGOs based in India that were included in the list. The secretariat sent a questionnaire to all of the NGOs indicated by the Permanent Mission of India and received replies from the following:

- Buddha Smriti Sanathan
- Roshni
- Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society
- Rural Development Centre
- India Peace Centre
- National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights
- The Krityanand UNESCO Club

6. After receiving the information on these NGOs from the secretariat, the Permanent Mission of India, on 18 February, requested further information on six NGOs, including five of the above-mentioned and one new NGO. The secretariat transmitted a request for further information to these NGOs on 29 February and received a response from one of them, the India Peace Centre. This response was transmitted to the Permanent Mission of India.

7. On 7 September 2007, the secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Bhutan indicating its objection to the accreditation of the NGO Peoples Forum for Human Rights and Development (PFHRD). On 26 October, the secretariat communicated electronically with PFHRD indicating that an objection had been raised by a Member State to its accreditation to the Durban Review Conference and requesting that it complete and return a questionnaire providing further relevant information. Having received no reply to this communication, the secretariat communicated by telephone with PFHRD and again sent the questionnaire electronically. The secretariat has still not received a reply from PFHRD.

8. On 20 September 2007, a note verbale was received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Congo requesting further information on two NGOs: Association pour les droits de l'homme et l'univers carcéral (ADHUC) and the Observatoire congolais des droits de l'homme. The secretariat sent questionnaires to these NGOs but did not receive a response.

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