

My delegation thanks Amb. Najat AL Hajaji for her presentation on the Organization session of the Prep Com. of the Durban Review process conference. <sup>She did a splendid job in the chair of the Organization session.</sup> We also thank Ambassador Martabit for his <sup>very able</sup> leadership in the Working Group on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In the same vein we appreciate the DHC Madame Keng for her presentation of the <sup>report on defamation of religion.</sup>

Mr. Pres.

Our leaders took a historic decision in Durban <sup>6 years ago</sup> ~~2001~~ to ~~fight~~ combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action provided necessary guidelines to fight racism and racist manifestations. Yet racism exists with all its forms and new manifestations. It is time that we take stock of progress achieved, challenges faced and gaps exist in the implementation of DDPA. States should demonstrate greater political will, develop and improve implementation strategies and take concrete action to overcome obstacles to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Special Rapporteur Doudou Diene in his recent reports alluded to an alarming trend of defamation of religion particularly of Islam in some parts of the world. This unhealthy tendency to hurt

or insult the deep-rooted religious feelings of individuals or groups by publishing caricature cartoons or articles <sup>is deplorable</sup>, some states condone these despicable acts in the name of freedom of expression. Such acts do not contribute to the creation of an environment of peaceful co-existence of nations and societies. Freedom can not be absolute or infinite. It must be exercised with respect and responsibility. The international community should examine possible normative gaps existed in the international legal framework in dealing with incitement to religious hatred. ~~and other racist manifestations~~

On the other hand, states must put in place legal and administrative measures in line with DDPA. On the political front, the democratic legalization of <sup>platforms that</sup> spreading racist and xenophobic ideas <sup>for electoral exploitation</sup> ~~platforms~~ must stop. Ideological acceptance of racism, particularly in dealing with the question of immigration, asylum and, most importantly, in the fight against terrorism must ~~be rejected~~ <sup>cease</sup>. Media should be more respectful and responsible and avoid conducting programmes in the name of

intellectual discourse that foment hatred and intolerance. ~~Establishment~~ <sup>the notion</sup> of dogmatic ideological hierarchies of human rights, such as freedom of expression for the detriment of other ~~rights~~ ~~rights~~ should be rejected. A careful balance between the freedom of expression and respect for the religions must be maintained.

~~The~~ Dialogue within and among communities <sup>national</sup> would be <sup>very</sup> useful. ~~International~~ <sup>National efforts must be reinforced by inter-</sup> ~~national~~ cooperation ~~is~~ ~~needed~~ ~~to~~ ~~fight~~ ~~racism~~ ~~and~~ ~~related~~ ~~intolerance~~.

forthcoming Durban Review Conference would provide a real opportunity to enhance global efforts in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We look forward to a successful conference in 2009.