

Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action  
25 September 2007  
Statement by Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü,  
Permanent Representative of Turkey

Thank you Mr. President,

The follow up to the 2001 Durban World Conference will be one of the major items on the human rights agenda for the next two years● The preparation of a successful Review Conference, ~~taking into consideration the outcome of the Durban follow up mechanisms~~, will be one of our major tasks●

Racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances are still hampering the exercise of <sup>the</sup> most fundamental human rights and freedoms● It is our responsibility to review and ensure the effectiveness of the instruments at our disposal to fight these ills●

Sadly, in some parts of the world racist and xenophobic ideas are gaining ~~more~~ ground and are increasingly used in political platforms● Migrant communities are being targeted by and suffering from xenophobic acts● Religious identity has become a major component in defining the "others" ● These trends must be reversed●

Mr. President,

We welcome and support the review process of the Durban Conference as agreed by the UN member states●

The adoption by consensus of the Objectives of the Review Conference at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, under the able guidance of Ambassador Al-Hajjaji, has been a <sup>very</sup> positive step forward. We hope that the consensual approach will ~~also~~ prevail in the future.

Indeed, addressing the relevant issues in an open-minded and constructive manner is ~~the most~~ appropriate ~~approach~~. We believe that the Review Conference will provide all UN member states with an opportunity to learn from each other by sharing the best practices. We also hope that it will give a new impetus to national and international efforts in combating all ~~forms~~ <sup>Forms</sup> of racism.

As a member of the Bureau ~~of the Preparatory Committee~~, Turkey will continue to contribute to the preparation of the Review Conference.

Mr. President,

The Working Group

During the review process, substantial contribution will be provided by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban DPA, ~~which~~ examined in the second part of its fifth session, two studies, submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and by the Five Experts.

We welcome the consensual outcome of this session ~~of the Working Group~~ and appreciate the ~~valuable~~ role played by Ambassador Martabit.

The study of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination suggests concrete measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. We believe however, that the existing CERD mechanisms should be fully explored before creating additional instruments as suggested by the Committee.

The study of the Five Experts on the substantive gaps in the existing international standards has also been useful● Turkey was among the first countries which responded to the questionnaire● We support the decision to transmit the study to the Ad Hoc Committee on Complementary Standards for consideration●

Mr. President,

Under <sup>the title of</sup> racism or discrimination, several other issues may be brought to our agenda● However we should remain focused, self-disciplined and should not allow ~~other~~ irrelevant subjects to distract us● We must refrain from politicizing our discussions●

Finally,

I would like to reiterate that Turkey is fully committed to ~~contributing to~~ the goal of universal eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance●

Thank you Mr. President●