

SWEDEN

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am speaking on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom and my own country Sweden.

Before the closing of this Review Conference, allow me to express our sincere appreciation for the work done by the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as for the support and assistance provided to our deliberations by her Office.

Our genuine gratitude goes to the Russian Facilitator Yuri Boichenko and those who have been assisting him – our thoughts in this regard go especially to the experts from Belgium, Norway and Egypt - for their patience and determination throughout the preparatory process. We also appreciate the work of all other colleagues who are Members of the Bureau and who contributed to the preparation of the Conference.

We regret that some delegations used the conference as a platform to pursue agendas that are not in conformity with the spirit and objectives of the conference. At the same time, we recognize that the fight against racism is too important a cause to be hijacked or derailed by a few extreme and unacceptable statements.

We thank delegations for their willingness to compromise, which has enabled us to find a consensual outcome on the concluding document to this conference.

Thank you, Mr. President.

which constitutes a positive evolution in the UN's work in the fight against racism and racial discrimination.