

# Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

*(Please check against delivery)*

Statement by

**H. E. Mr. Salehi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

At the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations

On the Tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of Durban Declaration and Program of Action

New York, Thursday, 22 September 2011

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Distinguished Chairmen of the Panel, Distinguished Panelists,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to thank all those whose efforts, despite stonewalling behavior of a few, made possible holding of such an event on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Durban Declaration and Program of Action (known as DDPA), yet one of the richest record of achievement of humanity in today's world against racism and racial discrimination.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The International Conference on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, held in Durban in 2001, is deemed to be a turning point in the field of human rights in today's world, on several aspects:

**First**, after centuries of living with humiliation, suffering and injustice at the result of slavery, classic and new forms of colonialism, and systematic racism in the form of Apartheids in South Africa and the Palestinian Occupied Territory, the international society determined to hold a global conference with the highest level of worldwide participation, in the new Durban, just being itself exonerated from the scourge of apartheid;

**Second**, for the first time in history and as a beacon for the bright future, civil societies and non-governmental organizations actively participated along with the States in the struggle against spiteful racism and racial discrimination, and proved their significance in the fight against the human rights violations;

**Third**, adoption of the DDPA remains as the permanent achievement of the active participation of States in their struggle against all classic and new forms and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Colleagues,**

Maintenance and upholding of the achievements of the Durban Conference is not only a humanitarian wish, but also a human obligation and responsibility for States, the United Nations and all civil society institutions. At this juncture, it is wise for all of us to seize this opportunity for having an assessment of how to maintain them at all levels, and, based upon the 10-year experience, boost the strong points and address the pitfalls.

Efforts carried out by certain States to undermine the levels of participation at this conference and even to boycott it, on the one hand, and an endeavor to water down the final declaration of this conference on the other, are the unfortunate responses of the States claiming to be the so-called bulwark of human rights and democracy, vis-a-vis the most horrible violations of human rights.

Supporters of the racist Zionist Regime boycotted this conference on the account that this might support those Palestinians been victims of such state-racism in the Occupied Territories.

Referring to our recollections on the support of such States of the racist Regime of apartheid in South Africa, their reactions to this conference were not unpredictable. Nevertheless, such reactions again is a clear-cut indication of the hypocritical behavior of phony claimants of human rights and their sole self- interest, double-standard and selective policies in this regard.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

One of the most crucial themes reaffirmed during the Durban process is "Respect for Cultural Diversity". Unfortunately, in today's world, the hateful manifestations of racism and racial discrimination are not eliminated, but we are also witnessing, on a daily basis, new forms and manifestations of this inhuman phenomena. Continuing existence of state-apartheid in the Palestinian occupied territories, aggravation of Islam-o-phobia and violation of the rights of Muslim minorities, racist approach towards migrants and even indigenous people, colored skins and ethnical minorities, and most importantly dissemination of racist literature among radical groups, political parties, politicians and practitioners in certain countries, all together, rekindles the concerns about this new wave of racism.

In conclusion, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, I would like to reaffirm that the first and foremost solution in addressing racism and racial discrimination is primarily the renunciation of the discriminatory, double standard, selective and politically-oriented behavior, then the collective determination and active participation of all Members of the international community-be it governmental or nongovernmental entities- in the fight against racism and racial discrimination, and finally an emphasis on the implementation and strengthening of Durban Conference Documents as the most valuable human achievements.

**I thank you,**