

**Statement by the
Islamic Republic of Iran**

**8th Session of the Human Rights Council
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Mr. President,

The adoption of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action was a defining momentum in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The 2001 Durban Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance underscored the international community's renewed commitment to combat racism, in all its forms and manifestations particularly the contemporary forms in a comprehensive manner.

The follow-up mechanisms for the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of action as well as the Special Rapporteur on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance have played an important role in setting the tone for the international community to advance the global agenda for combating racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia through, ^{inter alia,} raising public awareness ~~and education~~. We would like ^{to} seize this opportunity to appreciate the valuable efforts done by those mechanisms to this end.

Nevertheless, and despite all efforts, emerging of new forms of racism in the aftermath of September 11 and under the pretext of the so-called war against terror, reflects the visible rise of contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia throughout the world and especially against Muslims.

The increase in racist violence and xenophobic ideas in certain parts of the world, in political circles, in the sphere of public opinion, mass media and in society at large, as a result of the resurgent activities of associations and political parties established on the basis of racist and xenophobic platforms and charters, and persistent use of those platforms to promote or incite racist ideologies are alarming. In this respect, we would like to express, once again, our strong condemnation over the cases of stereotyping Islam through making a defamatory film against the Holy Koran in ^{The} Netherlands, as a vivid example of incitement to racial and religious hatred.

We are of the view that, there is an urgent need to address ~~and elaborate~~ the contemporary and emerging scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, inter alia, through adoption of further initiatives and actions.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the timely decisions of the General Assembly and the Human

Rights Council for holding Durban Review Conference in 2009. We are of the view that the Durban Review Conference and its preparatory process can provide the international community with an ample opportunity to take stock of the Durban commitments as well as to further strategize in the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to address their contemporary forms and manifestations.

Thank you,