

Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action  
17 June 2008

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 coming year~~. The preparation of a successful Review Conference, will be one of our major tasks.

Racism - in all its forms - continues to challenge the exercise of most fundamental human rights and freedoms. ~~This scourge continues to~~ threaten the fabric of our societies and moral values. It is therefore our responsibility to review and ensure the effectiveness of the instruments at our disposal to fight this ~~scourge~~ <sup>against</sup>.

Mr. President,

The first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Committee, as well as the first meeting of the Intersessional Working Group were concrete steps ~~in~~ in the preparatory process. These meetings have given us the opportunity to commence the substantive review by taking stock of the progress achieved ~~and the progress made in combating racism~~ in pursuing our objectives.

We are pleased to see the engagement of UN member states in the review process. ~~We believe that sharing best practices, approaching the issues in an open-minded and tolerant manner is the most appropriate way in the course of the review.~~

We appreciate the consensual approach which enabled the Preparatory Committee to agree on the objectives of the Review Conference, on the structure of the outcome document and ~~on the venue and the dates of the Conference.~~ We hope that this constructive approach will prevail in the future.

and we encourage all to participate actively in the discussions

next year

considering the inputs submitted so far and

(Ali Onaner)

As a member of the Bureau and taking part <sup>in</sup> the Chair's Friends Group, Turkey will continue to contribute constructively to the preparation of the Review Conference.

We believe that during this process, all parties should focus on the essential and remain committed to the principle of not reopening or renegotiating the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. We must avoid politicization of discussions and concentrate our efforts on tackling the concrete issues on the agenda.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate Turkey's full commitment to the goal of universal eradication of racism in all its forms.

Thank you Mr. President.