

SLOVENIA
EUROPEAN UNION

Human Rights Council
6th session
(Geneva, 10-28 September 2007)

Explanation of Vote (b.v.) on A/HRC/6/L.27
"Preparations for the Durban Review Conference"

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union Member States that are members of the Human Rights Council.

Last year, at the General Assembly, the EU was able to reach an understanding with the G77 and other delegations to convene for 2009 a Review Conference on the implementation of the Durban DPA within the framework of the GA. On the basis of this understanding, we are fully committed to the realization and success of this conference. The EU was also fully engaged in the work of the Organizational Session of the Preparatory Committee of the Review Conference that met one month ago and we appreciate the fact that it was possible to take by consensus crucial decisions on the future steps of this process.

We regret that the draft before us, by re-classifying the type of outcome of the conference, does not reflect the spirit of compromise shared by all who participated at the PrepCom. We also find L.27 not to be entirely factual, as non-governmental organizations did contribute to the PrepCom's dialogue on the "objectives of the conference". We are however convinced that participation of civil society should be intensified and in that regard we count on the support of all delegations to ensure the full and unhindered participation of non-governmental organizations accredited to the Preparatory Committee. We are also of the view that by asking the HRC to remain seized of this issue, L.27 is not in consonance with decision PC 1/8 of the PrepCom regarding the direct submission of reports to the General Assembly.

We deeply regret that this draft was submitted on a late phase of our work and that consultations only took place today. We notice that the proponents of it did not take in full consideration paragraph 117 of the IB package regarding the HRC working culture. We believe that a consensus could have been easily reached on this text if some more willingness to negotiate had been shown.

For these reasons, Mr. President, we will call for a vote on L.27 and vote against.

This declaration has been agreed by the European Union as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. President.