

EGYPT

**Introduction of L.9**

Thank you Mr. President,

*Member States of the African Group*

**On behalf of the African Group, I have the honor to introduce the draft resolution contained in document L.9, entitled "From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.**

**The African Group believes that all States have basically fallen behind in terms of implementation of their commitments made at the Durban Conference in 2001.**

**With the Review Conference to be held in 2009, it is imperative for all of us to demonstrate concrete resolve and determination for the protection of the victims of the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.**

**In essence, L.9 speaks to the core issues of recognition of past injustices, and the need for the requisite apology in order to engender social healing and reconciliation. These are issues which were taken very seriously, at the highest level, by the World Conference Against Racism in 2001. It would be regrettable to downplay the significance of this important segment of the DDPA.**

**Finally, Mr. President, L.9 also seeks to re-align the activities of the ADU and to rename this unit, which henceforth should be known as the Anti-Racial Discrimination Unit. We do not expect the operational activities of the Unit to go beyond its mandate.**

**We hope that the resolution will be adopted with the broadest possible support.**

**( slight editorial in op 2 ).**

**Mr. President,**

**I thank you.**