

Statement by Tehmina Janjua, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC, on the Presentation by the Chair of the Preparatory Committee on the Durban Review Conference, 25 Sept 2007

Mr. President,

The OIC thanks Ambassador Najat Al-Hajaji for her comprehensive presentation on the Organizational Session of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference. The Council can clearly evaluate that progress has been made. We thank the President of the Prepcom for her effective leadership that enabled a successful outcome at the Organizational session.

OIC also commends the leadership provided by Ambassador Juan Martabit to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA). The Working Group has made significant progress in the implementation of its mandate.

The OIC believes that the Working Group will be able to provide substantive inputs to the Durban Review Preparatory Committee based on its assessment of effective implementation of the DDPA.

Mr. President,

The OIC appreciates the High Commissioner for Human Rights commitment to the success of the Durban Review Conference. Ms. Arbour's appointment as the Secretary General of the Conference will provide substantive value to the preparatory process and the Conference itself.

We also appreciate the leading role of the African Group and welcome the constructive engagement of all member states. The OIC, on its part, assures its continued support to the preparatory process that should lead us to a meaningful Review Conference.

Mr. President,

The Prep Com established an important principle that racism is an ongoing phenomenon and hence the need to deal with its contemporary manifestations. The objectives of the Durban Review Conference, therefore, established the fact that while the Review Conference would assess the implementation of the DDPA, it must also look into contemporary as well as new manifestations of racism and suggest possible means and ways to effectively deal with them. The rising tide of racism, hate and intolerance under different garbs needs a matching response in the form of effective legal safeguards. We need to safeguard against such racist and xenophobic tendencies. The Review Conference must address all forms of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance, particularly the most recent and

contemporary forms. The Durban Conference had recognized Islamophobia as a structural form of racism. This also needs to be addressed by the Review Conference.

Mr. President,

The OIC believes that the foundation for a comprehensive review has been laid.

We request that sufficient budgetary allocations must be made available to give adequate financial and technical support to the preparatory process. In this regard early establishment / revitalization of the Voluntary Trust Fund would help strengthen the process.

Again contributions from all relevant special procedures and human rights mechanisms are important to enhance the quality of the preparatory process. This will assist in obtaining an informed outcome.

Effective and well coordinated national and regional initiatives, in line with the objectives of the Review Conference, would serve to add quality inputs and strengthen the preparatory process. According to decision PC 1/12 of the PrepCom, all necessary technical and financial assistance must be provided for these initiatives by the UN.

In line with Council's decision 3/103, we hope that the Anti-Discrimination Unit within the OHCHR will be given higher profile and visibility. It should be provided all necessary and additional resources. The work of the Anti-Discrimination Unit will be critical to the success of the Durban Review Conference.

Mr. President,

The OIC supports the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee, mandated to elaborate, as a matter of priority and necessity, complementary standards in the form of either a convention or additional protocol(s) to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. We are hopeful that the Ad Hoc Committee will come up with new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary racism, including incitement to *racial* and *religious* hatred.

I thank you, Mr. President.