

**Durban Review Conference (20–24 April 2009)**  
**Issues arising from the objectives of the Conference: item 9 (a) and (b)**

**Joint Statement by Representative David G. LITTMAN: Friday (10:05), 23 April 2009**  
**(The Association for World Education and the World Union for Progressive Judaism)**

Thank you, Mr President [our comments are related to articles 60, 62, 68, 106 to 109, and 142.]  
As a preamble, we wish to cite that memorable quatrain from Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat, as a poetical seal to that historic Act of Inauguration last Monday.

The Moving finger writes; and, having writ,  
Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit  
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,  
Nor all thy Tears wash out a word of it. [FitzGerald's translation]:

Sir, article 60 of the consensus DRC text mentions "neo-Nazi, neo-Fascist and other violent national ideologies" but not 'violent religious ideologies' – eight years after 9/11.

Then there is article 62 on "slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade." Previously, it was spelled in the plural: 'slave trades'. Why cut the 's'? [The word: 'slave' comes from 'Slav' and the mass commerce of the Slav people enslaved millions in medieval times; this was later continued by the Ottomans in the Balkans with their *devshirme* system. The white slavery of the Barbary Corsairs also affected a million and more Christians – and Jews too.] **Why forget the mass slavery for centuries of non-Muslims in the Middle East** [documented extensively in Arab, Syriac, Greek, Armenian, Turkish and Indian texts], **and the equally infamous Arab Slave Trade in black Africans for over a millennium that continues today in some countries? Yet the current exhibition on slavery at the UN only features the transatlantic slave trade, repeating last year's religiously correct decision.**

Article 68 relates to "incitement to hatred" – targeting racial and religious communities; and articles 106 to 109 attempts to combat this xenophobia with Human Rights Education. Finally, article 142 refers to the key role of UNESCO in carrying out an integrated educational strategy.

In this context of hatred, the Secretary General of the OIC [Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu] referred to the "defamation of Islam". Ten minutes before he spoke, I handed to him our written statement on "defamation of Judaism and Jews" [A/HRC/10/NGO/29 : Defamation of Judaism and Jews by ISESCO (OIC): 60<sup>th</sup> UDHR Anniversary at the UN]. It provides documentation from two ISESCO books [published in 2004 & 2007], displayed during OIC's full-day 19 December 2008 event on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UDHR. We have both copies here, sir. A one line quote is enough: Enemies of the Almighty: "Jews are the enemies of Allah, the enemies of faith and of the worship of Allah..." More of such hate is quoted in our official UN written statement.

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) was established by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in January 1981. [It comprises 44 Muslim Member States: "The mission of ISESCO is to promote cooperation among Member States, consolidate understanding among the Muslim peoples and contribute to the achievement of world peace and security through the fields of education, science, culture and communication..."] **It has close links to UNESCO since 1984, and an important bilateral accord was signed between them in 2006, barely a year before this publication, which is but one example of the well-documented, rampant global Judeophobia in publications, the media and on TV– analysed in three books by CNRS Director Pierre-André Taguieff, by MEMRI and PMW, by many others, and by us at the UN since 1986. Three months ago a 'Public Complaint' was made on this OIC-ISESCO matter. A formal reply was received from UNESCO. We await firm action by UNESCO – and by all UN bodies – denouncing all such UN-related publications that can increase xenophobia, racial and religious hatred and tensions. Here is the time to begin.**

Thank you, Mr President