

**Advance unedited version**

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Seventy- ninth session

8 August – 2 September 2011

**Statement on the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the  
Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

On the occasion of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action:

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reiterates the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009. The Committee stresses that these documents offer a comprehensive UN framework for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Committee recalls its General Recommendation no.28 (2002) on the follow up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and its General Recommendation no. 33(2009) on the follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, and notes that the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the Durban Conference place the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965 and its implementation at the centre of the activities to combat racism and racial discrimination, while also highlighting their new forms and manifestations.

The Committee welcomes the progress achieved by countries and regions to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance since 2001. At the same time, as a body created by the Convention (ratified by 174 States), the Committee has found, on the basis of the consideration of periodic reports of most of the States parties, that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance persist in all parts of the world and that countless human beings and many vulnerable groups continue to be their victims.

The Committee also welcomes the adoption by several States parties of plans of action and other measures in order to put in practice the provisions of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Durban Conference. These two international documents contribute to strengthening the activity of the Committee and enriching the dialogue with States parties.

While reiterating that the primary responsibility for effectively preventing, eliminating and combating racism and racial discrimination lies with States, the Committee is determined to reinforce the implementation of the International Convention of 1965 through its dialogue with States parties, in cooperation with other human rights treaty bodies and with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society, fully taking into account the documents adopted by the Durban Conference.

The Committee strongly recommends that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly convened to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action:

a) reaffirm the Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban in 2001, as well as the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference of 2009;

b) reiterate the central role of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and of its Committee in combating racism and racial discrimination, as stressed by the Durban Documents;

c) urge States parties to fully implement the provisions of the Convention and call again for its universal ratification without reservations; and

d) send a strong message, reaffirming the political will of States to continue and strengthen their efforts towards building a world free from all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

2099<sup>th</sup> meeting  
15 August 2011