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DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE
Preparatory Committee
First substantive session
Geneva, 21 April-2 May 2008

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General*

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* Late submission.

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 21 April to 2 May 2008. The session will be opened by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

2. During its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee, in its decision PC.1/14 of 31 August 2007, adopted a provisional agenda for its first substantive session. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda (A/CONF.211/PC.2/1).

Item 3. Organization of work

3. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a draft programme of work.

4. In its decision PC.1/2 of 27 August 2007, the Preparatory Committee noted that the mechanism established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996, shall be the framework for accreditation of non-governmental organizations. In the same decision, the Preparatory Committee established a procedure for accreditation of non-governmental organizations. This same decision provided, however, that in the event that a Government raises questions concerning the accreditation of a non-governmental organization, the final decision on those cases shall be taken by the Preparatory Committee, in accordance with the standard process set out in Council resolution 1996/31. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.211/PC.2/6) and draft decision 1 submitted by the Bureau on accreditation of a non-governmental organization (A/CONF.211/PC.2/4).

5. The Preparatory Committee decided to establish at its first substantive session an intersessional open-ended intergovernmental working group to follow up the work of the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee will have before it draft decision 2 submitted by the Bureau proposing 26 to 30 May 2008 as dates for the first session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group and 30 June-4 July 2008 for the second session of this working group (A/CONF.211/PC.2/4).

Item 4. Submission of the provisional agenda of the Durban Review Conference

6. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a Chairperson's proposal relating to the provisional agenda for the Durban Review Conference (A/CONF.211/PC.2/4).

Item 5. Reports of preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels

7. In its decision PC.1/11 of 31 August 2007 entitled "Preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels", the Preparatory Committee decided to call upon States and regional organizations to hold international, regional and national meetings and/or to undertake other initiatives in preparation for the Durban Review Conference in line with the objectives of the Review Conference. Furthermore, the General Assembly in its resolution 62/220 of 22 December 2007 called upon Member States that are in a position to do so

to offer to host the regional preparatory conferences in their regions, consistent with the objectives of the Durban Review Conference, and to ensure the widest possible participation in those conferences, whose outcome will contribute to the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee. Regional Groups may wish to inform the Preparatory Committee about preparations for holding regional preparatory meetings in their regions.

8. Following a request made by the Bureau, the Secretariat will make an oral presentation on the budgetary situation of the preparatory process for the Durban Review Conference followed by a question and answer segment.

Item 6. Review of reports, studies and other documentation for the Preparatory Committee and the Durban Review Conference and contributions of human rights bodies and mechanisms

9. In its decision PC.1/10 of 31 August 2007, the Preparatory Committee, inter alia, requested Governments, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations, governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Five Independent Eminent Experts to follow up on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Five Experts on Complementary International Standards, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and other relevant human rights mechanisms including other special procedures to assist the Preparatory Committee by undertaking review and submitting recommendations, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as contributions to the outcome of the Review Conference. Furthermore, in the same decision the Preparatory Committee also requested the Office of the High Commissioner, in order to facilitate the review process, under the supervision of the Bureau, to draft a questionnaire that will be sent to all stakeholders listed above. Responses to the questionnaire should be sent to the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.

10. In accordance with its decision PC.1/10, the Preparatory Committee will consider the contributions received so far from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/CONF.211/PC.2/5), the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/HRC/2/3 and A/HRC/7/19), the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/HRC/6/5), the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.211/PC.2/7), the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (A/HRC/7/36) and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/CONF.211/PC.2/8).

11. At the present session, the Preparatory Committee will have before it draft decision 3 submitted by the Bureau on a panel discussion on the objectives of the Durban Review Conference (A/CONF.211/PC.2/4).

12. Following a request made by the Bureau, the Preparatory Committee will have before it a compilation of replies from Member States (A/CONF.211/PC.2/3) prepared by the Secretariat. The Preparatory Committee will also have before it a report prepared by the Secretariat containing a summary of replies from Member States (A/CONF.211/PC.2/CRP.1).

13. The Preparatory Committee will also have before it a note by the Secretariat containing responses to the questionnaire received from specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations (A/CONF.211/PC.2/CRP.2).

Item 7. Draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference

14. The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/149 of 19 December 2006, decided to convene in 2009 a review conference on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Human Rights Council in its resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006 reaffirmed that the Durban Review Conference will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein. The Council also decided that it will concentrate on their implementation, including further actions, initiatives and practical solutions for combating all the contemporary scourges of racism. The Preparatory Committee, in its decision PC.1/13 of 31 August 2007 entitled “Objectives of the Durban Review Conference”, decided that, on the basis of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, General Assembly resolution 61/149 and Human Rights Council resolution 3/2, the objectives of the Durban Review Conference will read as follows:

1. To review progress and assess implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, including assessing contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through an inclusive, transparent and collaborative process and identify concrete measures and initiatives for combating and eliminating all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to foster the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
2. To assess the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to enhance them;
3. To promote the universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and proper consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
4. To identify and share good practices achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

15. Based on the above, the Preparatory Committee may wish to start discussing format and content of the draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference.

**Item 8. Organization of the work of the Durban
Review Conference and other matters**

16. The General Assembly in paragraph 50 of its resolution 62/220, underlined that the Preparatory Committee shall, at its first substantive session, in accordance with its decision PC.1/14, discuss, inter alia, the organization of the work of the Conference and other matters, including the allocation of funding from the regular budget of the United Nations for the convening of the Conference in 2009.

17. The Preparatory Committee will have before it draft decision 4 submitted by the Bureau on Information strategy for the Durban Review Conference (A/CONF.211/PC.2/4).

Item 9. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

18. At the conclusion of its session the Preparatory Committee will adopt a report for submission to the General Assembly.
