Statement by Indonesian Delegation At the 10th Session of the Human Rights Council Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Geneva, 24 March 2009

Mr President,

Allow me at the out set to set on record that my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Cuba speaking for the NAM, and by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

In 2001, the Durban World Conference had held the promise of a world free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. Indeed, its outcome, the DDPA, offers a comprehensive global framework that calls, among others, for the adoption of more effective anti-discrimination laws and policies. Unfortunately, 9/11 and other events in the past eight years have triggered a resurgence of these scourges in many forms and in many parts of the world.

This persistent trend, therefore, must be combated with renewed vigour in order that the resolve of 2001 is revitalised and translated into practical action on the ground. In this regard, from the very beginning, we have recognised the importance of the Review Conference and of its outcome in achieving a world free from prejudice.

In this context, let me express our sincere appreciation to the Chairman of the Inter-sessional Working Group (ISWG) for his patience and unremitting efforts to produce a rolling text as a working document. This text has the merit of providing a good basis for our deliberations and to focus our further efforts ahead of the Conference.

It is my delegation's hope that this document will facilitate our work in the next few weeks, thereby increasing prospects for a successful outcome of the Conference. Therefore, it is crucial at this point that all countries participate in this process.

Mr. President,

The Review Conference is not only timely but also gives an opportunity for countries to demonstrate their determination to fight intolerance by moving the anti-racism agenda forward.

Thus, states are expected to provide an assessment of achievements and gaps in the implementation of the commitments as set forth in DDPA 2001, as well as identify concrete ways to improve performance and impact on the ground. The review is also meant to share and take ownership of good practices in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In this context, let us make the best of this opportunity to renew global commitment to our common goals to combat racism and revitalize efforts to move towards these objectives.

Indonesia once again pledges its full commitment to these goals and looks forward to participating constructively to the work and success of the Review Conference.

Thank you.