GA Fifth Committee

Statement by Belgium on behalf of the EU (regarding Durban III PBI)

December 23, 2010

Mr. Chairman, I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the European Union. The European Union shares a deep concern that despite many efforts the objective to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and has not yet been attained. Together with many partners the European Union will remain engaged in efforts at the national, regional and international level to fight racism in an effective and sustainable manner. Mr. Chairman, the EU already expressed its concerns on the substance of this resolution in the third committee and I would like to refer to the statement that was issued on that occasion. As the fifth committee is the main committee of the general assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. We believe the discussions in this committee should focus on these aspects of the items under consideration. Rule 153 of the rules of procedure clearly states that no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the general assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures. However, at the time of the adoption by the Third Committee of the draft resolution contained in L.60, no information on the budgetary implications was presented. As a result, we were unclear on the financial implications of this resolution and assumed that any further costs would be absorbed. Now, in the fifth committee we are presented with a request to approve the proposals of the Secretary General in a total additional amount of 206,400 dollars as a charge against the contingency for the biennium 2010-2011. The EU convinced that the complete absorption of these budgetary requirements should have been possible and regrets that the fifth committee could not reach a consensus on the absorption of these costs. Thank you Mr. Chairman.