

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Dr Makarim Wibisono
On behalf of the Indonesian delegation
At the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference
Organizational Session**

Geneva, 27 August 2007

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to begin, on behalf on the Government of Indonesia, to congratulate you on your election to lead our work in this Preparatory Committee, as well as the members of the Bureau on their respective elections to assist you in this task. Let me assure you of my delegation's fullest confidence in your able stewardship, which we feel sure will steer our deliberations towards a fruitful outcome.

My delegation would like to align itself with the statements made by the distinguished delegates of Pakistan and Cuba, respectively on behalf of the OIC and the Non Align Movement.

Madam Chairperson,

The adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was a defining moment in the struggle against all forms of discrimination. This historic Summit underscored the renewed commitment of the international community to combat racism in all its forms, especially its contemporary forms, and adopted a concrete plan of action to achieve that ideal. Racial and other forms of discrimination indeed remain one of the blights of humanity and one of the major challenges of our time.

In this light, the holding of the Durban review process should provide the international community with an opportunity to take stock of the Durban Commitments and to further develop or reinforce strategies in the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Moreover, Resolution 3/2 of the Council reaffirmed that, with regard to the objectives of the Prepcom, the Durban Review Conference would be carried out based on the principles contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, without renegotiating any of the existing agreements stipulated therein. The Council also decided that the Review Conference would concentrate on the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, taking any necessary and practical steps to combat all contemporary forms of racism and discrimination.

In this perspective, new strategies will have to be elaborated, to which implementation must then be applied. However, the latter, in order to be effective, must be underpinned by detailed, comprehensive and rigorously applied legislation and regulations elaborated on a normative basis. In this regard, we strongly second the views whereby this process requires the elaboration of complementary standards if it is to properly address the present shortcomings and pre-empt the resurgence of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in both old and new forms.

With strong guidelines in the form of complementary standards and norms to refer to, and with political will, governments will be in a position to honour their commitments to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Indeed, with the right tools for the task, and with concerted action, we can rid the world of the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Madam Chairperson,

Ruth Benedict once said that "*Racism is an ism to which everyone in the world today is exposed; for or against, we must take sides. And the history of the future will differ according to the decision which we make.*" This is very pertinent to us. The holding of this deliberation in this conference room once again shows that we take sides firmly against one of the worst forms of human rights violations we face today.

Thank you.