



CHAIR OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

STATEMENT BY H.E. THE AMBASSADOR OF CUBA,
JUAN ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ PALACIOS,
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

(Check against delivery)

Geneva, 24TH April 2009

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. President:

We are about to close the Durban Review Conference, and with that, we are also about to close a chapter opened with the first General Assembly Resolution that called for the celebration of this important event.

Since the very beginning of this process we have witnessed oppositions against it, divisions, contradictions and difficulties. It has not been easy to come along this long journey, but we have managed to do so thanks to our collective wisdom, and to the flexibility of many, including various members of the NAM, who made important sacrifices to get to a consensual outcome of this Review Conference; a Conference which in no way can be shadowed by the regrettable decision of a small number of countries not to participate in it.

At this juncture, the Non-Aligned Movement expresses once again its sincere congratulations to the Chair of the ISWG, Mr. Yury Boichenko, whose able leadership of the negotiations contributed significantly to the results achieved. Yuri's and Russia's brave decision to accept that important responsibility is to be recognized, especially taking into account the difficult moment of the process in which it took place.

We also pay tribute to the Chair of the PREPCOM, Ms. Najat Al Hajaji, under whose able leadership we carried the necessary preparations for this Conference. Our appreciation also goes to the High Commissioner, Ms. Pillay, and her staff, for their dedication, commitment and continued support.

Mr. President:

The closing of the Durban Review Conference does not mean the end of our collective efforts in the fight against racism and discrimination.

The NAM reaffirms the DDPA as adopted in 2001. The Durban Declaration and Program of Action continues to be the most far

reaching and transcending document of the international community in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Its full implementation should be a priority for all.

Eradicating every form of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is a commitment owed to the millions of victims of these horrendous practices throughout history, whose rights and dignity we most protect.

The Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and all other relevant UN organs and mechanisms should strengthen their actions in the promotion of a world free from racism and discrimination. The NAM will spare no efforts to that end, and will continue to push that agenda with the same commitment and conviction that we supported this Conference.

Finally, Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you for the efficient manner in which you led our proceedings during the week, and to wish you and all participants coming from various parts of the world a safe return back home.

Thank you