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DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE
Preparatory Committee

Opening of the session

Item 3. Reports of preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels

8. In its decision PC.1/11, the Preparatory Committee called 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 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.

9. At the present session, the Preparatory Committee will have before it the report of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to the Durban Review Conference (A/CONF.211/PC.3/3), the report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Africa for the Durban Review Conference (A/CONF.211/PC.3/4), a written contribution to be submitted by the Asian group of States (A/CONF.211/PC.3/5), and a written contribution to be submitted by the European States (A/CONF.211/PC.3/6).

Item 4. Review of reports, studies and other documentation for the Preparatory Committee and the Durban Review Conference and contributions of human rights bodies and mechanisms

10. Pursuant to its decision PC.1/10, the Preparatory Committee at its first substantive session had before it the following documents containing replies to the questionnaire prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/CONF.211/PC.2/2) and specific contributions to the review process:

- Compilation of contributions submitted by specialized agencies of the United Nations system, United Nations bodies, regional and other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (A/CONF.211/PC.2/CRP.2);
- Contribution by the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/CONF.211/PC.2/8);
- Compilation of conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.211/PC.2/CRP.4);
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Commissioner for Human Rights.¹ A summary of all new contributions from States received as at 31 July 2008 have been circulated, in document A/CONF.211/PC/WG.1/CRP.1 and Add.1, at the second session of the intersessional open-ended intergovernmental working group to follow up the work of the Preparatory Committee (see paras. 12-13 below). This working group had also before it a joint contribution submitted by several special procedures mandate-holders (A/CONF.211/PC/WG.1/5).

Item 5. Report of the intersessional open-ended intergovernmental working group to follow up the work of the Preparatory Committee

12. In its decision PC.2/4, the Preparatory Committee decided to establish an intersessional open-ended intergovernmental working group with a mandate to follow up the work of the Preparatory Committee, including through reviewing contributions and commencing negotiations on the draft outcome document, and to report thereon to the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee designated Mr. Zohrab Mnatsakanian, Ambassador of Armenia and Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, as Chairperson of this intergovernmental working group.

13. The working group held two sessions. The first session was convened from 26 to 28 May 2008 and the second session was held on 5 and 29 September 2008.

14. The report of the intersessional open-ended intergovernmental working group will be issued as A/CONF.211/PC.3/2.

Item 6. Draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference

15. The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/149, 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

2. Assessment of the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to enhance them.

3. Promotion of the universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and proper consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

4. Identification and sharing of best practices achieved at the national, regional and international levels in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

5. Identification of further concrete measures and initiatives at all levels 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 and to address challenges and impediments thereto, including in the light of developments since its adoption in 2001.

Item 7. Organization of the work of the Durban Review Conference and other matters

18. In its decision PC.2/13 on the venue, timing and duration of the Durban Review Conference, the Preparatory Committee decided that the Durban Review Conference, which will include a high-level segment, (o)-0.295585(f)2.80561()t66571(d)-0.29558.74(6528(u)-0.294974(d)-0.7i)-2.164ce,

18. In its decision .3siis9.852(d)-07ofn 295279(.)-0.147487()-860.655(I93.7.74(r)2.804(t)1.57564(o.710585(e)33

26. In its decision PC.2/12, the Preparatory Committee, recalling its decision PC.1/2 on the participation of, and consultation with, observers at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee, decided that the same criteria, practices and arrangements should also apply to the participation of all observers in the Durban Review Conference.

27. Draft decisions to be proposed by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee will be issued in document A/CONF.211/PC.3/8.

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

28. At the conclusion of its session the Preparatory Committee will adopt a report for submission to the Durban Review Conference.
