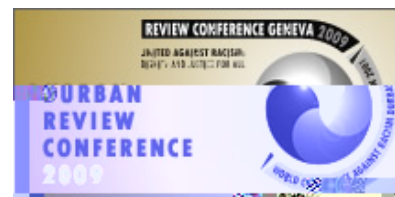




E– Bulletin for NGOs on the Durban Review Conference

This new series of E-bulletins is issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide regular updates and guidance for NGOs in the lead up to the Durban Review Conference, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009.

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In 2001, the United Nations organized the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa. The conference was attended by more than 10,000 people from all regions of the world and led to the adoption by consensus of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which to date is the most important framework in the combat against racism and racial discrimination. In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 61/49, decided to convene in 2009 a Review Conference on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and requested the Human Rights Council to undertake preparation for the Conference.

PREPARING FOR THE DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

Reminder:

Where to find relevant information

Extranet

Documents relating to the Durban Review Conference and its preparatory process, including the latest unofficial version of the Draft Outcome Document, may be found at: <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/> and the dedicated Extranet, which may be accessed at: <http://portal.ohchr.org>

Username: **hrc durban**

Password: **ohchr123**

NGO attestations

NGOs that are accredited to the Review Process may need formal letters of attestations for their visa applications to the Swiss authorities. Depending on whether or not the NGOs are in consultative status with ECOSOC, the process for acquiring letters of attestation is different:

Attestation for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC

Representatives of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who have registered for a meeting in the context of the Review Process and who need attestations for the purpose of visas, can request one, at least 10 days in advance of submitting their request for visa to Swiss authorities in their country, by contacting the NGO Liaison Office of the United Nations Office at Geneva:

NGO Liaison Office
Office of the Director-General
Room 153
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Tel: + 41 (0)22 917 1304
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 05 83
Email: ungeneva.ngoliaison@unog.ch

In order to avoid delays in issuing letter/s of attestations, NGOs must provide the name of the person(s) who will be applying for the visa in their request for attestation.

Attestation for accredited NGOs not in consultative status with ECOSOC

Representatives of accredited NGOs who are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and who need attestations for the purpose of visas can request one by contacting: NGODurbanRevConf@ohchr.org They must provide the name of the person who will be applying for the visa as well as the name and address of the organization that the person will be representing at the Durban Review Conference. Participants are requested to note “Attestation” in the subject line of any email communication requesting a letter for attestation.

Any questions regarding the attestations or registration process should be directed to ngodurbanrevconf@ohchr.org with ATTESTATIONS or REGISTRATION as the subject line and name of the NGO.

Accreditation to the Durban Review Process

NGOs must be accredited in order to take part in the Review Conference and its Preparatory Process. Accredited NGOs can participate in the process as observers. Kindly note that the deadline for acceptance of new accreditation requests has now passed. Applications received between the October 2008 session of the PrepCom and the February 10 deadline will be considered at the next session of the PrepCom, from

15 to 17 April. However, the extended deadline for new accreditation applications from NGOs (February 10, 2009) has passed. Therefore, NGOs that are not in consultative status with ECOSOC, who are not accredited based on their WCAR accreditation or who did not apply for accreditation before February 10 will not be able to participate in the Review Conference and its preparatory process.

Draft Outcome Document

New Draft Outcome Document on the Durban Review Conference is available on website: <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/sessions.shtml>. The latest draft is a much shorter, but still substantive, version of a text comprising of 17 pages. The Outcome Document is expected to be available in all UN official languages by 6 April.

Intersessional Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group

The Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Intersessional open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (ISWG) to continue and finalize the process of negotiations on and drafting of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference will convene open-ended consultations to gather observations and comments on the rolling text prepared by him. The consultations will be held on Thursday, 2 April 2009 in conf

no later than 14 April 2009. The inscription form and Guidance Note are posted on the Durban Review Conference web site at: www.un.org/durbanreview2009/updates.

Keeping in mind the goals and objectives of the Durban Review Conference, side events should focus on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. They should provide an opportunity to review progress made in the combat against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the actual implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels since 2001, as well as the sharing of best practices.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will compile and review all received requests to ensure the broadest participation of stakeholders and a diverse range of themes and issues relating to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. When organizing side events, organizers are encouraged to coordinate their efforts to avoid duplication of events. Where duplicate requests are received, the Secretariat shall endeavour to ensure a coordination of efforts and to encourage the co-sponsorship of events. Where there is clear duplication, the Secretariat reserves the right to facilitate the holding of the event to that which is most closely associated to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Organizers shall only be afforded space should their proposal be clearly in line with these criteria. Should the request be

Further information on seating arrangements and meeting room availability