

ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

**Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Durban
Review Conference on the implementation of the Durban
Declaration and Programme of Action and proposals for its
enhancement**



CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1 – 12	4
II. Implementation by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action		6
A. Establishment of the Anti-Discrimination Unit	13 – 16	6
B. Independent Eminent Experts	17 – 20	7
C. Servicing other Durban follow-up mechanisms	21 – 23	8
D. Creation of a database on racism	24 – 26	8
E. Supporting the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the other human rights treaty bodies	27 – 30	9
F. Protecting victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	31 – 36	9
G. Protection and promotion of the rights of migrants	37 – 41	11
H. Designation of goodwill ambassadors	42	12
I. Collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant entities	43	12
J. Reporting role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	44 – 45	12
III. Implementation by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council		13
A. Examining the possible development of a racial equality index	46 – 47	13
B. Updating of model anti-discrimination legislation	48 – 49	13
C. High-level seminar on racism and the Internet	50 – 51	13
D. Report on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade	52	14
E. Complementary Standards	53-58	14
IV. Proposals and further actions to enhance the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action	59	15
A. Creation of an observatory on racism with wider scope than the database provided for under the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action	60 – 64	15
B. Enhancing effectiveness and synergies of Durban follow-up mechanisms	65 – 66	16
C. Anti-racism technical cooperation programmes	67 – 69	17
D. Development of guidelines for anti-racism national action plans and legislation	70 – 75	17

CONTENTS (continued)

		<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>	
E.	Development of equal opportunity and non-discrimination indicators	76 – 77	18	
F.	Research and advocacy role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	78 – 79	18	
G.	Strengthening the Anti-Discrimination Unit	80	19	
H.	Enhanced action at the national level.....	81 – 82	19	
m	i n a t i o n	i n	d	i

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Durban Review Conference on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and proposals for its enhancement

I. Introduction

- 1) The third session of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference in its decision PC.3/4 of 7 October 2008 states that “bearing in mind the objectives of the Durban Review Conference as well as the important role that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been playing in the follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), the Preparatory Committee decided to invite the High Commissioner to make a contribution to the Durban Review Conference through a report on the implementation of the DDPA and proposals to enhance its implementation and on the implementation of relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.” I am honoured to submit this report in accordance with this decision.
- 2) Implementation of the DDPA has been affected by a number of important challenges.

climate change. These perceptions breed racist and xenophobic attitudes, which can lead to attacks against migrants, and strong political will and effective strategies are required to counter them. As affirmed in the DDPA, States should promote and protect fully and effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of immigration status in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and their obligations under international human rights instruments. States should ensure that migration policies are free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

- 5) The political exploitation of difference – ethnic, racial and religious – often fuels armed conflict and may result in se

support to the three follow-up mechanisms of the DDPA: the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (IGWG), the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Independent Eminent Experts.

C. Servicing other Durban follow-up mechanisms

- 21) My Office has provided support to six sessions of the IGWG. The IGWG has issued recommendations on different aspects of the implementation of the DDPA, such as racism and education, poverty, health, the Internet, globalization and national action plans.
- 22) My Office supported the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent which has held seven sessions since the 2001 World Conference against Racism. The Working Group has made recommendations on the different ways in which people of African descent can better enjoy their fundamental rights in different parts of the world.
- 23) Both working groups have developed recommendations designed to improve the enjoyment of rights by victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The review process attests to the insufficient implementation of the recommendations while at the same time providing an opportunity to consolidate the Durban follow-up mechanisms, take stock of their recommendations, and mobilize the commitment, resources and support for their effective implementation.

D. Creation of a database on racism

- 24) Paragraph 191(d) of the Durban Programme of Action recommends that OHCHR, in cooperation with States, international, regional and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, create a database containing information on practical means to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly international and regional instruments and national legislation, including anti-discrimination legislation, as well as legal means to combat racial discrimination; remedies available through international mechanisms to victims of racial discrimination, as well as national remedies; educational and preventive programmes implemented in various countries and regions; best practices to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; opportunities for technical cooperation; and academic studies and specialized documents. It also requested my Office to ensure that such a database is as accessible as possible to those in authority and the public at large, through its website and by other appropriate means.
- 25) The term “good practices database” was coined soon after the 2001 World Conference against Racism, aimed at sharing knowledge of successful initiatives in the fight against racism and racial discrimination while allowing for a context-specific approach. Efforts to implement this recommendation of the DDPA have included the convening of expert meetings on the development of a good practices database in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (see annex).
- 26) The outcome of the expert meetings is the basis for my Office’s plans to engage consultants to produce a good practices database. Depending on the outcome of the Durban Review Conference, I hope to expand the scope of the database to cover all relevant information on racism as well as to work in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders (see chapter IV below).

E. Supporting the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the other human rights treaty bodies

- 27) Paragraph 194 of the Programme of Action calls on OHCHR to continue its efforts further to increase awareness of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the other United Nations human rights treaty bodies.
- 28) Since the adoption of the DDPA, OHCHR has accelerated its efforts to raise awareness of the work of CERD and that of other treaty bodies, in particular through publications and information, on dedicated webpages. In addition, OHCHR has produced user-friendly and illustrative training tools, in the form of booklets and a DVD, on the work of the treaty bodies and has distributed these to Governments, field presences, non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities. More training and public information material is being prepared and will be updated regularly. In particular, the film on the treaty body system is currently being revised and will be produced in all languages of the United Nations.
- 29) Proper support for the human rights treaty bodies requires adequate staffing for the Human Rights Treaties Branch and additional financial resources for the treaty body system. In addition, although the current process of harmonization of working methods of treaty bodies through the inter-committee meeting is moving slowly, the committee (of booky)T thre.0007

OHCHR is now promoting wide dissemination and implementation of this new instrument. The 2008 launch of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Forum on Minority Issues were important developments, with both receiving technical and substantive assistance from OHCHR. These are new mechanisms with significant potential.

- 32) My Office is conscious of the multiple challenges faced by victims of multiple discrimination. OHCHR has established a Women's Rights and Gender Unit to address, among others, the multiple forms of discrimination facing women. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women routinely calls on States to follow up the elements in the DDPA which highlight the fact that discrimination against women on the basis of sex is often compounded by discrimination on the basis of race. Also in the context of multiple discrimination, the progressive development of international human rights law as seen, for example, through adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the adoption and entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, has provided the means for victims to seek justice for violations of their rights at the international level. The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture has provided new tools to prevent torture. Lack of universal ratification of human rights treaties and their optional procedures, however, remains a key weakness. Only States can remedy this and I will continue to call on them to do so.
- 33) Recognizing that discrimination against minorities has frequently led to their exclusion from society in many countries around the world, my Office has produced guidelines in this context for use by staff in the field and others. The guidelines outline the main areas of concern regarding the protection of the rights of minorities and provide strategies for the promotion and protection of the identity of minorities. Furthermore, in order to advance the Durban provision that calls for criminal justice and law enforcement agencies to be representative of, and responsive and accountable to, the community as a whole, OHCHR has developed Guidance and Good Practice on Diversity in Policing, in consultation with experts from all regions. OHCHR has also supported the work of the Independent Expert on minority issues since the mandate was established by the Commission on Human Rights in 2005.
- 34) My Office has also prepared a draft plan of action on victim assistance in furtherance of its work in support of victims, including victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as outlined in the DDPA. My Office has also focused on victims through the work undertaken by the Rule of Law Unit, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.
- 35) Paragraph 205 of the Programme of Action requires BDC establish a

applies to the treaty bodies, in spite of the increase in ratifications and new instruments mentioned above.

G. Protection and promotion of the rights of migrants

- 37) Paragraph 184 of the Programme of Action encourages relevant international organizations dealing with migration issues to exchange information and coordinate their activities on matters involving racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants, including migrant workers, with the support of OHCHR. In addition, paragraph 196 of the Programme of Action requests OHCHR to pay special attention to violations of the human rights of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular migrants, including migrant workers, to promote international cooperation in combating xenophobia.
- 38) My Office has convened interagency meetings to exchange information and arranged for experts from CERD, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) to participate in meetings of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the IGWG. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Chairperson of the Working Group on arbitrary detention, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Independent Expert on the question of

41) I also draw the attention of States to th

on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which would give

D. Report on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade

52) In compliance with General Assembly resolution 57/195, OHCHR submitted an analytical report of the High Commissioner on the extent of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to the Commission on Human Rights. (E/CN.4/2003/19). In the report, the High Commissioner summarized all activities carried out during the Third Decade. The addendum to the report (E/CN.4/2003/19/Add.1) summarized the last activity held for the Third Decade in February 2003, and the workshop convened jointly by OHCHR and UNESCO to develop a publication to combat racism and foster tolerance. The joint publication was issued in 2006.

E. Complementary standards

53) In its resolution 1/5, the Human Rights Council requested my Office to select, in close consultations with the regional groups, five highly qualified experts to study the content and scope of the substantive gaps in the existing international instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including but not limited to, the areas identified in the conclusions of the Chair of the high-level seminar that took place during the fourth session of the IGWG; the group of experts, in consultation with human rights treaty bodies, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and other relevant mandate-holders should produce a base document that contains concrete recommendations on the means or avenues to bridge these gaps, including but not limited to the drafting of a new optional protocol to the ICERD or the adoption of new instruments such as conventions or declarations.

54) My Office selected the five experts who prepared a report on the study by the five experts on the content and scope of substantive gaps in the existing international instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/HRC/4/WG.3/6). CERD also produced a study on possible measures to strengthen implementation through optional recommendations or the update of its monitoring procedures (A/HRC/4/WG.3/7).

55) After considering the two reports, the Council established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards. I am encouraged that the Ad Hoc Committee reached consensus on a road map to implement article 199 of the DDPA. I rely on the commitment of States to ensure that the road map marks a positive turning point on this important issue.

56) Beyond technical support to the Committee, OHCHR has contributed to clarifying the debate on some possible areas of complementary standards by organizing an expert seminar on articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR. The seminar helped to enrich our knowledge of the issues and revealed their complexity. In this context, I understand the underlying concerns behind the concept of defamation of religions and believe that the most appropriate approach to address them, from a human rights perspective and in light of the Durban Review Conference, is through the legal concept of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. It is up to lawmakers everywhere to discharge their responsibilities properly guided by articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR and taking into account the general comments,

recommendations and views of the Human Rights Committee. This framework offers strong protection for freedom of expression, while at the same time providing for appropriate restrictions, as necessary to protect the rights of others, particularly with respect to incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. This balance between articles 19 and 20 of the Covenant should always be respected. I also believe that the expression of critical views on religious matters does not per se constitute incitement to religious hatred and each case should be assessed on its own circumstances and in accordance with international human rights law. Moreover, freedom of expression is essential to the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

57) Many developments since 2001, including regional conflicts, terrorism and some counter-terrorism measures, as well as religious fundamentalism, compounded by migration, the expanding use of the Internet and increasingly multicultural societies constitute growing challenges to this delicate balance. These developments have created added pressure for the implementation of article 20 of the Covenant. I believe these challenges require us to examine the way in which domestic laws are conceived and implemented with a view to ensuring compliance with both articles 19 and 20 of the Covenant. This would provide us with a firm basis for an objective assessment to identify implementation gaps and determine the nature of possible effective remedies. This should not preclude a consideration of complementary standards in the implementation of paragraph 199 of the DDPA.

58) As a follow-up to the OHCHR expert seminar on articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR, I

- 72) The proposals I outline above have the shared aim of developing useful and practical policy tools in different areas where the DDPA calls for substantive action and helping States put these tools to use through capacity-building and technical assistance.
- 73) As noted above, in its resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council requested my Office to update the model anti-discrimination law. The IGWG suggested updating the model law on anti-discrimination that was produced in the framework of the Third Decade to

V. Conclusion

83) I have submitted the proposals above as concrete and comprehensive steps to enhance the implementation of the DDPA. My proposals are directed at the development of synergies within the human rights machinery which should lead to better promotion and protection of the rights of the victims of racism and intolerance. In addition, my proposals aim to set in motion a process of continued assessment of national, regional and international efforts through the regular flow and exchange of information and best practices among relevant stakeholders.

84)

ANNEX

Office has undertaken since the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was held in 2001:

National action plans

The Office is providing assistance in the elaboration, development and implementation of national action plans on human rights, human rights education and racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. A Handbook on National Human Rights Plans of Action, Guidelines for National Plans of Action for Human Rights Education and compilations of National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and National Plans of Action for Human Rights Education are available on the website of OHCHR.² OHCHR is finalizing the Guidelines on National Action Plans against Racism and Racial Discrimination.

In 2003, the Office provided a grant to the Government of Argentina for drafting a national action plan to combat racism.

National human rights institutions

The Office has been actively engaged with national institutions in the follow-up to the Conference. The Office and the Danish Centre for Human Rights have established a website (www.nhri.net) on national institutions. This web site includes a section on racism and discrimination issues dealt with by national institutions.

The Office has supported independent national human rights institutions and other governmental organizations working on issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance established as a follow-up to the DDPA. OHCHR has facilitated several meetings in the Latin American region aiming to strengthen the effectiveness of these institutions and the exchange of good practices among themselves.

OHCHR also provided assistance to six national human rights institutions from Fiji, India, Mexico, Mongolia, Niger and Venezuela, to implement activities in the field of awareness-raising on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Education and training

Human rights education aims at preventing discriminatory attitudes and behaviour, combating bias and prejudices and appreciating cultural diversity. OHCHR is carrying out education, training and public information activities in the context of technical cooperation for regional or country projects and in connection with the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) and the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing). In addition, OHCHR has developed specific human rights training materials, within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, aimed at specific professional categories, such as human rights monitors, police, judges, prosecutors and lawyers; and prison officials.³ In the development of these materials, OHCHR worked in close cooperation with relevant experts and professional organizations. These training materials always addressed the contribution that people in those professions can make in overcoming racial discrimination while performing their professional duties.

Some other relevant educational projects undertaken by OHCHR that are relevant to the follow-up to the World Conference in 2001 include the following:

- Ø A small grants scheme under Assisting Communities Together (ACT) project, initiated in 1998 in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with a ceiling of approximately \$5,000 per grant, by which non-governmental organizations, grassroots organizations and schools received financial support for action-oriented initiatives in the field of education against racism in Barbados, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Chad, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Romania, the then Serbia and Montenegro, and Uruguay;
- Ø OHCHR's database on human rights education (www.unhchr.ch/hredu.nsf) makes available information on human rights education and training materials, programmes and related institutions;
- Ø Training on international standards against racism and on the DDPA was provided for a post-graduate course on "Gender, minorities and indigenous peoples" in Maracaibo, Venezuela (March 2004) and to a panel on multiple forms of discrimination faced by women in Quito (March 2004).

Ratification of international instruments and legislative reform

As part of its technical cooperation programme, OHCHR has worked in a number of countries on projects aimed at facilitating the ratification of international human rights treaties and consequent harmonization of domestic legislation. All contain anti-discrimination provisions.

Regional institutions and activities

OHCHR works closely with regional organizations and institutions, which have a major role to play in the follow-up to the Conference. Activities and projects with those organizations focused on implementation of the DDPA. The regional commissions and the OHCHR regional representatives based in those commissions were a central element in the follow-up by OHCHR at the regional level and within the United Nations country teams.

Participation in and organization of seminars and workshops

2002

- Ø OHCHR organized in Mexico City, Mexico, a seminar entitled: “Latin-American-Caribbean Regional Seminar of Experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action: Exchange of ideas on future action” (1-3 July);
- Ø In cooperation with the Department of Public Information, OHCHR marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with a panel discussion entitled "Young People against Racism: the Road from Durban" (21 March);
- Ø OHCHR organized a regional seminar on people of African descent in the Americas in La Ceiba, Honduras (21 to 24 March 2002). It was the first time that OHCHR had addressed the human rights situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America;
- Ø The Sixth International Conference for National Human Rights Institutions was held in Copenhagen, Denmark and Lund, Sweden. The conference was organised by the Danish Centre for Human Rights and the Swedish Ombudsman Against Ethnic Discrimination in cooperation with the Chair of the International Co-ordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions and OHCHR. It's overall theme was the role of national human rights institutions in combating racial discrimination, as a follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (10-13 April);
- Ø The Regional Workshop on National Human Rights Institutions, Human Rights Education, Media and Racism organized by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission was co-sponsored and financed by OHCHR and the Australian Agency for International Development (15-16 July);
- Ø A Seminar for Experts of the African Region, Implementation of the Durban Programme of Action: an exchange of ideas on how to move forward, organized by OHCHR in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) was held in Nairobi, Kenya (16-18 September).

2003

- Ø A joint workshop convened by OHCHR and UNESCO to develop a publication to combat racism and to foster tolerance was held in Paris, France (19-20 February);
- Ø OHCHR representatives made presentations at meetings hosted by a number of partners, including: the “Thematic Networking Meeting” organized by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) in Vienna, Austria (February); the UNESCO consultations for the African region on follow-up to the World Conference in Dakar, Senegal (February); and the European region in Moscow, Russian Federation (March);
- Ø In 2003, OHCHR organized, in Geneva, Switzerland, a panel discussion entitled “Taking steps against racism” which was convened to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March);

- Ø OHCHR, in cooperation with the Government of Uruguay, organized a regional workshop on affirmative action policies for people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo, Uruguay (May);
- Ø OHCHR organized, in Geneva, Switzerland an interagency meeting to inform other agencies about World Conference follow-up initiatives and to discuss future joint activities (May);
- Ø OHCHR and the ILO organized a panel discussion during the fifty-fifth session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the sixty-third session of CERD to discuss multi-stakeholder initiatives at the national level to foster equality and non-discrimination in the workplace and wider community (11 August);
- Ø OHCHR organized in Prague, Czech Republic, a “Regional seminar of experts for Eastern Europe on the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: An exchange of ideas on how to move forward” (24-26 September);
- Ø OHCHR, in cooperation with the Government of Belgium, organized in Brussels, Belgium, a regional seminar of experts for Western States entitled “Implementation of the Durban Programme of Action: An exchange of ideas on how to move forward” (10-12 December).

2004

- Ø OHCHR, in cooperation with the New Zealand Race Relations Conciliator, organized a round table on “International Race Relations” in Auckland, New Zealand (2 to 5 February);
- Ø A panel discussion on “Intercultural dialogue: a means to combat racism” was convened in Geneva to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March);
- Ø At the Conference on Anti-Semitism convened by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Berlin, Germany, an OHCHR representative made a presentation on the role of CERD, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the OHCHR Anti-Discrimination Unit in the monitoring of anti-Semitism. Since then, a process of consultations is ongoing with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to explore avenues for further cooperation (April);
- Ø OHCHR participated in the official launch of the project “The abolition of the slave route”, jointly organized by UNESCO and the Government of France in Champagny, France (April);
- Ø OHCHR played an active role at the OSCE meeting on the relationship between racism, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes, held in Paris, France (June);
- Ø OHCHR organized a workshop for non-governmental organizations and youth organizations on the “Implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference against Racism”, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon (July);

- Ø OHCHR moderated a session on the “Dialogue among Civilizations” at the United Nations Graduate Study Programme in Geneva, Switzerland (July);
- Ø OHCHR organized and sponsored a round table for young people at the World Youth Festival in Barcelona, Spain under the title “Stand up against racism!” (August);
- Ø OHCHR participated in and supported, in partnership with the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas the International Workshop *Causes, Effects and Consequences of the Migratory Phenomenon and Human Rights Protection* held in Zacatecas, Mexico (14-15 October);
- Ø OHCHR participated in and provided financial support for the organization of an expert seminar on “Defamation of religions and the global combat against racism: Anti-Semitism, Christianophobia, Islamophobia,” hosted by the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain (11 to 14 November);
- Ø OHCHR and the Pan-American Health Organization jointly organized a regional workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean Region in Brasilia, Brazil on “Ensuring that the Millennium Development Goals contribute to overcoming discrimination based on race, colour, descent, national and ethnic origin in Latin America and the Caribbean Region” (1 to 3 December 2004).

2005

- Ø Dimensions of Racism (published jointly with UNESCO) (HR/PUB/05/4) available in English, French and Spanish.
- Ø OHCHR, with the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection for Human Rights, organized an international seminar on “Illicit Trafficking of Migrants, Human Rights and National Institutions in Campeche, Mexico (10 and 11 March 2005).
- Ø OHCHR organized a panel discussion on “Discrimination and hate crimes: countering the violence of intolerance” in Geneva, Switzerland to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March);
- Ø OHCHR contributed to the work of the Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance convened by the OSCE in Cordoba, Spain (June);
- Ø OHCHR organized a sub-regional seminar for States members of the Economic Community of Central African States on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance through inclusive participation in public life, in cooperation with the Government of Gabon in Libreville, Gabon (27-29 July);
- Ø OHCHR worked together with United Na

2007

- Ø OHCHR participated in an expert seminar on the theme of regional standards and mechanisms to combat discrimination and to protect the rights of minorities organized by the independent expert on minority issues. Held in Washington, D.C., United States of America, the objectives of the seminar were, inter alia, to identify best practices in international law to be made available to regional organizations, specifically to the Organization of American States in formulating new mechanisms to promote, monitor and protect rights with respect to minorities and other groups facing racism and other forms of discrimination; (29-30 January);
- Ø To commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, OHCHR in Geneva, in New York and in the field organized activities in connection with the theme, "Racism and discrimination: obstacles to development". OHCHR organized a high-level panel discussion on the interrelationship between racism and other forms of discrimination, development, poverty, economic growth, good governance and conflict (21 March);
- Ø OHCHR organized in Nepal an experts' advice mission on social exclusion and long-standing discrimination. The mission was intended to assist OHCHR-Nepal in refining its policy and strategy in providing assistance to the Government in addressing social exclusion, discrimination and inequality (23 - 27 April);
- Ø OHCHR participated in a conference in Nuremburg, Germany, held under the auspices of UNESCO, and organized by the European Coalition of Cities against Racism which brought together cities, municipalities and non-governmental organizations engaged in combating racism and discrimination (11-12 May).
- Ø OHCHR organized a consultation in Geneva with OHCHR field presences to discuss strategies for improving racism and discrimination in the field of human rights (13-15 May).

Ø