



KENYA

**STATEMENT BY HON. S. AMOS WAKO, E.G.H, M.P.
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA, PRESIDENT DESIGNATE OF THE DURBAN
REVIEW CONFERENCE AT THE OPENING**

GENEVA

20TH APRIL, 2009

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
The Secretary General of the United Nations,
Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Secretary General of the Durban Review Conference
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour and responsibility to have been elected as President of the Durban Review Conference. I am grateful to all Member States for the support and confidence that they have placed in me by electing me to the post of President of this important conference, a position I accept with humility.

I wish to offer my heartfelt appreciation for this honour and assure you that I will to the best of my ability serve with zeal and commitment in the discharge of the functions and duties assigned to me as the President of the conference. In this undertaking, I know, I can count on your support, cooperation and understanding.

Distinguished delegates,

Today we are gathered here united with the resolve that every human being has a right to live a life of dignity as enshrined in Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.

Victims in all parts of the world continue to suffer daily from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and are looking to us to create a fresh impetus that will lead to the improvement of their lives and to provide relief from the effects of these scourges.

Many of us in this room may have experienced first hand, the plight of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance therefore, we have the collective responsibility to assure this Conference achieves its established objectives.

Distinguished Delegates,

Eight years ago at the Durban World Conference, which I was privileged to attend, we adopted the Durban Declaration and Program of Action which is the most ambitious platform of action ever developed by the international community to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It is my great hope that this conference will be yet another historic and important landmark in the journey towards elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It is only in this way that the essence of the family of the human race, united in diversity, based on equality and respect and with each member of the human race enjoying all his/her inherent indivisible human rights will be realised.

I am aware of the progress that has been achieved in the negotiations to this date. I am confident that through understanding and dialogue we shall be able to complete this process successfully and achieve the goals that have been set for this conference. I salute the consensus on which the entire Preparatory process has been based, and I believe that this spirit of consensus will guide us for the coming five days of our deliberations at this Conference.

I wish to thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary General of this Conference Madam Navanethem Pillay for the support and her commitment to the Durban Review process. I believe you will all join me in thanking Ambassador Najat Al-Hajjaji the Chair of the Preparatory Committee and her bureau for the steadfast efforts they have made in preparing for this Conference. My appreciation also goes to Yury Brychenko for his leadership in the substantive preparations of the draft outcome document for this conference.

In conclusion, I am confident that with all of us knowing how important this conference is for each and every person of the human race and imbued with the spirit of success we are going to have a successful conference.

Thank you for your attention