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**ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE DURBAN
REVIEW CONFERENCE AND OTHER MATTERS**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME
OF ACTION AND PROPOSAL FOR ITS ENHANCEMENT***

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

* Late submission.

** The annex to the present document is circulated as received.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 12	4
II. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION	13 - 45	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	10
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	44 - 45	13
III. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF RELEVANT DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL	46 - 58	13
A. Examining the possible development of a racial equality index	46 - 47	13
B. Updating model anti-discrimination legislation	48 - 49	13
C. High-level seminar on racism and the Internet	50 - 51	14

CONTENTS (*continued*)

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
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	16
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	16
B. Enhancing effectiveness		

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 serious violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law. We must break the cycle of violence and mobilization of fear. A greater effort must be made to find peaceful solutions to conflicts that fully incorporate human rights. Peace is fragile when human rights concerns remain sidelined.

6. Just days after the conclusion of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, followed by other terrorist attacks around the world dramatically changed the climate surrounding the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Increased

10. I recognize that there are some issues on which there is a legitimate divergence of views. In order to find common ground, we need to work together in good faith, with open minds and constructive thinking. To this end, while I understand the concerns behind the concept of defamation of religions, I believe that, from a human rights perspective and in the light of the Durban Review Conference, it should be addressed as an issue of incitement to religious hatred within the existing framework of international human rights law, with reference to articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. I will expand on this issue below.

11. The report contains three sections:

(a) The first describes the implementation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The objective will be to look at all provisions that required action by OHCHR and to provide a detailed review of actions taken in compliance with those provisions;

(b) The second section describes implementation by OHCHR of relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;

(c) The third section outlines my proposals to promote or enhance the implementation of both the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, against the background of the challenges, gaps and lessons outlined in the first and second section of the present report.

12. As Secretary-General of the Durban Review Conference, I am confident that the review process will provide renewed impetus to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action elaborates a comprehensive approach to the achievement of human dignit

related intolerance and to promote equality and non-discrimination. The Anti-Discrimination Unit was established by OHCHR in 2002, within the Research and Right to Development Division. Its initial mandate included substantive and secretariat support to the three follow-up mechanisms of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action: the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; and the Independent Eminent Experts. The Unit has also supported the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards, as well as the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference and its working groups.

14. Paragraph 191 (c) of the Programme of Action invited the High Commissioner to consider in the inclusion of the Unit's mandate, inter alia, the compilation of information on racial discrimination and its development, and on legal and administrative support and advice to victims of racial discrimination and the collection of background materials provided by States, international, regional and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions under the follow-up mechanisms of the Conference.

15. OHCHR has undertaken some activities in this context, particularly in supporting post-Durban mechanisms. Human and financial resources available to the Anti-Discrimination Unit have been very limited and this has negatively affected implementation of this task. In addition, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council resolutions on racism and related issues placed additional demands on the Unit.

16. I make concrete recommendations in chapter III of the present report relating to strengthening the Unit to fulfil its task, which necessarily imply expanded resourcing for the Unit.

B. Independent eminent experts

17. Paragraph 191 (b) of the Programme of Action requested my Office to cooperate with five independent eminent experts, one from each region, appointed by the Secretary-General from among candidates proposed by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, after consultation with the regional groups, to follow the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

18. OHCHR assisted in the nomination of the five experts by the Secretary-General in 2002 and has cooperated closely with the experts substantively and logistically in carrying out their work. The independent eminent experts met in Geneva for two sessions, from 16 to 18 September 2003 and from 21 to 23 February 2005. In their first meeting, they discussed the issue of a racial equality index. After their sessions, the experts submitted their reports to the Commission (E/CN.4/2004/112 and E/CN.4/2005/125).

19. However, the general terms of the expert mechanism's mandate has been an obstacle to its effective functioning. The broadness of the mandate led to diverging expectations on the one hand, while on the other it overlapped with the mandates of the other follow-up mechanisms.

20. My Office has made significant efforts to arrange for the independent eminent experts to meet more regularly as a full group, including through a recent attempt to facilitate their meeting

at a location outside Geneva. However, the optimal functioning of this group has been hampered by the overlapping nature of its mandate with that of the Intergovernmental Working Group and heavy individual engagements of the experts themselves, as well as the resignation of one of the experts.

C. Servicing other Durban follow-up mechanisms

21. My Office has provided support to the Intergovernmental Working Group at six of its sessions. The Working Group has issued recommendations on different aspects of the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, such as racism and education, poverty, health, the Internet, globalization and national action plans.

22. My Office has 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

m e n t i m

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 and the other United Nations human rights treaty bodies.

28. Since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, OHCHR has accelerated its efforts to raise awareness of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and that of other treaty bodies, in particular through publications and information, on dedicated web pages. 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 them 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 official 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, things are going in the right direction in enhancing and strengthening the entire treaty body system. Particular atte

Programme of Action. We have strengthened, for example, the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, which has carried out programmes on minorities and indigenous peoples over

35. Paragraph 205 of the Programme of Action requests the Secretary-General and OHCHR to ensure that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people is provided with all the necessary human, technical and financial resources to fulfil his responsibilities. My Office has given steady and reliable support to the Special Rapporteur, as well as providing consultants and individual experts for essential assistance to his mandate.

36. The overall level of resources provided to support the work of special procedures mandate-holders, however, has not been increased for a considerable number of years despite the increasing demands placed on them by the Human Rights Council. The same 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

40. The focus at the 2001 World Conference against Racism on the plight of migrants reflected the magnitude of the challenges posed by migration and their impact on the enjoyment of human rights in general and the principle of non-discrimination in particular. The issue of migration has taken on a greater prominence in the context of the Durban Review Conference, and this was

J. Reporting role of the Office of the High Commissioner

44. Paragraph 191 (b) of the Programme of Action called for an annual progress report to be presented by the High Commissioner to the Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly, taking into account information and views provided by States, relevant human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other mechanisms of the Commission and international, regional and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions.

45. These reporting requirements have been a heavy burden on OHCHR, and have been of limited value in the struggle against racism and intolerance. In this regard, I recommend that all reporting obligations of the High Commissioner be replaced by one annual report on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which would give enhanced focus and greater visibility to the issue of racism.

III. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF RELEVANT DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

A. Examining the possible development of a racial equality index

46. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/160, requested OHCHR to examine the possibility of the development of a racial equality index, as proposed by the Independent Eminent Experts, and to report thereon to the Commission on Human Rights. The request was repeated by the Commission in its resolution 2004/88.

47. In the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions, OHCHR conducted consultations with stakeholders and convenes, cited

C. High-level seminar on racism and the Internet

discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/HRC/4/WG.3/6). The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 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 above-mentioned 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 ma

incitement. Such an exercise, in my view, would pave the way for enhanced implementation of existing international law on the prohibition of incitement, and provide a technically sound basis for the consideration of additional measures within the context of paragraph 199 of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

IV. PROPOSALS AND FURTHER ACTIONS TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

59. The proposals described below are grounded in the experience of OHCHR since 2001 and are conceived in a holistic manner. They build upon earlier suggestions made by human rights treaty bodies and special procedures.

A. Creation of an observatory on racism with wider scope than the database provided for under the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

60. As already elaborated in the present report (see chapter II), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action recommends that OHCHR create a database containing information, inter alia, on practical means to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Racial discrimination is a particularly pernicious human rights violation because of the difficulty in detecting and proving it, hence the need for well-developed information gathering and analytical capacities that go beyond a collection of best practices. Such are the capacities I would like to see developed within my Office under the rubric of an observatory.

61. I envision the observatory as having the capacities outlined below. These would be refined through consultations with partners within and outside the United Nations system:

(a) Receive information from States, human rights treaty bodies, special procedures, United Nations entities, national human rights institutions, victims' groups and non-governmental organizations as well as relevant regional and international organizations, and the process of the universal periodic review;

(b) Compile and analyse trends in and manifestations of racism as well as legislation, policies, programmes and institutions to address them;

(c) Transmit information on racism, and related intolerance and steps to address them to the intergovernmental follow-up mechanisms of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the universal periodic review, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and relevant special procedures;

(d) Provide information to States with respect to the formulation and implementation of legislation and national action plans and the establishment and operation of institutions in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(e) Provide needs assessment support and other expertise for technical cooperation programmes;

(f) Link with national focal points to ensure the flow of information.

62. The observatory can only fulfil its purpose if all stakeholders are committed to providing information, including statistics, legislation, policies, programmes and case law.

63. To date, the Anti-Discrimination Unit has relied predominantly on information provided by States. The observatory, which would enhance the Anti-Discrimination Unit, would go beyond official sources and make use of other reliable sources, such as non-governmental organizations, international organizations, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and research and academic institutions, which would provide empirical information about different dimensions of racist phenomena at the global level.

64. With the objective of ensuring complementarity and synergies, the proposed observatory would interact with other processes and mechanisms undertaken or supported by OHCHR in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the special procedures, in particular the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the intergovernmental follow-up mechanisms established by the 2001 World Conference against Racism. The mutually reinforcing nature of these processes will depend on the flow of credible information and a sound analysis of racism.

B. Enhancing effectiveness and synergies of Durban follow-up mechanisms

65. It is crucial that the follow-up mechanisms established by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action - the Intergovernmental Working Group, the Independent Eminent Experts and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent - are synchronized to provide more effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. I propose consolidation of the Durban follow-up mechanisms in the Intergovernmental Working Group. This would allow the current Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to continue its work at a more effective level by concentrating on field visits, which would constitute its main added value. In addition, the experts on people of African descent would report to the Intergovernmental Working Group. Also, the expertise of the Independent Eminent Experts could be drawn on by the Intergovernmental Working Group.

66. In parallel with this restructuring, I will take the lead in encouraging the mainstreaming of the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in the work of all relevant United Nations entities. The World Summit of 2005 gave a clear endorsement to human rights mainstreaming and to my leadership in system-wide consultations to coordinate and make recommendations to the United Nations system. Through high-level consultations, I will make the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action a standing agenda item, to be followed up at the working level by a task force, which would annually brief the Intergovernmental Working Group. The establishment of the task force will take us one step further in realizing the vision proclaimed by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit Outcome to support mainstreaming human rights as well as closer cooperation between OHCHR and other United Nations bodies in responding to the broad range of human rights challenges facing the international community.

C. Anti-racism technical cooperation programmes

67. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action places the primary responsibility for implementation on States. Paragraph 196 of the Programme of Action calls on OHCHR to develop programmes which can be implemented in countries, while paragraph 197 invites States to fund the development by OHCHR of specific technical cooperation projects aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

68. My Office wishes to play a greater role in the provision and delivery of effective services to help States fulfil their commitments under the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. On the basis of information collected through the observatory (see paragraphs 60-64 above), a technical cooperation programme could be conceived and implemented to build national capacity to confront racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and help States develop national action plans against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

69. The role of victims' groups in the development of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action . To assist States

guidelines. The proposed observatory would provide OHCHR with the capacity to take into account the most effective elements of anti-discrimination legislation around the world, the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as good practices, including those gathered through the universal periodic review.

74. I also wish to go beyond provision of legislative assistance to develop guidelines for States on remedies for racism and related intolerance, which should be available at the national level, with particular emphasis on access to justice, legal assistance, burden of proof and special measures with a view to helping to bring about tangible improvements in the daily lives of the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

E. Development of equal opportunity and non-discrimination indicators

75. Encouraged by human rights treaty bodies, OHCHR is also developing equal opportunity and non-discrimination indicators, which would serve as tools for States and other stakeholders to evaluate and monitor their own progress in implementing anti-discrimination policies at the national level so that implementation can be enhanced. I plan to make equal opportunity and non-discrimination indicators a priority of my Office's work. These indicators would not be a tool for a ranking of the level of implementation by Member States; rather, they would allow States to assess the differential access to the enjoyment of rights, namely inequalities in the enjoyment of rights. For these purposes, the indicators would refer to the essential dimensions of human rights incorporated in international human rights instruments, translating each category of rights into specific quantitative measures. OHCHR would develop a model set of indicators, which could then be adapted to the national context by States.

victims of racial discrimination and the collection of background materials, and paragraph 195, which invites OHCHR, in consultation with UNESCO, and non-governmental organizations active in the field, to encourage research activities aimed at collecting, maintaining and adapting the technical, scientific, educational and information materials produced around the world to fight racism. The report would essentially draw on the information gathered by the proposed observatory on racism and should include a section on good practices, especially in confronting new manifestations of racism. With adequate empirical data, the proposed annual report and observatory on racism would be important resources for States in their efforts to combat racism. The annual report would also serve as an important awareness-raising and advocacy tool.

G. Strengthening the Anti-Discrimination Unit

78. The implementation of the mandate given to the Anti-Discrimination Unit as well as additional tasks that are likely to arise from the Durban Review Conference will mean that the Unit's capacity should be significantly enhanced. With adequate additional resources, I intend to strengthen the structure and performance of the Unit in line with the proposals outlined above.

H. Enhanced action at the national level

79. The Durban Review Conference is a timely opportunity for States to renew their commitment to the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In my view, there are a number of areas which require priority attention, namely timely reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, an increase in the number of declarations under article 14 of the International C

V. CONCLUSIONS

81. I have submitted the proposals above as concrete and comprehensive steps to enhance the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. They 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.

82. Despite the complexity of some of the issues under consideration in the review process, I believe the divergence of views is enriching and bridgeable. The Durban Review Conference and its outcome must unite rather than divide us, and spur us into action to breathe new life into the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. We owe this its ou83]TJ11ITD.00 D

ANNEX

[ENGLISH ONLY]

**COMBATING RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND
RELATED INTOLERANCE: AN OVERVIEWrD**

Technical cooperation

7. OHCHR, through its various technical cooperation activities, has supported initiatives related to implementation of the DDPA. This has meant Office-wide engagement with frequent partnership arrangements. The following section highlights some of the initiatives which the Office has undertaken since the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was held in 2001.

National action plans

8. 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.^a OHCHR is finalizing the Guidelines on National Action Plans against Racism and Racial Discrimination.

9. 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

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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

13. 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

^a http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/plan_actions/index.htm.

regional or country projects and in connection with the implementation of the United Nations

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

17. The following provides a synopsis of some of the seminars and workshops which OHCHR has been a contributor to:

2001

- OHCHR and the Joint United Nations Prog

- 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 (16-18 September)

2003

- A joint workshop convened by OHCHR and UNESCO to develop a publication to combat racism and to foster tolerance was held in Paris, (19-20 February)
- 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 (February); the UNESCO consultations for the African region on follow-up to the World Conference in Dakar (February); and the European region in Moscow (March)
- In 2003, OHCHR organized, in Geneva, a panel discussion entitled “Taking steps against racism” which was convened to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March)
- 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 (May)
- OHCHR organized, in Geneva, an interagency meeting to inform other agencies about World Conference follow-up initiatives and to discuss future joint activities (May)
- OHCHR and the ILO organized a panel discussion during the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommission 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)
- 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)
- OHCHR, in cooperation with the Government of Belgium, organized in Brussels, 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

- 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)

2005

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by Ms. Isil Gachet, Executive Secretary to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. About twenty experts and practitioners, representatives of United Nations agencies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions participated

- My Office strengthened its extensive training programme exclusively dedicated to empowering indigenous and minority representatives. Since Durban 2001, the indigenous fellowship programme has been reinforced with the introduction of three additional linguistic components (Spanish, French and Russian). In addition, since 2005 a new fellowship programme for minorities was established in English and Arabic. The indigenous and minority fellowship programmes play a significant role in reinforcing the capacity of trained fellows to better promote and protect the rights of their communities by engaging with existing human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, the universal periodic review, treaty bodies especially CERD, and special procedures. So,

- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- OHCHR organized a consultation in Geneva with OHCHR field presences to discuss strategies for improving sensitization and engagement of stakeholders in preparations toward the Durban Review Conference of 2009 (27-28 December)
- OHCHR organized a regional expert seminar on the implementation of the DDPA and

- OHCHR, in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, held a high-lev