



BRAZIL

STATEMENT BY H. E. LUIZA BAIROS,

~~MINISTER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF POLICIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF RACIAL~~

~~AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO COMMEMORATE THE
TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND~~

~~PROGRAMME OF ACTION~~

New York, 22 September 2011

~~(Please check against delivery)~~

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

always attached to the Durban process. I dare to say that Brazil goes beyond the political declaration to be adopted today to reaffirm the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its effective implementation.

Ten years later, the reaffirmation of the Durban principles means that our main concern has to do with the impact of our societies' capacity to transform structures of the last decade in action, denigrating ideas and practices that continuously affect the lives of millions of people worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is a multi-racial and multi-ethnic country. Such diversity is part of who we are, as a people, as a Nation. Its realization was never easy. However, from the struggles of the social movements, the government's commitment of inclusion, diversity, and social justice, the Constitution of the State of São Paulo in 2010, and the priority attached to this issue by President Dilma Rousseff.

Brazil attaches great value to the International Year for People of African Descent in 2011. It is a commitment to the fight against racism and racial discrimination. The association will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which is a milestone in the fight against discrimination.

The International Year for People of African Descent in 2011 will be a year of reflection and action within our countries. In light of this, I wish to stress that an effective system of protection against racism and racial discrimination requires improving coordination among human rights institutions, civil society, and the media.

Mr. Chairman,

the fight against racism is a joint endeavor of humanity. It is a fight not to be forsaken. Whatever has been said in this meeting or about this meeting consensual outcome will not belittle the extraordinary achievement of the Durban Conference that made the combat of racism a primary responsibility of the state.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.