

General Assembly
66th Session

22 September 2011

Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the adoption of
the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Mr. Espen Barth Eide
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr/Madame Chair,

The concept of non-discrimination lies at the heart of human rights. Promoting non-discrimination is one of the purposes of the UN, stated in article 1 of the Charter.

Norway supported the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. We engaged actively to secure a good follow-up of the decisions made in Durban through the Outcome Document adopted in the Review Conference in Geneva in 2009. We are fully committed to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

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Racism and xenophobia is more than intolerance and discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin.

Discrimination is equally unfair when it targets people because of their religious belief, their

sexual orientation

Discrimination feeds mistrust, resentment, violence, crime and insecurity.

One of the most dangerous forms of discrimination is the worst cases – run-down communities, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Today, exactly two months ago, on 22 July, Norway experienced a shocking

77 people were killed and many more were wounded. The attacks appear to be politically fuelled by hate

22 July represents an attack on Norway, both on the values of equality, non-discrimination and other fundamental human rights.

All responses to this is to intensify our resolve to make Norwegian society more inclusive.

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms Chair,

In our Action Plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Our strategy highlights the following:

- It is imperative to combat both prejudices and racial discrimination that is based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, and other characteristics.
- It is equally important to create an inclusive learning environment in kindergartens and schools that is free of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that reflects the diversity of the population.
- It is more important than ever to confront prejudices and stereotypes of cultural and religious intolerance in the public domain.

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms Chair,

The only effective way to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is that we constantly insist on and require unconditional respect for the human dignity and the human rights for every person, everywhere and at all times.

Thank you