

**MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE
RECOMMENDS OUTCOME DOCUMENT TO PLENARY FOR ADOPTION**

The Main Committee of the Durban Review Conference met this afternoon, approved the text of the draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, and recommended it to the plenary of the Durban Review Conference for final adoption.

The Main Committee was established on 20 April by the Conference, pursuant to rule 47 of the rules of procedure. During its briefing meeting, the Main Committee elected three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Since the Review Conference had received from the Preparatory Committee a thoroughly negotiated and fully-balanced text acceptable to all parties, the President of the Durban Review Conference had proposed that this text should be forwarded directly to the Main Committee, which in turn would recommend it to the plenary of the Conference for adoption. The Committee thus approved the text of the draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference (A/CONF.211/PC.4/10), and recommended it to the plenary of the Durban Review Conference for final adoption this afternoon.

Adel Shaltut (Libya), following the adoption of the draft outcome document, said the document in its current form did not respond to the aspirations of Libya, as it did not refer to the sufferings of the Palestinian people under occupation, the Gaza blockade, and the non-respect of United Nations resolutions. Libya wished to reiterate that the final outcome document should contain a paragraph condemning the practices of the Israeli authorities, in particular in the Gaza Strip.

Draft Outcome Document

The draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, in its first section on review of progress and assessment of implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by all stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels, including the assessment of contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, among other things: takes note of the efforts undertaken at all levels and welcomes the progress achieved since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to implement its provisions; emphasises the need to address with greater resolve and political will all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the world, including all those under foreign occupation; reiterates that poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and contribute to the persistence of racist attitudes and practices which in turn generate more poverty; reaffirms the responsibility of Governments for safeguarding and protecting the rights of individuals within their jurisdiction against crimes perpetrated by racist or xenophobic individuals or groups or agents of the State; condemns legislation, policies and practices based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance which are incompatible with democracy, transparent and accountable governance; deplores the global rise and number of incidents of racial or religious intolerance and violence, including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and anti-Arabism manifested in particular by the derogatory stereotyping and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief; and in this regard urges all the UN Member States to implement paragraph 150 of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; stresses the need to increase appropriate preventive measures to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, and emphasizes the important role that Governments, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions, the media, non-governmental organizations and civil society can play in developing such measures; and reaffirms its call upon States to implement all commitments resulting from international and regional conferences in which they participated, and to formulate national policies and action plans to prevent, combat, and eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In its second section on assessment of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to enhance them, the draft outcome document: acknowledges the need to enhance further the effectiveness of the mechanisms dealing with or addressing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, with a view to achieving better synergy, coordination, coherence and complementarity in their work; and reaffirms its support for the mandate of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, who acts, *inter alia*, as an early warning mechanism to prevent potential situations that could result in genocide.

In its third section on the promotion of the universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and proper consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the draft outcome document says the Conference: renews in this context its call to States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of high priority; urges States parties to the Convention to withdraw reservations contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention and to consider withdrawing other reservations; and emphasises the importance of setting up effective national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that all appropriate steps are taken to follow up on the concluding observations and general recommendations of the Committee.

In its fourth section, on identification and sharing of best practices achieved at the national, regional and international levels in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the draft outcome document: recommends that examples of best practices provided for by Governments, regional and international organizations and other stakeholders be placed on the website of the OHCHR and linked to the section on the outcome of Durban Review Conference, with a view to their adaptation and replication.

In its fifth section, on identification of further concrete measures and initiatives at all levels for combating and eliminating all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in order to foster the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to address challenges and impediments hereto, including in light of developments since its adoption in 2001, the outcome document: calls on States to undertake effective media campaigns to enhance the struggle against all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; calls on States to take effective, tangible and comprehensive measures to prevent, combat and eradicate all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; calls on States to combat impunity for acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to secure expeditious access to justice, and to provide fair and adequate redress for victims; urges States to punish violent, racist and xenophobic activities by groups that are based on neo-Nazi, neo-Fascist and other violent national ideologies; urges States to combat impunity for crimes of genocide in accordance with international law, and in this context urges States to cooperate with international criminal; urges States to bolster measures to eliminate the barriers and to broaden access to opportunities for greater and more meaningful participation by people of African and Asian descent, indigenous peoples and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres of society, and to grant special attention to the situation of women, in particular their practical incorporation into the labour market and in income and employment-generation programmes; urges States to prevent manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at country border entry areas, in particular *vis-à-vis* immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and in this context encourages States to formulate and implement training programmes for law enforcement, immigration and border officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing them to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; urges States to take measures to combat the persistence of xenophobic attitudes towards and negative stereotyping of non-citizens, including by politicians, law enforcement and immigration officials and in the media, that have led to xenophobic violence, killings and the targeting of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers; urges States to step up their efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to protect the human rights of internally displaced persons; urges States to enact and implement legislation, and to devise, enforce, and strengthen national, regional and global action plans that integrate a human rights perspective, in particular accounting for gender and age, to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, particularly of women and children and other vulnerable groups; and urges all States that have not developed and/or implemented national action plans to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to elaborate such plans and monitor their implementation in

consultation with relevant stakeholders, including in particular national human rights institutions and civil society.
