



E– Bulletin for NGOs on the Durban Review Conference

This new series of E-bulletins is issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide regular updates and guidance for NGOs in the lead up to the Durban Review Conference, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009.

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In 2001, the United Nations organized the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa. The conference was attended by more than 10,000 people from all regions of the world and led to the adoption by consensus of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which to date is the most important framework in the combat against racism and racial discrimination. In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 61/49, decided to convene in 2009 a Review Conference on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and requested the Human Rights Council to undertake preparation for the Conference.

IMPORTANT

Message from the Chair of the Bureau of Preparatory Committee

"At its meeting on 1 April 2009, the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference decided that 2 to 4 representatives of NGOs (representing the civil society community) could be given the floor for general statements at the end of the general segment and before the Conference begins its general debate on agenda item 9 (" Issues arising from the objectives of the Conference"). The Bureau decided further that 16 April 2009 would be the deadline for NGOs to come up with their proposals with regard to those few organisations that would take the floor on their behalf. The Bureau will meet before the Review Conference to consider again the matter ."

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