



## 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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### **Background**

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 (<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/Durban.doc>) 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.

### **1. Travel support for NGOs to attend the Durban Review Conference**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will provide assistance to selected NGOs to participate in the Durban Review Conference. This assistance will take the form of **pre-paid return airline tickets for one representative of each selected NGO in economy class by the most direct available route**. Those NGOs that are interested in applying for this assistance should complete the **application form** that is found on the Durban Review Conference web site at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/DurbanReview/ngo.htm>.

The selection of NGOs that will receive this assistance will be based on a transparent process that will ensure a fair representation of all regions. **NGOs that are eligible to apply for assistance must meet the following criteria:**

- The NGO must be accredited to the Durban Review process.
- The NGO must represent one of the victim groups identified in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).
- The NGO must be able to show how it has followed-up upon the implementation of the DDPA.

Priority will be given to NGOs operating at the regional, national and grass-roots level. NGOs based, or that have a permanent presence, in Geneva will not be considered for assistance.

The **deadline for receiving applications is 15 December 2008** and NGOs are encouraged to send their completed applications as soon as possible by email to [NGODurbanRevConf@ohchr.org](mailto:NGODurbanRevConf@ohchr.org) or by fax at +41 22 928 90 50.

A letter informing selected NGOs that they will be receiving travel assistance will be sent out by 1 March 2009. When completing the application form, NGOs are requested to pay particular attention to ensuring that copies of all the required documentation are included, as incomplete or inaccurate applications will not be considered. If you have any questions regarding the assistance to be provided or on how to fill out the application form, please contact us at the following email address: [NGODurbanRevConf@ohchr.org](mailto:NGODurbanRevConf@ohchr.org).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights hopes that the assistance it is able to provide to selected NGOs will facilitate the valuable contribution of NGOs to the Durban Review Conference.

## **2. Extended Accreditation Deadline for Review Conference**

At its second substantive session, the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Durban Review Conference decided to hold a third substantive session from 15 to 17 April 2009. Therefore, the **deadline for receiving new NGO applications for accreditation to the Durban Review Conference has been extended to 10 February 2009**. Those NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, those accredited to WCAR, and those accredited by the Review Conference Preparatory Committee are not required to take further action. NGOs that applied for accreditation after the original deadline had elapsed (1 August 2008) are kindly requested to resubmit their applications.

NGO queries, as well as NGO accreditation requests to participate in the up-coming PrepCom session, should be sent by email to [NGODurbanRevConf@ohchr.org](mailto:NGODurbanRevConf@ohchr.org) or by fax at +41 22 928 90 50.

### **3. Next Steps in the Preparatory Process and Related Processes**

#### **3.1 Organizational Meeting of the Inter-sessional Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group, 27 November 2008**

As mentioned in the previous issue of the e-bulletin, the **Inter-sessional Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group** established by the PrepCom will convene for its organizational meeting on 27 November 2008. This Working Group is tasked with continuing and finalizing the process of negotiations on, and the drafting of, what will become the draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference on the basis of the compilation of proposals resulting from the work of the second substantive session of the PrepCom and any further contributions. It is to report thereon to the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee (15-17 April 2009). Two more sessions of this working group are envisaged from 19 to 23 January 2009 and from 6 to 9 April 2009 (*these dates may be subject to change*).

Modalities for NGO participation at the meetings of the Inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental working group are the same as those for the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference. NGOs may **make statements as observers** at appropriate moments to be determined by the Chair of the meeting but may not participate directly in the negotiation process. **Written contributions** by NGOs may be **submitted to the Secretariat** prior to or during the meeting. Participation at the meetings of the Working Group is open to NGOs that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, those that participated at the World Conference against Racism held in 2001 as well as those that have been accredited by the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference.

For further information on NGO participation, please contact the Secretariat at:

Anti-Discrimination Unit  
Tel: +41 22 928 9208  
Fax: +41 22 928 90 50  
E-mail: [adusecretariat@ohchr.org](mailto:adusecretariat@ohchr.org)

#### **3.2 Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action: Sixth Session**

In the lead up to the Durban Review Conference, under decision PC.1/10 of the Preparatory Committee at its first session (see A/62/375) and Human Rights Council resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006, the Intergovernmental Working Group along with other mechanisms was requested to “assist the Preparatory Committee by undertaking review and submitting recommendations, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as contributions to the outcome of the Review Conference.”

***a. Overview of the first part of the sixth session, 21 January to 1 February 2008***

During the first part of its sixth session which took place from 21 January to 1 February 2008, the Intergovernmental Working Group discussed among other things item 3 of its agenda, entitled “Overview of recommendations as part of contribution to the Durban Review Conference.”

The preparation of the contribution of the Intergovernmental Working Group was undertaken on the basis of documentation containing the recommendations and conclusions the Working Group adopted by consensus throughout its five sessions (from 2003 to 2007). The Intergovernmental Working Group agreed not to engage in a process of renegotiation of its conclusions and recommendations.

The review of previous recommendations resulted in the adoption of the document entitled: “Compilation of conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,” (A.CONF.211.PC.2.7) which was submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference as part of the Intergovernmental Working Group's contribution.

A more comprehensive note produced by the Secretariat on the work of the Working Group is available at:

[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/docs/information\\_note.doc](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/docs/information_note.doc)

***b. Information on the second part of the sixth session***

The dates for the reconvened sixth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group have yet to be confirmed. Updated information will be provided in the next E-bulletin. Further information in relation to the Intergovernmental Working Group may be found at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/index.htm>

As part of the tasks entrusted to the Intergovernmental Working Group was the preparation of complementary international standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects. Subsequently an Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary International Standards was established. For information on its work and its meeting times please refer to:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/AdHocCommittee.htm>

For further inquiries on the Durban Review Conference 2009, please contact:

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