

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENEVA

10<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate under Agenda item 9: Racism, racial discrimination,  
xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and  
implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Intervention by India

Mr. President,

The Indian delegation is pleased to participate in the discussion on the agenda item relating to racism and racial discrimination, especially during the current session, coming as it does at a time which is hardly a month away from the Durban Review Conference.

02. The 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance was a milestone in the struggle against the worst forms of inequality and non-discrimination. The opportunity offered by the Durban Review Conference to assess the implementation of the Durban Declaration and the Programme of Action; to identify gaps and deficits in implementation, and to agree upon policies and measures to further advance the implementation of the outcome of the 2001 Conference is, therefore, welcome. This is particularly so, as the manifestations of some forms of racial intolerance and xenophobia have become more pronounced in the period since Durban 2001.

03. We would like to express our appreciation to the Chairperson/Rapporteur of the Inter-Sessional Working Group for his dedication, perseverance and tireless efforts in preparing the new text of the draft outcome document. We believe that the new draft provides a very good basis for advancing the negotiations and achieving a balanced outcome. We express our readiness to work with other delegations constructively towards an outcome that commands the broadest possible support of the general membership of the United Nations. India reaffirms its pledge to cooperate with other delegations in ensuring the success of the Durban Review Conference, as we believe that it will reiterate the determination of the international community to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance. We call upon all delegations to make full and effective use of the few intervening weeks before the conference and to demonstrate flexibility and compromise, with a view to resolving all outstanding differences. We need to send out a clear, united and strong message that would reinforce the agreements of the 2001 Durban outcome and to adopt a forward-looking, action-oriented outcome of the Durban Review Conference next month.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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