

28/8/07
NIGERIA

**Statement of Nigeria on the Objectives of the
Durban Review Conference**
(28 August 2007)

Madam President,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate you and the members of the bureau, on your election. I have no doubt that with your vast experience in negotiation and tested leadership skills, this process will be steered to a successful conclusion. I want to assure you of the support of my delegation.

In 2001, the international community adopted, at Durban, the declaration and programme of action as a blueprint for addressing issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The vision is so profound in its scope and in conformity with the fundamental premise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights based on equality, dignity, freedom and rights of all human beings. While the DDPA had achieved certain expected objectives, its overall implementation is inherently hindered by certain distortions unforeseen at its adoption, arising from emerging issues that flagrantly violated the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Signature

Madam President,

We must admit that the use of stereotypes and certain myths to impugn on the identity, integrity, culture and religious belief have coloured and indeed elevated the intensity of racism to a new level. It has also been observed that governments sometimes take decisions that deny basic rights to their nationals and nationals from other countries, without regard to due process, in pursuit of larger objectives of protecting and maintaining international law and order or in combating terrorism. This in effect, has led to the institutionalization of structural, cultural and psychological aspects of racism, which overall contributes to the deep-seated mistrust between peoples and among countries.