



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN

ON BEHALF OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

AT THE

FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE  
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

Geneva,  
21 April 2008

**Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan, Pakistan's Permanent Representative,  
on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, at the First Substantive  
session of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference,  
Geneva, 21 April 2008**

Madam Chairperson,

I am making this statement on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

We welcome the statements made by you and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which have put the issues for this segment of the PrepCom in their right perspective.

We also thank members of the Bureau for their hard work and constructive spirit to find agreed solutions.

As we start our work, we must not lose sight of our core objective. We have to conduct a review of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in 2001. To be even more specific, we have to look at the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

This Conference would not and should not turn into an anti-Semitism exercise. Doing so would be a clear violation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

While reviewing implementation of the decisions taken at the first World Conference against Racism, it is necessary to take into account contemporary forms of xenophobia and related intolerance. Such instances relate to incitement to racial and religious hatred including Islamophobia, Christianophobia and discrimination against other faiths.

We must deliberate collectively to address all forms of intolerance in any part of the world, whomsoever they target, irrespective of their race, colour or religion, and on whatever basis such practices are justified.

We believe that states must choose the content of the Review Conference with responsibility, even as they exercise their full right to freedom of expression. So should NGOs.

We would now turn to three issues of practical nature:

*One*, the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 62/220 provides the necessary funding for the Conference.

*Second*, to our deep regret, the High Commissioner will leave us in June. We must look for a Secretary General who has the same stature and commitment in the field of human rights.

*Third*, widest possible NGO participation in the Review Conference should be ensured, while staying close to the ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31

Some countries and NGOs are campaigning against the Review Conference. There are apprehensions that this Conference will be a repeat of the 2001 Conference. We believe it is important that all countries should be on board. All countries should participate. Racism, xenophobia (in all forms and manifestations), and related intolerance are contemporary issues. The political will to combat them should not sag.

We believe that the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Secretary General should intercede to assuage concerns and resolve differences. The United Nations is all about building bridges and bringing nations together. All sides must be heard and then we should move forward to fight the scourge of racism effectively.

The Human Rights Council should act as a catalyst for consensus on the Durban Review Conference. In the past two years, the Council has successfully and consensually finalized the institution building package. It has also started conduct of the Universal Periodic Review with admirable skill. The valuable lessons learnt and practices established during the Council's work can be used to forge agreement on the content of the Durban Review Conference.

The OIC stands ready to work with all its partners.

I thank you.