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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR REZLAN ISHAR JENIE  
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OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
INDONESIA  
BEFORE THE  
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE  
ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA  
AND RELATED INTOLERANCE**

GENEVA, 21 APRIL 2009

Mr. President,  
Madam High Commissioner,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Indonesia, allow me to begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election, as well as the members of the Bureau. We are confident that under your able guidance and with your vast experience we will achieve substantive results in our work.

The role of the High Commissioner as the Secretary General of this Review Conference is also a crucial one. We thank her for the tireless efforts she has invested in facilitating the negotiating process in order to ensure the success of the Conference.

Mr. President,

History is replete with terrible wrongs inflicted through lack of respect for the equality of human beings, manifested through colonialism, wars of conquest, slavery, apartheid, genocide and ethnic cleansing, and other atrocities.

The contemporary effects of these past practices and policies have enduring consequences for the peoples of African and Asian descent. Poverty,

underdevelopment, marginalization and socio-economic exclusion, despite the much-expected merits of globalization, have got much worse in developing countries in recent years. As a result, a large fraction of the world's population is denied its human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms.

This Review Conference (DRC) is being convened at a time of sweeping global change and transition. We note that although there has undoubtedly been progress since 2001, there are still persistent challenges that we need to overcome together in order to ensure that the hopes and achievements of the World Conference continue to be fulfilled.

During those years, a disturbing trend has emerged, among others in the increase of negative stereotyping, a tendency to associate a certain religion with terrorism, and Islamophobia. This worldwide trend calls for stronger concerted action. This includes the use of new tools to deal with substantive gaps in the existing international instruments to combat all forms of contemporary racism, including incitement to racial and religious hatred.

We continue to be concerned with the situation of the Palestinian people in facing many discriminatory policies and practices of the occupying power.

Mr. President,

We can accept the draft outcome document which has been adopted *ad referendum* on the Third Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee. As the High Commissioner highlighted in her opening statement yesterday, this text was the fruit of painstaking and intense negotiations involving many compromises and a great deal of flexibility and goodwill from all parties, especially countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Hence, we are disappointed that some of our partners who are championing human rights, chose not to participate in this meeting. We also hope that this draft will allow us to initiate further concrete steps towards implementation of the DDPA.

Moreover, Indonesia attaches great importance to this Conference as it also acknowledges the importance of analysis of the sources, causes and forms of new and contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We hope that appropriate response measures by the international community and the UN will be further enhanced for the sake of our common concrete agenda for all the world's peoples.

We therefore would like to encourage the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of slavery, its causes and consequences to intensify his studies on this issue and to contribute further to the development of this important agenda.

We are also heartened that the draft outcome acknowledges the importance of promoting and protecting migrant workers and their families. Of particular importance to us is the granting of access to transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers to migrant workers in the domestic sector. The document also stresses that such instruments should not punish migrant workers, and call on States to promptly investigate and punish all abuses, including ill-treatment, and avoid discriminatory policies and practices.

Mr. President,

As a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society, Indonesia takes pride in its mosaic of peoples, which has evolved from our country's long history of tolerance and solidarity. We do not claim to be perfect and have experienced some troubles and tribulations in the past. However, we have drawn the lessons from these difficult times for the sake of our national unity.

The Government of Indonesia is addressing the root causes of domestic conflicts arising from racial, ethnic or religious differences by strengthening

legislative, judicial, regulatory, administrative and public education measures, including human rights education and training, under the framework of the Indonesian National Plan of Action on Human Rights. One of our achievements in the legislative area is the enactment and implementation of Law No. 40/2008 on the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, passed on 10 November 2008.

In this context, I would like to mention that our efforts in our part of the world to promote regional dialogue and cooperation are continuing toward a fair and just solution to the issue of irregular movement of people. Last week, on 14-15 April, Indonesia hosted the third Bali Regional Ministerial Conference (BRMC) on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and Related Transnational Crimes, in Bali. The conference adopted a Co-Chairs' Statement presented by the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Australia at the BRMC which, *inter alia*, agreed on the importance of a victim-centered approach to law enforcement, especially in relation to trafficking in persons. Indeed, it is hoped that through such an approach, multiple victimization can be avoided through a concrete translation of the noble theme of the DRC, "United against racism: dignity and justice for all".

In conclusion, Mr. President, Indonesia shall work closely with you and all other delegations to ensure that the lofty ideals of this Review Conference and the DDPA are duly implemented.

Thank you.