

NAM Statement
General Debate - Item 9
Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
The 16th session of the Human Rights Council
(22nd of March 2011)

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the NAM.

The NAM reaffirms the validity of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), as well as the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference adopted in 2009 by consensus, as the instructive documents which constitute a solid foundation for the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The NAM condemns all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the platforms and activities related thereto, which constitute serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. There is an urgent need to address with greater resolve and political will this issue, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the world, including in areas living under foreign occupation. The commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the DDPA this year provides an excellent and timely opportunity for the international community to reaffirm the validity of the declaration which represents a solid foundation on the struggle against racism, social discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

We express dismay at instances of racial, religious and cultural prejudices, intolerance and discrimination, undermining the enjoyment of all human rights, of particular importance to the NAM, are acts of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, and racial, religious and sectarian profiling which represent affronts to human dignity and equality, and which should not be condoned by any means. Respect for human rights and the promotion of understanding and tolerance by governments as well as between and among different groups of people are central to the promotion and protection of human rights.

The NAM expresses its serious concern at the resurgence of contemporary forms of manifestations of racism, racial discrimination,

xenophobia and related intolerance in various parts of the world. In this context, one of the most common contemporary forms is the denigration of religions wrongly justified on the ground of the right to freedom of expression. We would like to remind that no right is absolute and that the exercise of all rights carries with it special duties and responsibilities. We remind all sides in this regard of the content of articles 19 and 20 of ICCPR, and of the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

We look forward to the series of expert workshops to be organized by OHCHR, especially within the current year where we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the DDPA, so as to attain a better understanding of the legislative patterns, judicial practices and national policies in the different regions of the world with regard to the concept of incitement to hatred, in order to assess the level of implementation of the prohibition of incitement, as stipulated in article 20 of the ICCPR. It is our conviction that these workshops will offer guidance on how to address to racial and religious hatred in increasingly multicultural societies. These workshops will also help the international community to assess and identify the existing gaps, whether normative ones or those related to implementation, and thus contribute to the broader efforts aimed at rendering the international legal instruments more responsive to the emerging trends that have deleterious impacts on the enjoyment of human rights worldwide

In closing, the NAM calls on all States, including those that did not participate at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in 2001, as well as the Durban Review Conference, to implement all the provisions of the DDPA and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, unite behind the fight against the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We hope that all regional and political groupings re-engage in good faith in all Durban follow-up mechanisms.

I thank you.