



CHAIR OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

STATEMENT OF H.E. MR. JUAN ANTONIO FERNANDEZ,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CUBA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT

(Check against delivery)

Geneva, 27 AUGUST 2007

Mme. Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

First of all, allow me to congratulate you, and express my deepest satisfaction, for your election as a Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference. I am sure that under your wise leadership and with your rich experience, the work of this Preparatory Committee would come to a success. Let me assure you the full support of NAM in your endeavours.

Mme. Chair,

The Non-Aligned Movement has historically maintained a clear and unequivocal principled position against all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and any kind of related intolerance.

In the latest Summit of the Non Aligned Movement, held in Havana in September 2006, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States reaffirmed once again their condemnation of all forms 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 and impede equal opportunity.

At the same time, they expressed dismay at instances of religious and cultural prejudices, misunderstanding, intolerance and discrimination on the basis of religion or beliefs, and called for the full respect of cultural and religious diversity.

In recalling the Movement's opposition to all those manifestations, the NAM also stressed its serious concern on the resurgence of contemporary forms of such abhorrent crimes in various parts of the world.

Mme. Chair,

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, 2001, became a milestone in the struggle for equal rights among all human beings.

The effective implementation of the Durban's agreements poses a major challenge; furthermore, it is also a debt owed to million of victims of these abominable practices through history.

NAM recognises the ongoing progress made by States at the national, regional and international levels on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. However, there are still a lot to be done. In this regard, we support the ongoing process for the elaboration of the complementary standards, and call for its completion on a priority basis.

Mme. Chair,

We are witness to the worrisome re-emergence and consolidation of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in various parts of the world.

The establishment of associations and political parties, with a racist platform, the social exclusion and marginalisation of the indigenous peoples, minorities and migrants, the proliferation of discriminatory migration laws and policies, and the passing of anti-terrorist legislation that provide broad spaces to arbitrariness and the exercise of public authority on discriminatory and xenophobic basis, continue to be a matter of our concern.

In this connection, NAM considers the upcoming Durban Review Conference should be concentrated on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, ^{INCLUDING} ~~as well as on~~ further actions, initiatives and practical solutions for combating all the contemporary scourges of racism, as stated in the resolution 3/2 adopted by the Human Rights Council.

To this end, sufficient budgetary allocations must be provided for the whole preparatory process, including for the national and regional initiatives, as well as for the Conference itself.

It is crucial that the legal uncertainty around the competency of the Human Rights Council to report directly to the General Assembly be addressed as a matter of priority. The Non-Aligned Movement is ready to take the necessary steps to ensure that this ambiguity is dealt with in an optimum manner.

I thank you, Mme. Chair.