



PORTUGAL 2007

**Preparatory Committee
of the Durban Review Conference
Organizational session
27-31 August 2007**

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Francisco Xavier Esteves
Permanent Representative of Portugal**

on behalf of the European Union

**EU STATEMENT
Item 5
(Objectives of the Review Conference)**

Geneva, 27 August 2007

Check against delivery

Durban PrepCom Organization Session (27-31.8.2007)

EU Statement – item 5 (Objectives of the Review Conference)

Madam President,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

As I already pointed out in my previous statement, the EU voted in favour of GA resolution 61/149 and is firmly committed to the success of the Review Conference on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

OP33 of the referred resolution clearly states what is the objective of the Conference: to review the implementation of the Durban DPA. Two conclusions can be drawn from this: The first one is that the Conference will not reopen, in any way, what was agreed in Durban. The second one is that the Conference will not address issues outside the context of the implementation of the Durban DPA.

How can the Conference address, in the most effective and complete way, the review of the implementation of the Durban DPA? The EU would like to present some ideas on this matter:

The review must be based on a transparent and inclusive evaluation of the implementation, by all stakeholders, of the Durban DPA. To that end, we propose that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights compiles all operational recommendations of the DPA and prepares a questionnaire on their implementation to be sent to all the stakeholders recognized by the DPA. When answering, stakeholders should identify what they have implemented, what they have implemented partially and what they have not been able to implement. Regarding the implemented recommendations, stakeholders should also identify the difficulties they faced in doing so and the concrete results achieved for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It would be equally interesting to learn about the challenges faced in trying to implement other recommendations not realised so far.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

On the basis of the replies to the questionnaire, the Conference would make an overall assessment on which operational elements of the Durban DPA have been implemented, which have not been implemented and which have to be better implemented. The Conference would also identify the concrete results achieved and the main challenges faced by stakeholders in implementing these elements. On the basis of these evaluations, the Conference should also identify best practices as well as additional and innovative measures in implementing the Durban DPA that can be followed by all.

The Conference should also make an assessment of the work of the United Nations existing mechanisms created for the implementation of the Durban DPA and of the results achieved through the cooperation of States with HRC Special Procedures in issues related to the implementation of this document, according to its paragraph 198. To this end it would be beneficial to receive an evaluation by these mechanisms of the work they have undertaken relating to the implementation of the Durban DPA.

Madam President,

These are some of our ideas on how the Review Conference could make a real assessment of the implementation of the Durban DPA and constitute a strong added value to the Durban process, by identifying what has to be better implemented and by sharing best practices and innovative measures to implement the Durban DPA operational elements that can be used by all stakeholders in the future.

We look forward to discuss these ideas with all members and observers of the Preparatory Committee in the next days, namely taking into account the need to take a consensual decision on the objectives of the Conference during this session.

Thank you, Madam President.
