

**Statement of the
Islamic Republic of Iran**

**On Item 9:
Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related
Forms of Intolerance**

**Seventh Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 25 March 2008**

Mr. President,

~~March the 21st~~ as the international day of the elimination of racial discrimination was celebrated while racism and racial discrimination in its different forms and sophisticated manifestations still endures.

The rejection of diversity is manifested increasingly by intolerance and repression of cultural symbols and expressions. This rejection of diversity practiced in some parts of the world is fostering a culture of intolerance and providing a fertile breeding ground for xenophobia.

Another alarming trend is the increasing rise of Islamophobia with its most visible upsurge in the western countries. Today Islamophobia is being so much akin to racism. New and ever-increasing trends of insulting religions and religious sanctities is a clear application of racist reflection.

Mr. President,

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the Durban Review Conference and its Preparatory process. In this regard the role of the High Commissioner as the Secretary General of the Durban Review Conference is of paramount importance. We call upon the office of the High Commissioner to mobilize all its possibilities to raise public awareness on the themes and objectives of the Durban review conference.

*We also attach high importance to the
mandate and activities of the Working Group on ^{effect}
implementation of Durban Declaration and program of action*

as well as the ad hoc committee on elaboration of Complementary Standards and appreciate the ^{valuable} efforts of Ambassador Dayan and Ambassador Algarayeri in this respect.

Mr. President,

The continued pursuance of racist doctrines by some political circles and entities is a matter of serious concern. In this regard we express our deep concern on the cultural uprooting which is continuously unfolding in the Palestinian Occupied Territory on the bases of such doctrines. The measures by the Israeli regime on the Palestinian people including the construction of apartheid wall and destruction of religious, educational, cultural and historic sites and all the actions designed to change the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to destroy their cultural heritage are manifesting the prevalence of a racist regime in that territory.

We call upon the international community to take all appropriate measures to bring an end to this tragic and intolerable situation. In this respect we appreciate the resolution adopted in the current session of the Council on 6th of March 2008 condemning recent military attacks of the Israeli regime in Gaza against the innocent Palestinian civilians.

Thank you Mr. President,