



भारत का स्थायी मिशन, जेनेवा
PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICES
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1202 GENEVA

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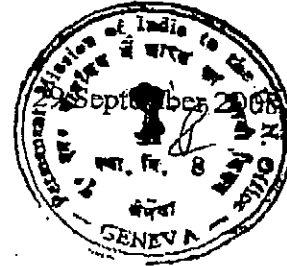
Fax : 022-9068696

NV. 114/08

September 29, 2008

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of information provided by the NGOs Swadhikar and National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights relating to their application for accreditation to the preparatory process of the Durban Review Conference which was transmitted by the Office in the afternoon of 25 September 2008. The information has been forwarded on 26 September 2008 to the Government of India for further consideration and a response would be provided within the stipulated period of 14 days. The applications may, therefore, be kept pending for this duration.

The Permanent Mission of India avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Anti-Discrimination Unit,
Palais des Nations
Geneva

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The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to the application of the NGO - International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) which is registered in Copenhagen, Denmark – seeking accreditation in the participatory process leading up to the Durban Review Conference (DRC).

The information provided by IDSN was examined by the Government of India keeping in view the relevant decision of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference at its First Session (27-31 August 2007) (Decision 1/3). In this regard the Government of India would like to state the following:

- (i) IDSN in its application has provided its founding statutes, paragraph 1.3 of which states:

“IDSN is a non-partisan and non-profit membership organization dedicated to work for the elimination of caste discrimination....”;
- (ii) The issue of caste-based discrimination falls outside the purview of the Durban Review Conference (DRC). There is absolutely no reference to the issue of caste-based discrimination in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA);
- (iii) Human Rights Council Resolution HRC 3/2 (8 December 2006), paragraph 5 clearly reaffirms that the Durban Review Conference will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein.
- (iv) The Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference adopted Decision 1/3 which provides, inter alia, at paragraph (d) (i) that the application of new NGOs should be considered in accordance with the criteria established

by ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31. The IDSN does not meet the criteria spelt out in ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, in particular Part VII – paragraphs 44 & 45, for participation by NGOS. The foregoing paragraphs provide, inter alia, that the NGO's programme and activities should be relevant to the conference and its preparatory process, and that the NGO should be involved in the subject areas of the DRC.

In view of the foregoing and after taking into account all aspects and information available, the Government of India is of the view that the IDSN should not be granted accreditation.

The Permanent Mission of India avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



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