

Right of Reply
Islamic Republic of Iran
22 April 2009

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to exercise its right of reply, with regard to the statements made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway as well as the Representatives of Argentine, Sweden, United Kingdom, France and Austria, on the statement delivered by H. E. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the High Level Segment of the Durban Review Conference on 20 and 22 April 2009.

We strongly reject the unwarranted and unsubstantiated references made in those statements and consider them as merit less, unacceptable, and out of order.

There is much to be regretted that referring to historic facts and realities on the ground, about the formation of an illegitimate regime and massacres it has committed in decades of occupation, has agitated the Norwegian Minister and a few others to make such unwarranted remarks.

I would like to remind that the principles of human rights should guide us to condemn in strongest term the mass killings of people, especially innocent women and children, in a

systematic manner.

It is regrettable that the right to freedom of expression is so wrongly and narrowly defined by some, in the interest of masking harsh and bitter realities that occur particularly against Muslims in one part of the world or against their belief in some other parts.

As for the reference made to His Excellency the President's participation in this august Conference, we would like to invite the Norwegian Foreign Minister's sense of hearing to the applauds given to the president by so many delegations and participants.

Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly protests to the deplorable, irresponsible and unwarranted statements of some high ranking officials of the United Nations, on the following grounds:

- 1) Those statements utterly contradict UN well-established norms and practices, to the effect that civil servants of the United Nations should, at all times, abide by the principles of impartiality and refrain from making judgmental remarks on the positions and statements made by Member States, let alone Heads of State.

2) Secondly, the status and dignity of the heads of state of the UN members should be respected and safeguarded at all times by all Member States and in particular by the UN Secretariat.

3) On the substantive aspect of the statement delivered by H. E. the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there was neither any accusation, nor any incitement, as irresponsibly alleged in those statements.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly rejects such irrelevant statements and considers them totally unacceptable and out of context.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to have this intervention to be registered in the final report of the Conference.