

Pakistan's Intervention on
the Working Group on Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC Member States of the Council.

The adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was a defining moment in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance and all forms of discrimination. This historic Summit underscored the international community's renewed commitment to combat racism in all its forms, especially its contemporary forms, and adopted a concrete plan of action to adopt that ideal.

We appreciate the valuable work done by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, in past few years, to translate the commitments made at the Durban Summit into concrete action. We also appreciate Ambassador Juan Martabit's effective steering of the Working Group.

Mr. President,

With regard to the Working Group on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, we would like to make the following points:

- i. We should ensure at this first session of the Human Rights Council, the continuation of the substantive work of the Working Group.
- ii. The Working Group should advise the Council, as it did the Commission, on practical measures to combat all forms of racism, racial intolerance and discrimination including the increasing religious intolerance and discrimination based on defamation of religions and its dangerous fall out.
- iii. The procedural and substantive gaps identified by the Working Group, at its last session, need to be addressed to stem racism and racial intolerance. These gaps have led to continued manifestations of racism and intolerance including multiple or aggravated forms of racial discrimination, hate speech, ethnic and religious profiling, religious intolerance and rise in Islamophobic incidents. We support firm action to address all gaps and deficiencies.
- iv. The Council should also appoint the five experts recommended by the Working Group to study and identify substantive gaps in the existing international human rights instruments.
- v. Elaboration of complementary standards is vital to address the gaps in the existing normative framework and to deal with racism in a comprehensive manner. We should work for the elaboration of human rights instruments in the areas where such instruments do not exist. In this context, in view of tensions emanating from the publication of caricatures and the increasing trend of Islamophobia, we underline importance of elaborating an instrument on combating religious intolerance and promoting respect of religions.

We strongly recommend that the Working Group should resume its work on the implementation of its recommendations at its fourth session without any gap.

Thank you Mr. President.