

ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFT
DECISION A/HRC/3/L.3 GLOBAL EFFORTS FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF
RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED
INTOLERANCE AND THE COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-
UP TO THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

This statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

1. Under the terms of subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (i) and (j) of draft resolution A/HRC/3/L.3, the Human Rights Council would decide:

(i) "To heed the decision and instruction of the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance by establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards with the mandate to elaborate, as a matter of priority and necessity, complementary standards in the form of either a convention or additional protocol(s) to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, filling the existing gaps in the Convention and also providing new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary racism, including incitement to racial and religious hatred;

(ii) To recommend that the Ad-Hoc Committee shall convene annual sessions of 10 working days commencing after its sixth-session and report regularly to the Council on progress in the actual process of the elaboration of complementary standards;

(iii) To welcome the recent appointment of the Five Experts on Complementary Standards by the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the mandate to produce a base document outlining the substantive gaps in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

(iv) To request the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to invite the Five Experts to its fifth session with the view of having a one day preliminary exchange of views and vision on complementary standards as a provisional measure pending the completion of their report;

(v) To recommend that the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action convene its sixth session in July 2007 and that this sixth session mark the conclusion and closure of the Working Group's debates and deliberations on the question of complementary standards;

(vi) To request that the Ad-Hoc Committee convene its first session during September 2007 and use all the documents presented to it as background material for commencing its process of elaborating complementary standards, and that one of its main priorities be to ensure that draft instrument(s) is/are produced for negotiations;

(vii) To request that the High Commissioner give visibility and a high profile to the Anti-Discrimination Unit within her Office and provide it with all the necessary and additional resources to ensure its effectiveness, particularly in view of the current challenges of racial and religious discrimination, so that the Unit ensures that the High Commissioner make a positive contribution and play a leadership role in the global efforts to combat all the resurgent scourges of racism."

2. Should the draft resolution be adopted by the Human Rights Council, it is estimated that requirements for conference services, in the amount of US\$ 607,100 would arise for the biennium 2006-2007 and US\$ 451,800 for the biennium 2008-2009 as follows:

2006-2007:		US dollars
Section 2:	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	594,100
	Section 28E: Administration in Geneva	13,000
Total		607,100
2008-2009:		US dollars
Section 2:	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	439,100
	Section 28E: Administration in Geneva	12,700
Total		451,800

3. No provisions have been included under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for these additional activities, therefore, additional resources will be required under: Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$594,100); and Section 28E, Administration, Geneva (\$13,000).

4. With regard to the requirements for the biennium 2008-2009, they are indicative and will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. With regard to paragraph 1 (vii) herein, the attention of the Council is also drawn to the provisions of resolution 45/248 B Section VI, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

5. It will be recalled that under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities must be deferred to a later biennium.

6. The additional provisions cannot be met from the contingency fund as other activities in the biennium 2006-2007 charged against the fund will have exhausted the fund during the main part of the 61st session of the General Assembly. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities under sections 2, and 28E of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 that could be curtailed, deferred, terminated or modified in order to meet the additional requirements of \$607,100, although preliminary review leads the Secretariat to assume that some absorption of the estimated requirements is possible. The Secretariat will seek to identify areas from which resources can be redeployed to meet the requirements arising from the draft resolution in the biennium 2006-2007. At the time the General Assembly reviews at its 61st session the question of the revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Human Rights Council it is anticipated that the Secretariat would be in a position to inform the General Assembly on how to meet the additional requirements.