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Preparatory Committee
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**REPORTS OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE
INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS**

**Note verbale dated 8 October 2008 from the Permanent Mission
of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed
to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights**

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to transmit herewith* the contribution of the Asian region to the Durban Review Conference, endorsed by the Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors of the Asian group Member States at their meeting held on 8 October 2008 in Geneva, as a contribution to the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference.

The contribution is submitted in accordance with decision PC.1/11, in which the Preparatory Committee called on States and regional organizations to hold international, regional and national meetings and/or to undertake other initiatives in preparation for the Durban Review Conference in line with the objectives of the Review Conference, and to submit to the Preparatory Committee, through the Office of the High Commissioner, reports on the outcome of the said meetings and initiatives.

* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

**CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASIAN REGION TO THE
DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Reaffirming the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference against Racism in 2001, as a landmark document in global efforts to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling the 2001 Tehran Declaration and Programme of Action by the Asian Preparatory Meeting,

Reaffirming the values and principles of human dignity and equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 1960,

Stressing the importance of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant international conventions and declarations which contribute to the fight against racism and racial discrimination,

Emphasizing the will and determination of all Governments of the region to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their forms and manifestations,

Reaffirming that genuine acceptance of cultural diversity, as a permanent feature of our

Stressing the importance of the promotion and protection of the human rights of ethnic, national, racial and cultural, religious, linguistic minorities, indigenous people and migrants, including their rights to maintain their cultural identity and observe their values and traditions,

Reaffirming the right of all peoples to live in a society free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as the duty of Governments to take prompt, decisive and appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination,

Reaffirming that colonization by settlers and foreign occupation constitute sources, causes and forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Expressing

Reaffirming condemnation of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the platforms and activities related thereto, which constitute serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as impede equal opportunity,

Welcoming the adoption of GA Resolutions 61/19 and 62/122 related to the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and remembrance of its victims and, in particular, the designation of 25th March as an annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, beginning in 2008,

Recalling paragraphs 98 to 106 of the Durban Declaration, and emphasizing, in particular, the importance of the “provision of effective remedies, recourse, redress, and compensatory and

Also welcoming the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 3 May 2008,

- I. REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF CONTEMPORARY MANIFESTATIONS OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE
 - A. Sources, causes, forms and contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
 1. *Reaffirm* that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that

9. *Condemn* manifestations and acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and stress the need for fair, just and equitable treatment of migrants in society and in the workplace;

10. *Emphasize* that poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and contribute to the persistence of racist attitudes and practices which in turn generate more poverty;

11. *Reaffirm* the need to continue preventing, combating and eliminating all forms of trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, since victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

12. *Reaffirm* that dialogue among cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity through cooperation and mutual enrichment in various fields of human endeavour and that the promotion of this dialogue serves as an advanced instrument for combating racism;

13. *Emphasize* that racist ideologies based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin as well as on culture, religion and language are responsible for fomenting, promoting and spreading racial discrimination, xenophobia and stereotyping;

14. *Confirm* that lack of respect for cultural diversity in most societies leads to racism and increased discrimination;

15. *Express deep concern* at the use of new information technologies, such as the Internet, to propagate racial hatred, xenophobia, racial discrimination and related intolerance and that children and youth have access to this material;

16. *Condemn* all political platforms and systems based on racism, xenophobia or doctrines of racial superiority and discrimination which are incompatible with democracy and transparent and accountable governance;

17. *Underline* that racial discrimination condoned by governmental policies violates human rights and may endanger friendly relations between peoples, cooperation among nations, and international peace and security;

18. *Recognize* Jerusalem as a city of reverence and religious sanctity for three major religions of the world and call for an international effort to bring foreign occupation, together with all its racial practices, to an end, especially in holy shrines dear to the three religions;

19. *Reaffirm* that a foreign occupation founded on settlements, its laws based on racial discrimination with the aim of continuing domination of the occupied territory, as well as its practices, which consist of reinforcing a total military blockade, isolating towns, cities and villages under occupation from each other, totally contradict the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and constitute a serious violation of international human rights and humanitarian law, a new kind of apartheid, a crime against humanity, a form of genocide and a serious threat to international peace and security;

29. *Reiterate further* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance manifest themselves in an aggravated and differentiated manner for women and girls, causing their living standards to deteriorate, generating multiple forms of violence and limiting or denying them the benefit and the exercise of their human rights, and in this regard urge States to consider this phenomenon in formulating of strategies and programmes against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

30. *Note with concern* that instances of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance lead to trade in and/or sexual exploitation of women and children especially girl child;

31. *Express deep concern* at the persistence of manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including violence, against Roma/Gypsies/Sinti/Travellers and emphasize the urgent need to develop effective policies and implementation mechanisms for their full achievement of equality;

32. *Call upon* States to adopt necessary measures, as provided by national law, to ensure the rights of victims to prompt, adequate and fair reparation and compensation for acts of racism and racial discrimination;

C. Measures of prevention, education and protection aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at all levels

33. *Affirm* that measures to eradicate racism must be multifaceted;

34. *Stress* the necessity of increasing appropriate preventive measures in order to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, and the important role that Governments, international organizations, the media, non-governmental organizations and civil society can

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39. *Reaffirm* the responsibility of Governments for safeguarding and protecting the rights of individuals within their jurisdiction against crimes perpetrated by racist or xenophobic individuals or groups;

40. *Note with deep concern* the widening use by some groups and organizations of the opportunities provided by print, audio-visual and electronic media as well as scientific and technological progress, such as the Internet, to promote racist and xenophobic propaganda aimed at inciting societies throughout the world to racial hatred and in this connection urge all Governments to take necessary measures against such incitement;

41. *Recognize* the important role played by civil society in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including by proposing and assisting Governments in the promotion and the implementation of strategies against such forms of discrimination;

42. *Reiterate* that regional and international exchange and dialogue among youth is an important element in building intercultural understanding and respect and will contribute to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

43. *Resolutely condemn* any ideologies and practices based on racial discrimination or superiority which entail abuse of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and affirm that all States have the obligation to take all available measures to combat ideologies, activities and practices based on racial discrimination or superiority;

D. Provision of effective remedies, recourse, redress, and compensatory and other measures at all levels

44. *Recall* that:

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E. Strategies to achieve full and effective equality, including international

(a) Enhanced visibility to the message of Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its follow up mechanisms through effective media campaigns by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) as well as national governments;

(b) Effective coordination between various Durban mechanisms and their regular interaction with relevant special procedures, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Human Rights Council and General Assembly;

(c) Creating necessary reporting linkages to these mechanisms by the Member States on their recommendations as well as provision of information on the subjects of relevance;

(d) Follow up on the agreed recommendations of these mechanisms to be pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(e) Relevant recommendations to be kept in mind by special rapporteurs while reporting on their respective themes /mandates. Resolutions on racism related subjects should also include and give prominence to the recommendations of these mechanisms;

(f) Relevant recommendations must also find place in

IV. IDENTIFICATION AND SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES ACHIEVED
AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,
XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

62. *Note with interest* of the numerous examples of good practices set in the large and diverse Asian region aiming at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

63. *Recognize* that a broad, global exchange of “good practices” in combating racism could serve as examples and assist Governments, the judiciary, social partners and civil society to more effectively implement the provisions in the Durban Declaration and Programme of

68. *Express* deep regret the practices of racial discrimination against the Palestinians as well as other inhabitants of the Arab occupied territories which have an impact on all aspects of their daily existence such as to prevent the enjoyment of fundamental rights, express our deep concern about this situation and renew the call for the cessation of all the practices of racial discrimination to which the Palestinians and the other inhabitants of the Arab territories occupied by Israel are subjected;

69. *Reiterate* that the Palestinian people continue to be denied the fundamental right of self determination and urge Member States to look at the situation of Palestinian people during the Durban Review Conference and implement the provisions of DDPA with a view to bring

88. *Encourage* States to establish and strengthen, where required, national human rights institutions, and other similar entities to address problems connected to endemic racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to assist victims of such discrimination in areas of their jurisdiction;

89. *Urge* States to take necessary measures to denounce, actively discourage and prohibit

108. *Call* on States to ensure that law enforcement and immigration officials and personnel conduct their work in a manner in which the respect for the human rights of non-citizens and migrants shall be fully respected;

109. *Encourage* States that are not yet parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families to consider doing so as a matter of priority in order to promote a more open and fair international environment in which the rights of migrants can be fully ensured and respected;

110. *Encourage* also States that are not yet parties to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to consider doing so in order to ensure an effective promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

111. *Request* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide specific technical cooperation and capacity building assistance, upon requests of States, to the projects aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

112. *Renew* the call on the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consider the inclusion in the mandate of Anti-discrimination Unit, inter alia, of the compilation of information on racial discrimination and its development, and on legal and administrative support and advice to victims of racial discrimination and the collection of background materials;

113. *Urge* States to include information with regard to the measures being taken to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and progress achieved in their national reports to the Universal Periodic Report of the Human Rights Council;

114. *Calls* on the Human Rights Council to suitably observe annually the UN Gen4(t)-2.16558(i)2.80