

6TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

ITEM 9

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

**Comment by Ms. Hasmik Simonyan,
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Armenia
Geneva, 13 September 2007**

Mr. President,

The delegation of Armenia thanks the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Diene, for the in-depth presentation of his report. We recognise the thorough analysis of different manifestations and layers of intolerance and its consideration within religious, ideological and political contexts. This delegation also welcomes the recommendations by the Special Rapporteur, which we believe are important and realistic, should governments express firm political commitments to the elimination of practices of Islamophobia, Christianophobia, Anti-Semitism and other forms of religion-based discrimination. We attach great importance to the proposed inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue as a key to the equal promotion of human rights of all.

Mr. President,

We recognise that Islamophobia, Christianophobia, Anti-Semitism and other forms of religion-based discrimination constitute a source of racist practices. We also consider the cross cutting nature of the problem, with direct relevance to other mandates. Such broader approach and consideration of the problem from different angles would raise the effectiveness of addressing the issue. We note, among other things, the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur concerning the ^{consideration} possible adoption by the Human Rights Committee of complementary standards on the interrelations between freedom of expression, freedom of religion and non-discrimination. ^{of possible adop.}

Finally, Mr. President, we note the Special Rapporteur's position that the focus on Islamophobia in the present report in no way implies the institution of any hierarchy in discrimination against different religions.

Thank you.