

**Check Against Delivery**



Item 68 - Elimination of racism and racial discrimination  
Item 69 - Right of peoples to self-determination

Introductory statement

Mr. Craig Mokhiber  
Officer-in-Charge, New York Office  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to introduce the reports submitted under agenda item 68 "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" and item 69 "Right of peoples to self-determination."

**The report of the Secretary-General on global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/62/480)**, submitted under agenda item 68, focuses on information received from Member States on various measures they have undertaken toward the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA). The report summarises various developments which have taken place during the year concerning the implementation of the DDPA and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. While the initiatives undertaken constitute important progress in combating racism effectively, an increased number of communications from stakeholders would allow for a more comprehensive assessment of progress achieved and challenges that remain to be addressed. The report refers also to the submission to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Durban follow-up of a study on complementary international standards conducted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and another study on the same subject by the five experts selected by the High Commissioner upon request by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 1/5.

**Report of the Secretary-General on the Universal Realization of the Right of Peoples to Self-determination (A/62/184)**, submitted under agenda item 69, outlines developments emanating from the Human Rights Council's consideration of the question of self-determination, especially with regard to the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon, established by the Council in August 2006, and the report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination. The report also contains a summary of recent concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, based on their consideration of periodic reports submitted by States parties to the two Covenants in respect of the implementation of the right to self-determination guaranteed in article 1 of the Covenants.

Thank you.