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Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
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**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
OF THE DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE**

1st substantive session

(Geneva, 21 April - 2 May 2008)

Item 4

**"Submission of the provisional agenda
of the Durban Review Conference"**

Statement by Ms Eva Tomič

Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia

on behalf of the European Union

Geneva, 21 April 2008

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First Substantial Prepcom of the Durban Review Conference:

EU Statement under item 4: "Submission of the provisional agenda of the Durban Review Conference"

Madame Chairperson

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

Allow me first of all to reiterate that the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is an important component of the policies of the European Union and each of its Member States. In this regard we welcome the opportunity the Review Conference on the implementation of the DDPA will give to exchange views on the achievements and main challenges we still face in the framework of implementation, and to learn from experiences of our partners from other regions.

As we said in our opening statement the EU holds the strong conviction that the Review Conference must not re-open the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The EU furthermore believes that we shouldn't broaden the agenda compared to Durban 2001, nor should we give disproportionate attention to only some topics of the DDPA to the detriment of other important issues in this document.

It was against this backdrop that the European Union, at the Organisational Prepcom in August last year, joined the consensus on the carefully crafted objectives of the Review Conference on the implementation of the DDPA. We are encouraged by the willingness of delegations to further build on the consensus achieved at the first Prepcom.

Madame Chairperson,

The quality of the agenda will be a determinant factor for the success of us all in organizing a meaningful Review Conference that can contribute to a more thorough and better implementation of the DDPA and, through such an intensification of efforts in the field, help us all in combating the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

Having in mind the arduous task we accomplished in arriving at an agreement on the objectives of the Review Conference the European Union will consider favourably your proposal for a provisional agenda of the Durban Review Conference since it faithfully copies the objectives as adopted at the organizational Prepcom. We feel that the objectives continue to be an accurate depiction of the work ahead of us and would assert that in taking the objectives forward as our agenda we will provide for a concise and clear agenda which is in line with the practice in other United Nations review processes.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.
