

## Rok Delegation's Comments

Mr. President,

The Korean delegation is concerned about the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that is growingly affecting not only human rights but also the stability of the international community, and causing an unnecessary confrontation among the member states of this Council.

We would like to express our hope that the intergovernmental W/G on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action will lender its continued contribution to finding a way of uprooting such a tenacious phenomenon that we face.

We sincerely hope that the W/G will hammer out concrete and meaningful outcomes while providing the impetus for further actions, initiatives and practical solutions to eliminate every kind of racism in the world.

My delegation believes the Durban Review Conference will offer a good opportunity for soul-searching on our trials and errors in struggling to fulfill the promises of Durban. We expect the Review Conference will identify obstacles to further progress in combating racism and bolster the gains already achieved.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her informative report on the activities undertaken by the human rights mechanism in relation with the Human Rights Council's resolution on combating defamation of religions.

We agree, to a large part, with the view that it would be problematic to reconcile the notion of defamation with the concept of discrimination. Indeed, international human rights law protects primarily individuals in the exercise of their freedom of religion or belief and not the religions as such.

However, my delegation is also of the view that the negative trend of contemporary intolerance among religions deserves the right concern of this Council.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to renew our hope for the meaningful role of education in ~~minimizing tensions around religions~~. We also wish to reiterate the importance we attach to the need of promoting dialogue between cultures, civilizations and religions.

fostering tolerance and respecting peaceful coexistence, as Mme. Deputy High Commissioner rightly indicated this morn

Thank you, Mr. President.