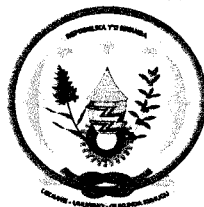


REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



PERMANENT MISSION OF RWANDA  
GENEVA

VERSION REVISEE  
REVISED VERSION

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

6<sup>th</sup> Session

(Geneva, 10-28 September 2007)

Statement by  
H.E. Ambassador Venetia SEBUDANDI  
Permanent Representative of Rwanda

**ITEM 9 – Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance. Follow up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

**Geneva, 25 September 2007**

**STATEMENT OF RWANDA AT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

Item 9:

**Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me begin by congratulating you Mr. President for the way you have ably guided the works of this session with wisdom and success.

My delegation supports the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Egypt on behalf of the African Group and reiterates his congratulations to the Council for its commitment to addressing the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as a matter of importance on its agenda.

**Mr. President,**

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action have demonstrated the commitment of the international community to combat racism in all its forms and manifestations. Rwanda fully supports the values represented by the DDPA and is actively involved in its implementation by putting in place the necessary measures to prevent and deal comprehensively with the root causes of the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including genocide .

The DDPA and its follow up mechanisms have clearly shown genocide as being an extreme manifestation and source of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. There is equally, need to address issues related to genocide denial, genocide justification and revisionism and their interface with racial discrimination and related intolerance. Any denial of genocide or revisionist stand on historical account of genocide constitutes a serious case of racial discrimination and defamation of the victims. Failure to prosecute those who commit such crimes should be recognised as an act falling within the rubric of racism, racial discrimination xenophobia and related intolerance.

The DDPA and the 1951 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of Genocide put an obligation on States to take measures to prevent and prosecute the crime of Genocide. The UN Security Council Resolution establishing International Tribunals such as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in Arusha, Tanzania equally inscribe obligation on States to cooperate with these Tribunals for the fulfilment of their mission. However, this has not been the case with all concerned states.

**Mr. President,**

Clearly there are serious gaps in all these International Instruments as regards genocide, genocide denial, genocide justification or revisionism. It is in this perspective that we call for due attention to be given to addressing these gaps adequately, in the elaboration of Complementary International Standards to the DDPA, by making recommendations on measures and follow up mechanisms to encourage states to adopt and enforce corresponding legislative measures.

Before I conclude let me take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Najat Alhajjaji on her assumption of the Presidency of the Durban Prepcom and renew our confidence in her ability to accomplish this mission successfully. Let me also commend the excellent and comprehensive work carried out by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the DDPA under the able Presidency of H.E. Ambassador Juan Martabit.

**I thank you.**