



**Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic
of Korea to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva**

1, chemin de Plonjon 1207 Geneva Tel. 022 735 43 70 Fax : 022 786 06 62

**STATEMENT BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
UNDER ITEM 9**

Mr. President,

6 years have elapsed since the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was held in Durban, south Africa.

With the adoption of Durban Declaration and Program of Action in the Durban Conference, big strides were made at national, regional and international level for their implementation. The awareness of international community was enhanced on the harmful nature of racism, all forms of campaigns were undertaken and legislative and criminal justice measures were taken up aimed at combating racism.

In spite of such heavy blow, racism has not been terminated as yet. On the contrary it is often justified under the pretext of "freedom of expression". Worse still, following 9.11 incident, racism presents itself as a new challenge by multiplying contemporary manifestations of hatred and discrimination such as defamation of religion characterized by the Islamophobia. In some parts of Europe extreme rightwing political parties or organizations are active openly inciting racism.

One of the major factors contributing to resurgence of racism is the lack of proper settlement of its past root-causes.

In the past, powerful countries conquered other countries, colonized, killed or enslaved people and engaged in oppression and plunder there. The so-called "racial superiority" regarding other races as inferiors was deeply-rooted in these atrocities.

For this reason, international community in Durban Conference underlined the need for those states to recognize their responsibilities for racism and racial discrimination systematically committed and accordingly pay due compensation and reparations to victim states, communities and individuals. However this just demand has been ignored. It is a historical lesson that unresolved past abuse is a source of yet another abuse of today and tomorrow.

When countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America were subjected to colonization in the past, Korea was a colony suffering from national discrimination and humiliation under the Japanese military occupation for over 40 years.

During these periods, out of the then 20 Million population, 8.4 Million were forcibly drafted, 1 Million killed and 200,000 women and girls taken as military sexual slavery.

Moreover, they were forced to change their names into Japanese ones and to read and write in Japanese language rather than in Korean language. Such a heinous policy of obliterating the Korean nation and race as well is unprecedented in the world history of colonization spanning several centuries.

This criminal past has not yet been resolved even in this new century, giving rise to further concern of the international community on its recurrence.

At this time, Koreans in Japan who are the descendants of colonized Korea are subjected to harsh repression and all forms of discrimination in all areas of life for simple reason that they are Koreans and that they maintain citizenship of the DPRK.

This year alone, Japanese public security authorities mobilized hundreds of heavily armed police and even armored vehicles several times to carry out forcible search of the facilities related to "General Association of Korean Residents in Japan" (Chongryon), its branch offices and Korean schools and residential houses of Koreans and perpetrated a series of such outrageous acts as assault against and arrest of innocent people. Japanese authorities went so far as to force Chongryon to sell the land and building of the hall of Headquarters with the aim of exterminating Chongryon by all means. Repression and oppression against Chongryon and Koreans are not of recent occurrence. No single day has past without such brutal repression and discrimination against them. Consequently, several UN human rights treaty bodies criticized these wrongful acts and recommended to rectify them.

All races and nations around the world are equal and deserve the right to have their diversity respected under whatever circumstance.

We still have a long way to go and complexity lies ahead in our endeavor to transform this into reality. We believe more detailed ways and means of combating various manifestations of racism and racial discrimination will be made in the upcoming Durban Review Conference.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation will actively join international efforts and do its utmost to construct the world free from racism and racial discrimination.

Thank you.