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The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva and has the honour to refer to its Note Verbale of 17 September in which it requests, on behalf of the OIC, that the Anti-Discrimination Unit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights extends the deadline, by a week, for submission of comments on the requests by six NGOs for accreditation to the Durban Review Conference.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights draws the attention of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to decision PC.1/2 of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban review Conference, which states the following:

“(d) In the case of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and not accredited to participate in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and its follow-up mechanisms:

(v) The Secretariat shall send to Member States, on a periodic basis, the updated list of applications received. Member States may submit comments on any of the applications in the list within 14 days from receipt of the above-mentioned list. The comments of Member States shall be communicated to the non-governmental organization concerned, which will be offered the opportunity to respond.”

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights respectfully informs the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that only the Preparatory Committee may extend the deadline of 14 days contained within decision PC.1/2(d)(v).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

19 September 2008