

NAM STATEMENT
General Debate Item 9
Wednesday 30 September 2009

Thank You Mr. President

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Non Alignment Movement

The NAM condemns all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the platforms and activities related thereto, which constitute serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as impede equal opportunities. The Movement emphasizes the need to address with greater resolve and political will all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the world, including all those under foreign occupation.

The NAM expresses dismay at instances of religious and cultural prejudices, intolerance and discrimination, which undermine the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and hinder the promotion of the culture of peace. Acts of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, and racial, religious and sectarian profiling are affronts to human dignity and equality, and should not be condoned.

The Movement bearing in mind that defamation of religions is being wrongly justified on the ground of the right to freedom of expression, emphasizes that everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression, and that exercise of these rights carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to limitations as are provided for by law and are necessary for respect of the rights and reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, public health or morals.

The NAM expresses its concern at the negative stereotyping of religions, insults to and defamation of religious personalities, holy books, scriptures and symbols, which impede the enjoyment of human rights including the right to worship and manifest religion without fear of coercion, violence or reprisal. It deplors all acts of ideological and physical violence and assaults, and incitements thereto, against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, and those acts directed against the holy symbols, sites or places of worship of all religions. The Movement would like to underline the need to address these disturbing instances through appropriate measures at the national and international levels, including legal measures to provide adequate protection against acts of religious hatred that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence resulting from defamation of religions in conformity with existing instruments of international law.

The Movements takes note of the ongoing progress made by States at the national, regional and international levels, focusing on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related

Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. To this end, the Movement urges the Human Rights Council, through the Intergovernmental Working Group established to that effect, to proceed with the elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The NAM reaffirms the validity of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) as well as the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference as the instructive documents which constitute a solid foundation for the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Finally, the NAM calls on all Member States, including those that did not participate at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in 2001 as well as the Durban Review Conference held in April this year, to implement all the provisions of the DDPA and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference to fight the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

I Thank You