

EOV BY INDIA

Draft resolution on
“Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and 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 Programme of Action”

India has been at the forefront of global efforts to combat racism. We played an active part in the drafting of the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and were among its early signatories. We also actively participated in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related intolerance in Durban and attach high importance to the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Accordingly, we have supported all initiatives relating to the follow-up of the Durban Conference undertaken in the framework of various human rights mechanisms. In the General Assembly, as part of G-77, India co-sponsors the resolution on the follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which was adopted last month by an overwhelming majority. In that Resolution, a decision has been taken to convene the Durban review conference in 2009.

Mr. President,

The draft resolution before us seeks creation of additional mechanisms to follow up on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action with a view to accelerating the process of elaboration of complementary standards. We would have preferred to preserve the understanding reached on this issue at the Fourth Session of the Inter-Governmental Working Group that was subsequently endorsed by the Human Rights Council in June this year and a fortnight ago by the Third Committee. In our view, it should be our endeavour to garner as broad a spectrum of support as possible, in order to ensure the most effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Mr. President,

As a traditional supporter, my delegation will vote for this resolution.