



BRAZIL

LXIII UNGA – Third Committee - 3 November 2008

Agenda item 62: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to thank the Chairperson of the Durban Review Conference Preparatory Committee, Ms. Najat Al-Hajjaji, and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Ms. Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah, for their presentations to the III Committee, and I would also like to congratulate the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Githu Muigai, on his very comprehensive and thoughtful report.

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination ranks high amongst the Brazilian Government's priorities. The initiative to convene in Brazil the first Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Durban Review Conference reflects our strong commitment to advance international cooperation in achieving that objective.

The comprehensive outcome document adopted at the Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasília, from 17 to 19 June last, contains not only the main objectives of the Durban Review Conference, but also very important issues of the Latin America and Caribbean agenda on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Among these issues are the inclusion of a gender perspective in measures to attain those objectives; the incorporation, in a cross-cutting way, of the promotion of racial and gender equality in public policies; the

increase, by Member States, of the range of protection against all discriminatory practices, including acts of violence and discrimination against indigenous populations, migrant workers and individuals due to their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The document approved at the Regional Preparatory Meeting reveals significant progress in the region regarding the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. It emphasizes, inter alia: (a) the generalized adoption of legislation to foster equality and eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (b) the creation of national organs and specialized mechanisms to deal with these issues; and (c) the increase of dialogue with NGOs and representatives of civil society.

The outcome document also emphasizes the challenges that the countries in the region still have to face regarding the implementation of Durban Declaration and Program of Action. It highlights the necessity of elaboration and implementation, inter alia, of: (a) specific programs to prevent, investigate and, when necessary, to prosecute cases of serious law violations motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance committed by police officers and other officials responsible for law enforcement; (b) measures that guarantee the access of indigenous peoples and afro-descendants to ancestral lands; (c) measures to prevent and penalize contemporary manifestations of racism and xenophobia. The document also stresses the issue of legislation passed in developed countries that are discriminatory against migrants and contrary to internationally recognized norms for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil will spare no efforts to cooperate for a successful Durban Review Conference, whose results we deem essential for enhancing the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and for the full realization of all human rights.

Thank you