

*HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
10th SESSION, MARCH 2009*

Agenda Item 9

Mr President

I am speaking on behalf of the German Institute for Human Rights, taking a position shared by many National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (NHRIs) currently convening in these premises..

I.

NHRI committed themselves to taking an active role in the implementation of the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Their work is carried out with a purpose of maintaining the indivisibility of human rights and avoiding a fragmentation of the anti-racist agenda.

We are convinced there is a need for a comprehensive approach in the fight against racism that takes into account the manifold manifestations of racism in past and present, such as, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, other forms of discrimination based on religious grounds, anti-Ziganism, apartheid, genocides, colonialism, slavery and slave trade, contempt of indigenous peoples and their cultures, discrimination against migrants and refugees, discrimination against ethnic minorities, as well as discrimination based on descent. We reiterate the DDPA commitment that the holocaust must never be forgotten.

We hold that special attention must be paid to multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination based, for instance, on the conjunction of racist with gender related stereotypes, discrimination against children, particularly girls, prejudices against religious minority groups, persons with disabilities or homophobia.

II. Mr President.

With the support of the OHCHR, NHRIs will organize a side event on April 20th on their role in implementing the DDPA. They welcome the participation of all interested actors in the discussion.

We welcome the positive reactions to the latest draft of the outcome document for the Durban Review Document, presented by the Chair of the intersessional open-ended working group on March 17th. NHRIs fully support the collective efforts of States for a substantial result of the Durban Review Conference, and would welcome seeing all States and all other actors actively participating in the process to work together in the best spirits.