

**Statement German Institute for Human Rights – Durban Review Conference,
23 April 2009:**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

I am speaking on behalf of the German Institute for Human Rights. We fully endorse the statement by the ICC and the joint NHRI statement presented by the HRC of New Zealand.

We welcome the adoption of the outcome document. We are convinced that it provides an excellent basis for bringing the implementation of the DDPA forward in a human rights framework.

We regret the fact that some states, among them Germany, decided not to participate in this conference but we look forward to working with our government and civil society to gain their support for the outcome document and to reinvigorate efforts to implement the DDPA in our country.

Mr. President,

As a European national human rights institution, our work against racism is guided by the following principles and commitments:

- the holocaust, that resulted in the murder of six million jews, alongside half a million sinti and roma and other minorities, must never be forgotten
- slavery and the slave trade, colonialism and genocide must always be remembered as a part of European history and responsibility
- the indivisibility of human rights requires all forms of racism to be addressed
- special attention must be paid to multiple forms of discrimination, for instance the intersection of racial discrimination with discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability, religion or sexual orientation and identity
- in order to combat racism, the human rights of migrants, refugees and victims of trafficking must be promoted and protected

Mr. President,

Despite efforts which have been made, overcoming direct, indirect and structural forms of racial discrimination remains a challenge in European societies. To this aim, the German Institute for Human Rights will continue to work with NGOs and government and cooperate with global and regional human rights mechanisms, such as CERD, the special procedures, OHCHR, the European Commission against Racism and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, as well as within the regional and international platforms of NHRIs.

Thank you.