



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.211/PC.1/1/Add.1
9 August 2007

Original: ENGLISH

DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE
Preparatory Committee
First organizational session
Geneva, 27-31 August 2007

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work: adoption of the rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee and other organizational matters.
5. Objectives of the Durban Review Conference.
6. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Durban Review Conference.
7. Relevant modalities for the Durban Review Conference.
8. Preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels.
9. Reports, studies and other documentation for the Preparatory Committee and the Durban Review Conference and contributions by human rights bodies and mechanisms.
10. Organization of work and dates of the substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee and formulation of a concrete plan for the preparatory process.
11. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly.

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Room XVII, from 27 to 31 August 2007. The session will be opened by the President of the Human Rights Council, who will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 2. Election of officers

2. The Human Rights Council decided in paragraph 3 of its resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006 that the Preparatory Committee “shall elect, on the basis of equitable geographic representation, a bureau for the Preparatory Committee”. The election shall proceed under the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

3. The General Assembly decided, in paragraph 33 of its resolution 61/149 of 19 December 2006, “to convene in 2009 a review conference on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to be conducted within the framework of the General Assembly, and, to this end, requests the Human Rights Council to undertake preparations for this event”.

4. The Human Rights Council decided in paragraph 1 of resolution 3/2 that the Council “will act as the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference which shall be open to the participation of all Member States of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and also to the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly”.

5. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda (A/CONF.211/PC.1/1) of its organizational session.

Item 4. Organization of work: adoption of the rules of procedure of the Preparatory Committee and other organizational matters

6. The Preparatory Committee may wish to use as the rules of procedure for the Preparatory Committee, insofar as applicable, the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, section XIII, taking into account decisions of the Human Rights Council on organizational matters, notably the decision referred to under item 2 above.

7. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 3/2, the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session may wish to adopt decisions concerning the organization of its work, including the dates of its future sessions. In addition, the Committee may wish to adopt decisions concerning the organization of its work, including on the frequency and duration of statements, the opening and closure of the list of speakers, and the submission of draft decisions.

8. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a draft programme of work.

Item 5. Objectives of the Durban Review Conference

9. The Human Rights Council decided, pursuant to paragraph 3 of its resolution 3/2, that the Preparatory Committee shall decide on the objectives of the Review Conference at its organizational session. Accordingly, a general debate is scheduled for the first and second day of the Preparatory Committee's present session, with a focus on agenda item 5, relating to objectives of the Review Conference.

10. Moreover, the Human Rights Council decided, in paragraph 6 of resolution 3/2, that "the review will concentrate on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including further actions, initiatives and practical solutions for combating all the contemporary scourges of racism".

Item 6. Adoption of rules of procedure of the Durban Review Conference

11. The Preparatory Committee may wish to use, as basis for its discussion, in relation to the Durban Review Conference, the rules of procedure of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/CONF.189/2).

Item 7. Relevant modalities for the Durban Review Conference

12. The Human Rights Council decided, in paragraph 3 of resolution 3/2, that the Preparatory Committee, at its organizational session, shall decide on the relevant modalities for the Conference in accordance with established practice of the General Assembly. This would include the objectives of the Review Conference referred to under item 5, the level at which the Durban Review Conference shall be convened, regional preparatory initiatives referred to under item 8, and date and venue of the Durban Review Conference.

13. The members of the Preparatory Committee will have before them a note by the Secretariat on reviews of United Nations conferences and summits held since 1990 (A/CONF.211/PC.1/2), with a view to facilitate the discussions. The Preparatory Committee will also have before it a note by the Secretariat on participation of observers including non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions. In relation to participation, the Preparatory Committee is called under Human Rights Council resolution 3/2 to discuss the level at which the Review Conference shall be convened.

14. In addition, the Preparatory Committee may wish to discuss related relevant issues including duration, designation of Secretary-General of the Durban Review Conference, and potential sources of funding.

Item 8. Preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels

15. The Human Rights Council decided, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 3/2, that the Preparatory Committee, at the organizational session, shall decide on "regional preparatory initiatives". The Preparatory Committee may also wish to discuss the various preparatory meetings and activities at the international and national levels.

Item 9. Reports, studies and other documentation for the Preparatory Committee and the Durban Review Conference and contributions by human rights bodies and mechanisms

16. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Human Rights Council resolution 3/2, the Council requests that “Governments, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Five Independent Eminent Experts to follow up on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Five Experts on Complementary Standards, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and other relevant human rights mechanisms to assist the Preparatory Committee by undertaking review and submitting recommendations, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as contributions to the outcome of the Review Conference”.

17. The members of the Preparatory Committee may wish to discuss what kind of reports, studies and other documentation shall be required for each of the substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the Durban Review Conference. It may also wish to consider the best possible approach of ensuring the effective access and use of such reports in its preparatory work.

18. The Preparatory Committee will have before it contributions made by Governments, United Nations departments and bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and other organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as human rights treaty bodies and thematic special procedures.

Item 10. Organization of work and dates of the substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee and formulation of a concrete plan for the preparatory process

19. The Preparatory Committee will have before it, prior to the conclusion of its first session, a note for its consideration containing a draft provisional agenda for its second session. The Preparatory Committee may also wish to consider the formulation of a concrete plan for its preparatory process.

Item 11. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly

20. At the end of the organizational session, it is expected that the Preparatory Committee will adopt, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 3/2 and General Assembly resolution 61/149, a report “on progress” for submission to the General Assembly.
