

Statement by Mr. Tad Stahnke on Monday, April 28 during the First substantive Preparatory Commission meeting for the Durban Review Conference, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 11th Plenary meeting, Item 7. Draft outcome document of the Durban Review Conference.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

My name is Tad Stahnke, and I am the Director of the Fighting Discrimination Program at Human Rights First. Since 2002, Human Rights First has fought discrimination by combating racist, xenophobic, antisemitic, anti-Muslim, homophobic and similar violence in the 56 countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I have the honor today to present on behalf of the five organizations mentioned above and 89 others a "Statement of Core Principles for WCAR Follow-up." More organizations are still signing up every day and new signatures are welcome.

The signatories advocate on a broad range of human rights issues, including anti-racism, non-discrimination, minority rights, religious freedom, women's rights and other related issues in approximately one hundred Member States.

These principles offer a sincere and constructive contribution towards the debate on the draft outcome document that has started today. Above all, the signatories seek to prevent a replay of those events that were divisive in 2001-- as acknowledged in the introductory press release for the Durban Review from the High Commissioner's Office -- and to make the Durban Review conference and its preparatory process free of hate. We are calling upon both NGOs and States, while developing the substantive implementation of the final document, to work in the same respectful spirit as set forth in our statement. A full list of signatories is available here and online at WWW.MAGENTA.NL

I will read the statement to you now.

STATEMENT OF CORE PRINCIPLES FOR WCAR FOLLOW UP

In 2001, more than three thousand people participated in the Non-Governmental Forum of the United Nations third World Conference against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) to chart a course for future generations to eradicate racism, discrimination and intolerance. Participants pledged to adhere to established international human rights standards and operate with transparency and respect for democratic discourse.

Many civil society representatives were disappointed, when the NGO process, which raised the profile of important contemporary racism problems and the historic wounds of slavery and discrimination, was discredited. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson spoke out against what she called the "hateful, even racist" antisemitic atmosphere that plagued the NGO forum. She refused to commend it to governments for their consideration. Leading international human rights organizations called some of the human rights language in the declaration inaccurate, inappropriate and even counterproductive. They regretted that progress on vital issues such as discrimination against Roma and caste discrimination was thereby diminished. Observers were shocked by violations of procedure in the preparatory and drafting processes, the racist treatment including violence, exclusion, and intimidation against Jewish

participants, and the misuse of human rights terminology in the document related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

With a few notable exceptions, the vast majority of groups was silent or refused to speak out. In the years since, many have reflected that the result was a regrettable vacuum of moral leadership.

The 94 signatories pledge to reject hatred and incitement in all its forms, including antisemitism, to learn from the shortcomings of the 2001 WCAR, and to work together in a spirit of mutual respect.

1. We are united in our deep commitment to the goals of the WCAR to chart a course for future generations to eradicate racism, discrimination and intolerance in all its forms.
2. Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance afflict peoples in many Member States. We are committed to the important mission of NGOs to monitor and hold accountable those responsible for policy failures and for lack of implementation of measures to prevent and punish such acts.
3. However, the global effort to eradicate racism cannot be advanced by branding whole peoples with a stigma of ultimate evil, fomenting hateful stereotyping in the name of human rights.
4. The UN and its human rights fora must not serve as a vehicle for any form of racism, including antisemitism, and must bar incitement to hatred against any group in the guise of criticism of a particular government. We pledge to prevent this from happening again.
5. We pledge to uphold language and behavior that unites rather than divides. As NGOs we commit to use language in accordance with international human rights standards and conduct ourselves with civility and with respect for human rights standards.

Thank you for your attention.

Signed by:

1. Magenta Foundation
2. Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
3. International League for Human Rights
4. Human Rights First
5. ENAR – European Network Against Racism
6. UNITED for Intercultural Action - European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees
7. Anti-Defamation League

8. ACP - "Culture of peace" Association (Romania)
9. The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (USA)
10. SOVA Center for Information and Analysis (Russian Federation)
11. Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (USA)
12. European Jewish Congress
13. ILGA-Europe, International Lesbian and Gay Association
14. LICRA - Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Antisemitisme
15. B'nai B'rith International
16. Simon Wiesenthal Centre
17. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
18. CCDN - Celebrating Cultural Diversity Network (UK)
19. CRARR - Center for Research-Action on Race Relations (Canada)
20. Observatorio sobre Conflictos Etnicos en la Argentina – OSCEA
21. CAERS - The Canadian Anti-racism Education and Research Society
22. Citizens' Watch (Russia)
23. AFRICAN UNION Social organization of St.Petersburg (Russia)
24. NEVER AGAIN Association (Poland)
25. Asian American Justice Center
26. CIDI (Netherlands)
27. European Council of WIZO Federations
28. GRA Foundation against racism and antisemitism (Switzerland)
29. Dženo Association (Czech Republic)
30. AJC - American Jewish Committee
31. Hadassah
32. Freedom House (USA)
33. Human Rights Without Frontiers International
34. World Jewish Congress
35. Athinganoi, the Romani Student Association (Czech Republic)
36. Canadian Jewish Congress
37. Jewish Labor Committee (USA)
38. DACoRD - Documentation and Advisory Center on Racial Discrimination (Denmark)
39. Movimiento contra la Intolerancia (Spain)
40. Civitas Bosnia and Herzegovina
41. ZARA - Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit (Austria)
42. United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA)
43. Roma Virtual Network (RVN)
44. International Institute for Education and Research of Antisemitism (Germany/UK)
45. Amadeu Antonio Stiftung (Germany)
46. RADAR – Rotterdam Anti-Discrimination Council (Netherlands)
47. CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe
48. B'nai B'rith Europe
49. NIK - Organization of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands
50. United Nations Watch (Switzerland)
51. International Council of Jewish Women
52. Rabbis for Human Rights (Israel)
53. MAPP- Mouvement pour l'abolition de la prostitution et de la pornographie et de toutes formes de violences sexuelles et discriminations sexistes (France)
54. Association ESTER (Slovakia)
55. Na'amat (Belgium)
56. The Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights (Kyrgyz Republic)

57. Le Conseil des Femmes Juives de Belgique - CFJB (Belgium)
58. Bund Schweizerischer Jüdischer Frauenorganisationen - BSJF (Switzerland)
59. The Citizens Accord Forum between Jews and Arabs in Israel – CAF
60. Consultative Council of Jewish Organisations (EU)
61. Roma National Congress (RNC)
62. Israeli Association for Immigrant Children
63. National Roma Centrum (Macedonia)
64. New Israel Fund – NIF
65. Union of Balkans Egyptians (Macedonia)
66. Roma National Centre (Moldova)
67. National Campaign for Nomadic Tribes Human Rights – NCNTHR (India)
68. Association of citizens Sumnal (Macedonia)
69. Tribuna Israelita (Mexico)
70. Helsinki Citizens' Assembly of Moldova
71. Defence for Children International (Czech section)
72. Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Justice Office – SCP (Ireland)
73. Centro de Cultura e Pesquisas Axé – CCPA (Brazil)
74. Yad Sarah (Israel)
75. International Women's Rights Action Watch (USA)
76. Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities
77. The International Council of Christians and Jews – ICCJ
78. The American association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
79. ORT America/World ORT
80. Canadian Ethnocultural Council
81. Comité Central de la Comunidad Judía de México - Jewish Central Committee of Mexico (JCCM)
82. Physicians for Human Rights
83. The Advocates for Human Rights - formerly Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights (USA)
84. Antinazi Initiative (Greece)
85. World Council of Conservative/Masorti Synagogues
86. Jewish Council for Public Affairs (USA)
87. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (Sweden)
88. The Bahá'í International Community
89. The Canadian Helsinki Watch Group
90. Moscow Helsinki Group
91. Roma Democratic Development Association SUN (Macedonia)
92. Conectas Direitos Humanos (Brazil)
93. INACH - International Network Against Cyber Hate
94. European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS)