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## **Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference General Assembly resolution 61/149 of 19 December 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 3/2 of 8 December**

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The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions, 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 and would like to inform them that, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 61/149 of 19 December 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006, the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference will hold its organizational session in Geneva from 27 to 31 August 2007 and its two substantive sessions in 2008.

In accordance with its resolution 61/149, the General Assembly decided 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, requested the Human Rights Council to undertake preparations for this event, making use of the three existing and on-going follow-up mechanisms; and to formulate a concrete plan and provide updates and reports on this issue on an annual basis starting in 2007.

Pursuant to its resolution 3/2, the Human Rights Council decided 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, members of the specialized agencies, and observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly. The Council further decided that at its organizational session the Preparatory Committee shall decide on all the relevant modalities for the Conference in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, including deciding on the objectives of the Review Conference.

As indicated in Human Rights Council resolution 3/2, the Durban Review Conference 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. In this regard, the Secretariat is inviting all Permanent Missions, 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 to consider contributing to the preparatory process of the

Conference, namely its organizational session as well as its two substantive sessions, by undertaking reviews and formulation of written recommendations through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to support preparations for the Durban Review Conference. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights wishes to indicate that a similar request was made to the existing mechanisms during the preparatory process to the 2001 World Conference against Racism.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be grateful if any contributions for the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee could be sent to the Secretariat of the OHCHR - Anti-Discrimination Unit, for the attention of Mrs. Marie Dominique Perret at fax: +41 (0) 229289050 and/or to the following email address: adusecretariat@ohchr.org, no later than 20 August 2007. The subsequent deadlines for submission of contributions to the substantive sessions of the preparatory process and the Durban Review Conference will be communicated to you in due time by the Secretariat.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions, 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 the assurances of its highest consideration.

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23 July 2007