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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to non-governmental organisations and would like to inform them that as a part of the preparations for the Durban Review Conference, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has offered to host an intergovernmental regional preparatory meeting for Africa in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting will be organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and will take place from 24 to 26 August 2008 at the conference Hall of the ECOWAS secretariat, Yakubu Gowon Way, Asokoro, Abuja Nigeria.

It will be recalled that, in 2006, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 61/149, decided to convene a review conference on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in 2009 within the framework of the General Assembly. The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 3/2, decided that the Human Rights 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 to observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly. In its decision PC.1/11 entitled "*Preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national level*" adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference during its organizational session, States and regional organizations were called upon to hold international, regional and national meetings and/or to undertake other initiatives in preparation for the Durban Review Conference in line with the objectives of the Review Conference.

In its decision PC.1/13 entitled "Objectives of the Durban Review Conference", the Preparatory Committee decided, on the basis of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, General Assembly resolution 61/149 of 19 December 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 3/2 of 8 December 2006 that the objectives of the Durban Review Conference will read as follows:

1. To review progress and assess implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels, including assessing contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through an inclusive, transparent and collaborative process and to identify concrete measures and initiatives for combating and eliminating all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to foster the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

2. To assess the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to enhance them;
3. To promote the universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and proper consideration of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
4. To identify and share good practices achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is pleased to invite non-governmental organizations to this regional meeting. Organizations wishing to participate in the meeting are invited to send the names of their representatives to the Secretariat (fax: +41 22 928 90 50) by 31 July 2008. In addition OHCHR would like to inform non-governmental organizations based in Africa that limited financial assistance will be provided for a number of NGOs. Further information on this can be found on the following link:  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/DurbanReview/regional.htm>

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights seizes this opportunity to renew to non-governmental organizations the assurances of its highest consideration.

15 July 2008

