

2nd August, 2002



SEMINAR OF EXPERTS FOR THE AFRICAN REGION

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DURBAN PROGRAMME OF ACTION:
AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS
ON HOW TO MOVE FORWARD**

**Organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation
with the United Nations Office in Nairobi**

16- 18 September 2002

Nairobi, Kenya

INFORMATION NOTE

I. Background and objectives of the Seminar

1. The Durban Declaration and Program of Action Durban Programme of Action provide a new and innovative anti-discrimination agenda for States and others to address effectively racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It specifically requests States to adopt measures, including national action plans, for combating such phenomena, and also calls on specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, NGOs and civil society at large to take part in the implementation process.

2. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in co-operation with the United Nations Office in Nairobi will organize an African regional seminar on experts on **"Implementation of the Durban Programme of Action: an exchange of ideas and how to move forward"**. The seminar will provide an opportunity to reflect on ways and means that States in partnership with others may follow to integrate the provisions of the Durban Programme of Action (DPoA) in their legislation, policies, programmes and strategies for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

3. The seminar will bring together experts from Africa who will adopt recommendations concerning the modalities for the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action.

II. Experts

4. Twelve experts selected from the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms, United Nations bodies and specialised agencies, intergovernmental organisations, national human rights institutions, academics, NGOs and civil society have been invited to participate in the seminar in their personal capacity. The experts have been invited to prepare background papers on the topics of the seminar. Each paper will be introduced by the author in a 15 minute presentation at the beginning of the discussion of that topic.

III. Observers

5. States Members of the United Nations, United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, those accredited for the World Conference against Racism, and indigenous organizations accredited pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32, are invited to send representatives to participate in the seminar as observers.

6. A draft agenda containing the topics to be considered is attached to this note.

IV. Visas

7. Participants should obtain appropriate entry visas from a diplomatic or consular mission of the Government of Kenya at their point of origin. Participants may wish to obtain information on visa requirements and other travel-related information from either an embassy or consulate of the Government of Kenya in their countries.

V. Registration

8. Please confirm with OHCHR on official letterhead the name(s) of the person(s) who will be representing your country or organization by facsimile to +41 22 917 9050 as soon as possible.

9. Please find enclosed a **registration form**. Participants are requested to register in advance, although registration will also be possible at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) on the morning of 16 September (beginning at 08:30). Participants registering in advance are requested to fill in the registration form and return it to: OHCHR, Anti-Discrimination Unit, attention Ms. Elizabeth Okwera-Toya, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland, fax. +41 22 917 9050, no later than **Wednesday, 4 September 2002**.

10. For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear the meeting badges at all times during the meeting, as social functions and in the United Nations complex.

VI. Documentation

11. The papers prepared by the 12 experts will be available at the seminar in English and French.

12. Other written contributions by observers on the topics of the seminar are welcome. They must be drafted in English or French and will be made available to participants in the language of submission only. Since reproduction capacity will be limited, participants are requested to bring with them to Nairobi an appropriate number of copies of such documents that they wish to be made available to the seminar. Documents should specify the topic number under which they are submitted and should not exceed 12 single-spaced pages.

13. The final report of the seminar will be issued as a United Nations document in all official languages and submitted to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration at its fifty-ninth session, which will take place in Geneva in March 2002.

VII. Working languages

14. The seminar will be conducted in English and French. Interpretation will be provided.

VIII. Date, venue and transportation to the conference site

15. The seminar will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16 to 18 September 2002. The venue of the seminar will be held at:

United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON)
P O Box 67578

Nairobi (Gigiri)
Kenya
Tel: (254 2) 62 33 97/1
Fax: (254 2) 62 39 30

The United Nations Office in Nairobi is located about 12 kilometres away from the Nairobi city centre. Each day the seminar will have a meeting in the morning session, from 8:45 to 11:45 and one in the afternoon from 13:30 to 16:30. Transportation will be provided to the United Nations Office in Nairobi once in morning and back to town once in the evening at the conclusion of the Afternoon meeting of the seminar. In the morning, the bus will leave at 08:00 from the Hilton Hotel, which is centrally located in Nairobi.

IX. Accommodation

16. There is a wide range of hotel accommodations in Nairobi. Below are listed three hotels with indicative prices: (**Nairobi Tel/Fax Code 254 2**)

HOTEL	Single	Telephone	Fax
Hilton	USD 85.00	250 000	250 099
Intercontinental	USD 95.00	333 233	229 388
The Stanley	USD 95.00	333 233	229 388

Hotel rates are subject to change without prior notice. Participants should make their reservations directly with the hotel, and indicate they are attending the seminar when they make their reservation.

X. Additional Information

17. For further information about the seminar, please, contact the following persons at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland:

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