

NEPAL

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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XXXXVIIITH SESSION OF THE

UNFI'ED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRD COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY

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AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL

DISCRIMINATION

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau for your well deserved election. My delegation is confident that under your skillful stewardship, the work of the Committee will be successful.

Mr. Chairman,

Promotion of the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people regardless of race, sex, religion and language has been one of the primary objectives of the

United Nations. Since its inception, the United Nations has been seized of this matter. Racism and racial discrimination constitute a violation of fundamental human rights. Such practices jeopardize friendly relations among peoples, diminish prospects of enhancing friendly relations among nations and constitute a threat to the world peace and security. Any concept that advocates racial superiority is morally wrong, scientifically indefensible and socially unjust. Moreover, human rights, democracy, and international cooperation - the primary elements of a new world order - can not flourish in an environment where people are discriminated, racism practiced, freedom trampled and self-determination denied.

The United Nations' efforts for the eradication of racism and racial discrimination have indeed been laudable. Adopted over three decades ago, the United Nations declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination remains one of the important works of the United Nations. The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid are two key legally binding instruments for the eradication of racism and racial discrimination. We note with satisfaction that a growing number of countries have ratified these conventions. Universal adherence to these Conventions would be an important first step to demonstrate our commitment for their implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the CERD

Convention has been an effective instrument for the eradication of racism and racial discrimination. But, the financial problems that beset this Committee has constrained it from discharging its functions. We welcome the decision of the States Parties to the Convention to amend the relevant articles of the Convention in order to allow the Committee to be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations. We hope that the current session of the United Nations General Assembly would take appropriate action in implementing the proposed amendments.

Mr. Chairman,

My country has always condemned racism and racial discrimination wherever and in whatever form it existed. And we will continue to remain at the forefront in the crusade against this evil. Nepal is party to all major human rights instruments including the CERD Convention and the International Convention on Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Nepal's strong support to the anti-apartheid movement and her stand at the United Nations has earned her admiration of the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation attaches great importance to the Second Decade to combat racism and racial discrimination. Proclaimed by the United Nations in 1983 with a view to involving international community to intensify their efforts in combating racism and racial discrimination, the Second Decade has been useful in efforts towards the elimination of racism. In this connection, my delegation endorses the recommendations of the sub-committee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to launch a Third Decade. If proclaimed by the General Assembly, the Third Decade would greatly contribute in carrying out our struggle against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

Mr. Chairman,

Racism and racial discrimination, one of the deadly affliction that impedes the social progress by denying people their fundamental right to live in equality and dignity is not an isolated phenomenon. All the countries - developed and developing - are affected by this scourge. But one of the ugliest form of racism and racial discrimination has been

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apartheid practiced by the racist minority regime of South Africa. It is distressing to note that at a time when there is a talk of ushering in the new world order, the abhorrent system of apartheid still remains intact and talks of its eradication still continue in the United Nations. This institutionalized system of racism is an affront to the conscience and dignity of mankind and constitutes a grave threat to the international peace and security.

Its elimination is the moral obligation of the civilized world.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation believes that only strict implementation of the 1989 consensus Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in southern Africa promises creation of necessary climate for the establishment of the non-racial and democratic South Africa. We call upon the international community to adhere to the provisions of this Declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes any development that leads to the acceleration of the process of eradication of the odious system of Apartheid from South Africa. It is with this conviction that we had welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela and scores of other political prisoners. The unbanning of political parties, lifting of the state of emergency, repeal of

Group Areas Act, Group Population Registration Act and the land acts were indeed some positive developments. Moreover, the signing of National Peace Accords and the setting up of negotiating process under the framework of the Convention for the Democratic South Africa (CODESA) were indeed very encouraging developments for creating climate for negotiations.

The serious obstacle to the exercise of free political will has however, been the persistence of violence inside South Africa. The breakdown of the CODESA process following Boipatong massacre in June and the most recently the brutal killing of innocent people in Ciskei have created uncertainty and dimmed the prospects of the negotiated settlement of the dispute in South Africa. Controlling violence and safeguarding the lives

of innocent people is the primary responsibility of the South African Government. My delegation welcomes the convening of the Summit meeting between Mr. Nelson Mandela and Mr. de Klerk on 26 September that resulted in the signing of the Joint Record

of Understanding. We believe that such move would greatly contribute in accelerating the CODESA process which was abruptly aborted in June this year.

Mr. Chairman,

The reports of the "ethnic cleansing" that have been taking place in the former republics of Yugoslavia and elsewhere in the world. are the chilling reminder of the darkest days of the Second World War. The so called "ethnic cleansing" is yet another form of racism at its most grotesque form. We demand an immediate end to such an odious policy. We fully support the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its first special session which condemned the concept of 'ethnic cleansing'.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal is a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual country. For hundred of years, the people of Nepal have been living in peace and harmony. The newly promulgated constitution of Nepal guarantees the fundamental rights of the Nepalese people. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, tribe, caste or ideology. All the citizens are equal before the law. No person is deprived of his liberty except in accordance with law. There are no governmental policies based on racial prejudices. The Nepalese people have never suffered from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. We can assure the international community that we will do our best to prevent racism and racial discrimination from our society.