



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

EU Speaking points item 8 (modalities of the Durban Review Conference)

- The European Union supported the convening of a Review Conference on the implementation of the DDPA within the framework of the General Assembly, as contained in GA 61/149, and has since then actively engaged in the preparations for this Review Conference. It is our understanding that the review will be conducted at a high-level meeting in the framework of the GA, that it will focus exclusively on implementation of the Durban outcome document, without reopening any part thereof. The major value added of the DDPA is its universality and broad consensus achieved at Durban. The respective follow-up must therefore be done in a framework that preserves this broad consensus and avoids mistakes of the past. It must include all regions of the world, and States Parties and civil society alike.
- A review conference should first and foremost aim to safeguard and promote the concrete implementation of the achievements of the Conference it is following-up to and, therefore, avoid adopting the format of a new world conference which would potentially create the environment conducive to the re-negotiation of often arduously reached agreements.
- In our view there are therefore valid reasons to respect the precedents of other review conferences such as Beijing +5 and Copenhagen + 5, and install the Durban Review Conference as a special session of the General Assembly.
- The European Union has taken note of the Chairperson's draft decision on the modalities of the Durban Review Conference which, amongst other ideas, would establish a Conference consisting of 4 committees, i.e. a Plenary, a Credentials Committee, a Main Committee and a Drafting Committee. Having in mind the need to avoid adopting the format of a new world conference the EU believes that this proposal should be streamlined. It is our understanding that the provisional rules of procedure of the Review Conference should be adjusted if need be in the course of the preparatory process. On the basis of the above and in line with the practice followed for other review processes, the EU would therefore strongly suggest creating first, a plenary meeting and second, a Committee of the Whole which could meet in parallel and which could transform itself into a drafting body if the need arises. Planning for a Drafting Committee already at this stage would seem counterproductive in view of our aim to finalise the negotiations before the opening of the Conference.
- With one organizational and two substantial Prepcoms as well as two sessions of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental working group spread out over a period of almost one year and a half, the EU would assert that we will have devoted sufficient time to prepare a fruitful Review Conference. Therefore the EU would favour a focused Review Conference of not more than 3 days during which the outcome of our preparatory process is to be politically confirmed and reinforced. States themselves have the sovereign right to decide how they are represented.



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- In line with the consensus achieved at the organizational Prepcom the Review Conference is to be convened at the highest possible level.
- The EU calls for a cost-efficient process, to the benefit of UN Member States, the UN Secretariat as well as civil society whilst still allowing for as broad participation as possible. In this regard we would like to recall that not only many UN Member States are represented in Geneva but that also all the expert and technical support services are available here as Geneva is the headquarters of the OHCHR. Therefore the EU supports the Durban Review Conference to be convened in Geneva. Any other location would imply important extra costs for both the UN and Member States.
- Lastly, the European Union has taken note of draft decision 4 regarding an information strategy for the Durban Review Conference and would be interested in learning more about the activities that are intended under this strategy so as to better understand the scope and financial implications of the decision before us.