

**STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE DURBAN REVIEW**

CONFERENCE

Geneva, 20 April 2009

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva,

5 Those who are victims of racism, those who have suffered the indignities of apartheid and the expropriations of colonialism understand, perhaps more than most others, the pains of discrimination. These are historical wrongs and the victims are real people with blood in their veins, just like anyone else. Some of the victims will wear their scars to their graves but they are not bitter. For them, it is sufficient that their plight be duly recognized as the historical truth that it

