

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté

Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad

Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF.



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Thank you Mr. President

The Outcome document, which this Review Conference has adopted, reaffirms the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the 2001 Durban World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. We, in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, will therefore continue to work for the implementation of all the provisions contained in the DDPA. We will continue to work for the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and we will advocate for the recognition of other forms of discrimination not now included in the Programme of Action and for the inclusion of new emerging forms of discrimination.

We participated actively in the Civil Society Forum for the Review Conference held in Geneva this past week, from 17 to 19 April. It could finally be held in spite of the lack of official UN support and the many obstacles that had to be overcome.

Following the presentations that were made by eminent experts and the discussions in working groups, we are more convinced than ever that the implementation of the DDPA can be moved forward only by taking an all-comprehensive approach to this global social crisis which, in our view, has its roots to a large extent in an unfair economic system.

Whether it is the recognition that the trans-Atlantic slave trade was a crime against humanity and that reparations for this crime must be made, or to achieve the elimination of the multiple forms of discrimination from which women are made to suffer, or the need for better information and education programmes to combat and eliminate racism, racial and all other forms of discrimination requires the investment of financial, material and human resources. The elimination of poverty and of the unfair distribution of wealth that are most of the time at the root of conflict also require substantial resources.

The implementation of the DDPA requires a serious re-balancing of budgeting and we strongly urge all national governments to reallocate their resources from military to social expenditures.

Thank you for having given me the floor.