

Unofficial translation

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO COMMEMORATE THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ADOPTION OF THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

22 September 2011

**Statement of the Western European and Other States Group
delivered by H.E. Mrs. Isabelle PICCO, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations**

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Heads of State and of Governments,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Western European and Other States Group on behalf of which I have the honour to speak has acknowledged that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance undermine the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

By belonging to the human family, we are born free and equal in dignity and rights and should act toward one another in a spirit of fellowship without any distinction.

Building on the progress already made, it is our common responsibility to promote the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and its related intolerance, scourges that persist in all of our countries and threaten the foundations of our democratic societies, that are the rule of law and the respect for human rights.

Whilst a number of countries of our Group are not participating in today's event, and in spite of the fact that some States do not participate in this process, we all renew our unwavering commitment to pursue at the international, regional and national levels, the implementation of effective measures to fight these scourges, to end impunity and to mainstream promotion of equality and equal opportunities into all government policies.

The Western European and Other States Group reaffirms its solidarity with the too many victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance who continue to be flouted and bruised around the world. Each victim must be recognized and receive the same attention.

Mr. President,

Whatever the source, cause, form or manifestation, racism and racial discrimination undermine human dignity and must be combated to avoid the denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the human person.

We attach utmost importance to education, training and prevention as they allow for a better understanding of the phenomena to be fought and promote the richness of our differences and the respect of our diversity.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our call for the universal ratification and full and effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the main legal instrument to prevent, combat and eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to which all members of our Group are parties.