



**Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the President  
of the General Assembly on the Durban Review Conference  
in Geneva**

**New York - 23 April 2009**

The President of the General Assembly, Miguel D´Escoto, thinks it is good that the parties were able to come to an agreement on a final text by consensus. Nonetheless, he regrets that the focus on the victims that was overwhelming at the Durban Conference of 2001 has been diminished in the current text.

He also regrets that the reference contained in the Durban 2001 text recognizing the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to an independent State was also left out of the current text.

The UN, and in particular the General Assembly, having passed Resolution 181 more than 60 years ago, continue to bear specific obligations in regards to the creation of the State of Israel and the still unrealized State of Palestine.

It is a fundamental principle of International Law, and in particular, International Human Rights Law, that once a right is recognized, it can not be denied or rescinded. UN Member States are obligated to respect, protect and promote human rights.

It is the responsibility of the international community as a whole, and in particular of the United Nations, to progressively move forward the agenda in the defense, promotion, codification and implementation of these rights.