

**24th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
9 – 27 September 2013**

Joint NGO Statement

**International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)
Geneva International Center for Justice (GICJ)**

EAFORD & GICJ participated in the Human Rights Council's debate on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance. In this regard, Ms. Angela Bushati delivered an oral statement underlining the importance of the Durban Declaration principles of equality as well as the importance of education to combat discrimination and intolerance.

Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Thank you Mr. President. Distinguished members of the Human Rights Council,

The Durban Declaration and Program of Action highlights the principles of equality and non-discrimination as core human rights transforming victims of discrimination into right holders and states into duty barriers. In order for people to express their own identity and exercise their rights, they should be free from all forms of discrimination, which entails respect for their human rights.

We strongly underline the importance of the full and effective implementation of the paragraphs of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action concerning the role of education in preventing and eliminating racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Education plays an essential role in the full development of human personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It promotes understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial and religious groups.

The prime responsibility to combat discrimination and racism belongs to states, and it calls for the active involvement of international and non-governmental organizations, media and civil society. Education is a key to changing behavior and to promoting tolerance for diversity in societies. Such education is a determining factor in the promotion and protection of values of justice and equity, which are essential to prevent and combat the spread of intolerance.

The Human Rights Council and the Special Rapporteur must continue to address in their reports the role of education to prevent all forms of intolerance. We also encourage the further cooperation between the United Nations, UNESCO and other relevant international organizations, to initiate and develop cultural and educational programmes

aimed at countering all forms of discrimination in order to ensure respect for the dignity of all human beings and to enhance mutual understanding among all cultures and civilizations.

Thank you for your attention.
24 September 2013



Angela Bushati

Intern/EAFORD