

---

**UN Human Rights Council**  
**48<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Item 9 – General Debate**

Delivered by Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

---

Thank you, Madam President.

The UN has committed many times to fight racism in all its forms. Yet, the key UN document on this issue, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, is itself discriminatory. Not only does this document single out Israel, but the whole Durban process has been tainted with several episodes of antisemitism and antizionism. A despicable example of this is when Jewish representatives were barred from its preparatory meeting in Tehran, or another when the conference saw a politicized attempt to change the definition of antisemitism.

According to Holocaust Survivor Tom Lantos, who headed the U.S. Delegation to the conference, the Durban NGO Forum was the worst display of Antisemitism since World War II. The 2009 Durban Review conference was no better, being opened by a Holocaust denier, then Iranian President Ahmadinejad.

I want to thank the 38 states that decided not to join the 20th Durban anniversary held earlier this month. In doing so, they recognized that Durban is not a platform to fight racism, but a tainted process aimed to spread hatred against Jews and the only Jewish State. Any Member States genuinely interested in combatting all forms of racism, including antisemitism, should speak out.

Israel will always stand with those fighting racism, promoting tolerance and equality, and rejecting all forms of discrimination.

I thank you.