

Resolution PA 2105 – 10

Condemnation of the Commemoration of the Durban Process

THE 16th PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS,

RECALLS its previous resolution on Durban II of 27 January 2009;

FURTHER RECALLS that on 6 October 2020, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution encouraging the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to request the organization of a one-day high-level plenary event to mark the 20th anniversary of the World Conference Against Racism that took place in Durban in 2001 ('Durban I'); on 19 November 2020, the Third (Human Rights) Committee of the UNGA called *inter alia* for the holding of a commemoration event; on 31 December 2020 the UNGA adopted a resolution leading to the designation of the 22 September 2021 to commemorate the anniversary of 'Durban I';

WELCOMES the fact that the governments of many democratic nations including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia, the Czech Republic, Israel and Slovenia voted against the UNGA resolution;

MAINTAINS that the entire Durban process has been marred by an unbalanced criticism of Israel and the airing of antisemitic views. It was in this context that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) was conceived at 'Durban I' and was subsequently affirmed at the review conference in April 2009 ('Durban II') and at the 10th anniversary commemoration in September 2011 ('Durban III'), and it is for these reasons that many democratic nations subsequently refused to attend 'Durban II' or 'Durban III';

NOTES WITH CONCERN that if the above-mentioned commemoration is intended to provide an endorsement of the Durban process, it will serve to further entrench and legitimize 'Durban I', 'Durban II' and 'Durban III' without acknowledging their discriminatory and prejudicial elements and should be deplored;

FURTHER NOTES WITH CONCERN:

- that the Durban process is but one example of anti-Israel bias within the United Nations which has been repeatedly exploited by some of the world's worst abusers of human rights for the express purpose of assaulting Israel's legitimacy;
- that the public warnings uttered by successive UN Secretaries-General against the singling out of Israel have gone unheeded;
- that the anti-Israel bias permeating the UN is a *de facto* betrayal of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the

international human rights conventions to which these instruments gave birth;

CALLS ON U.N. member states to recognize the antisemitic nature of the Durban conference of 2001 and ensure that any commemorations clearly repudiate it. Disassociation would send a powerful message to the international community that the UN Human Rights Council, the UN General Assembly and the related UN organs policies and processes with regards to combatting hate must be unbiased and inclusive of all minorities, including Jews.

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Approved by the 16th WJC Plenary Assembly, 25 May 2021