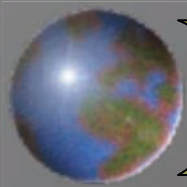


*World Jewish Diplomatic Corps (WJDC)  
Task Force Report*

*‘Durban II’ - UN Anti-Racism Conference,  
Geneva, April 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2009*



World Jewish Diplomatic Corps

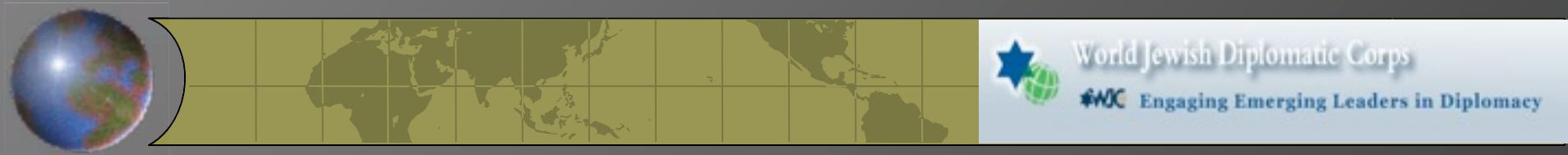
#WJC Engaging Emerging Leaders in Diplomacy

## World Jewish Diplomatic Corps

- An initiative of the World Jewish Congress
- Approx. 100 Jewish Diplomats (JDs) representing 34 countries
- Engages in practical diplomatic advocacy addressing the needs of global Jewry, extending the reach and scope of the WJC
- Task Forces:



- Inter-Religious Dialogue
- Iran
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Energy Security
- Durban Review Conference



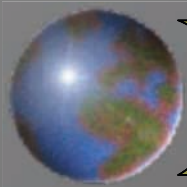
## **Durban Review Task Force**

### **Mission**

- **Implement a global and regional strategy to best impact the preparatory process and maximize outcomes during the conference**

### **Method**

- **Map the relevant players**
- **Identify potential strategic partners**
- **Create working alliances with NGOs and civil society organizations to counter anti-Israel or anti-Semitic initiatives**



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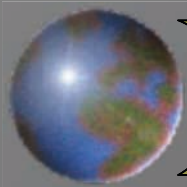
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## Task Force Activities

- Mapping policies of NGOs, governments and Jewish organizations
- Participation in Regional Preparatory Meetings (e.g. Abuja, Geneva)
- Lobbying NGOs, governmental representatives and UN officials
- Coordinating online global efforts, issuing reports, enabling dialogue and real-time updates on [www.drc2009.org](http://www.drc2009.org)







World Jewish Diplomatic Corps

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# Web platforms

**DRC WEB PLATFORM**  
Durban Review Conference 2009  
A RESOURCE CENTER FOR ACTIVISTS

HOME INVITE MY PAGE MEMBERS GROUPS FORUM CHAT LINKS EVENTS PHOTOS VIDEOS ABOUT US

Events

January 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

[Next Month](#)

**Durban Review Conference 2009**  
April 20, 2009 at 8pm to April 24, 2009 at 12pm - Geneva, Switzerland

[View All](#)

**Web Platform Features**

- \* [Home](#) Everything on one page
- \* [Invite](#) Invite activists to join us
- \* [My Page](#) Express yourself
- \* [Members](#) All of us in one place
- \* [Groups](#) on relevant interests
- \* [Forum](#) for relevant discussions
- \* [Chat](#) in your language
- \* [Links](#) for resources on the web
- \* [Events](#) to plan for and attend
- \* [Photos](#) for activists to share
- \* [Videos](#) and relevant media

**Latest Activity**

Welcome to DRC2009.org, Yariv Nornberg!  
Here are a few things you can do right now...

Invite friends Add photos Start a discussion Add a blog post Edit profile

**DRC Web Platform Mission**

To serve as the Online Resource Center for NGOs, groups and individuals involved in the planning process leading up to the Durban Review Conference; to coordinate the activities of these parties through utilization of this web platform; to facilitate the timely flow of relevant and pressing information, and to mobilize concerned parties. This secure web platform is administered by the World Jewish Congress.

**Background**

The 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism (WCAR, or "Durban I") was held in Durban, South Africa. Much of the deliberations focused specifically on Israeli treatment of Palestinians, culminating in a call by some countries to re-establish the controversial UNGA 3379 resolution from 1975 equating Zionism with racism. Both Australia and Canada made statements accusing the conference of hypocrisy, and the United States and Israel withdrew their delegations.

The WCAR was preceded by an NGO Forum which was marred by violent antisemitic behaviour and abuse of process by many NGOs. The NGO Forum Declaration, which uniquely singled out Israel for condemnation, was rejected by the then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson.

The UN is due to hold the Durban Review Conference ("Durban II") in Geneva in April 2009, to review the progress made by states since 2001. This conference has already been the subject of criticism in large part due to countries such as Iran and Libya being appointed to the Conference planning committee. Canada has announced that it will not participate in the Conference because it believes the Conference will actually promote racism and intolerance. Israel recently followed Canada's lead by announcing it will not participate in the conference as it seems likely to become a platform for further anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic behaviour.

Yariv Nornberg  
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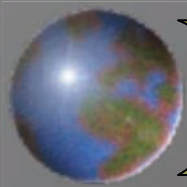
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www.jewishdiplomat.org

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## Selected Task Force Achievements

### ■ African Regional Meeting:

- Refocused the conference agenda
- Negotiated changes to the final NGO document, preventing Israel from being unfairly singled-out
- Nurtured relationships to enable future cooperation



### ■ Israel:

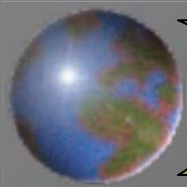
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Jewish organizations embrace WJDC recommendations for preparatory approach to conference



### ■ Geneva Working Group Meeting:

- Effective advocacy of Jewish concerns with numerous government and NGO delegations
- Contribution of best practices and recommendations to be incorporated in final declaration
- Cooperation and coordination with major civil society actors

JD Lior Herman  
Head of Task Force



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## Key Messages

- Advocate your concerns to your government and local NGOs
- No singling out of any one state for condemnation or demonization
- No re-opening of the first Durban Declaration in order to remove the anti-Semitism condemnation, Holocaust denial or the call for Holocaust commemoration
- No hierarchy of racisms – all forms of racism and discrimination are to be fought equally

### Recommendations to the Plenary

- Connect and engage JDs with their regional Jewish leadership and follow-up on existing achievements

*"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?"*  
Pirki Avot, 1:14, Hillel

“אם אין אני לי, מי לי?  
וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני?  
ואם לא עכשיו, אימתי?”  
פרקי אבות, א', י"ד