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OF SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 15 July 1983 from the Acting Chairman of the Special
Committee against Apartheid to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the Special Committee against Apartheid, to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration adopted by the International Non-Governmental Organizations Conference of Action against Apartheid and Racism, held at Geneva from 5 to 8 July 1983.

The Conference was organized by the Non-Governmental Organizations Sub-Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization, in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid.

On behalf of the Special Committee, I request that the Declaration of the Conference be published as a document of the General Assembly under item 32 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council, and drawn to the attention of the Second World Conference for Action against Racism and Racial Discrimination.

(Signed) Uddhav Deo BHATT
Acting Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

* A/38/150.

ANNEX

Declaration adopted by the International Non-Government Organizations
Conference of Action against Apartheid and Racism,
held at Geneva from 5 to 8 July 1983

The International Non-Governmental Organizations Conference of Action against Apartheid and Racism, organized by the NGO Sub-Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization, in co-operation with the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, was held at the Headquarters of the International Labour Office in Geneva, from 5 to 8 July 1983.

Its main purpose was to review the situation at the end of the United Nations Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; to formulate a programme of action for the elimination of apartheid and racism; and to make a contribution to the Second World Conference for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

The Conference was attended by representatives of 31 international non-governmental organizations, 52 national organizations from 30 countries of all continents, and national liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia, and indigenous peoples, representatives of 33 governments, the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations Special Committee of 24, the United Nations Council for Namibia, the International Labour Office, the Organization of African Unity, the Non-aligned countries, and the League of Arab States attended as observers.

After discussion of the problem of racism as a whole, and special consideration of the problem of apartheid and the situation in southern Africa, as well as discrimination against indigenous peoples, the Conference adopted the following Declaration to be sent to the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to all appropriate bodies:

I. The International NGO Conference of Action against Apartheid and Racism declares:

- Racism is an affront to human dignity and the conscience of mankind.
- Racism is a negation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Racism is a hindrance to genuine international co-operation.
- Racism is a weapon to divide and exploit people.
- Racism is one of the major causes of conflict and war.
- Racism is an international crime and must be eliminated.
- Apartheid is a crime against humanity and a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. The international community must take all necessary measures to eradicate apartheid and enable the people of South Africa and Namibia to attain freedom.
- National and international efforts must be redoubled to eliminate all discrimination against indigenous peoples and migrant workers. /...

- II. The peoples of the world have made enormous sacrifices to eliminate the evils of racism and racial discrimination and build a new world order of human equality.
- III. Today when the world is threatened with nuclear annihilation the struggle against racism and apartheid is inextricable linked with the struggle for peace and disarmament.
- IV. The past Decade has seen a vast mobilization of worldwide public opinion against apartheid and racism. The struggle for liberation and the elimination of apartheid and racism has intensified and has made significant advances. But the racists have not only stepped up their vicious resistance to change; they have embarked on a murderous offensive.

Apartheid in South Africa not only poses an ever greater threat to all the peoples in southern Africa and to international peace. Moreover, the aggressive and brutal character of the system of institutionalized racism in apartheid South Africa serves to encourage the rebirth of racist and neo-fascist organizations and acts in many parts of the world, particularly in the Western world.

The Pretoria regime has not only escalated repression in South Africa, and its war against the Namibian people, it is engaged in constant acts of aggression, destabilization and terrorism against all neighbouring States.

While the Conference notes that the majority of States have supported the goals of the Decade; it expresses grave concern that international efforts for the elimination of apartheid and racism have not been effective because of the negative policies and actions of certain governments.

The Conference considers it essential that the Second World Conference for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination must succeed in revitalizing international action. It must clearly identify the main obstacles to the total eradication of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid in the world, and prepare an effective programme of action to remove these obstacles.

- V. The Conference declares its unconditional support for the just struggle of the liberation movements of southern Africa, the indigenous peoples and the rights of migrant workers.

The Conference urges the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as governments, to redouble their efforts to render all necessary support to the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity.

It stresses the need for full co-operation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including religious bodies, trade unions, women and youth organizations, peace movements, and anti- apartheid and solidarity movements.

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- VI. The Conference supports the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity in their condemnation of the actions of certain Western and other countries, as well as transnational corporations, which continue to collaborate with the racist regime of South Africa.

It deplores in particular the policies of the United States administration which, under the guise of "constructive engagement", has provided comfort and encouragement to the apartheid regime.

It calls for comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the racist regime of South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Conference reaffirms that apartheid is a crime against humanity.

It opposes all manoeuvres, including the so-called "linkage", to delay the independence of Namibia.

It denounces South Africa's murderous attacks on the frontline States and calls on the international community to intensify its support for the frontline States.

- VII. The Conference urges the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, governments and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to eliminate discrimination against indigenous peoples and migrant workers.

- VIII. The Conference pays tribute to the millions of martyrs in the struggle against apartheid and racism. It calls on all governments and organizations to honour the memory of the leaders of the oppressed peoples in their struggle against apartheid, racism and colonialism, and for peace and international co-operation, and to publicize their contributions to these noble causes.

The Conference calls on all governments which have not yet done so to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and all other relevant conventions.

- IX. For the sake of justice and world peace, the Conference urges the entire international community to join its forces to banish racism, racial discrimination and apartheid for ever from this earth.

Therefore the need for action to combat racism is greater than ever.
