

**Final Report of the APA Delegation to the
"UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination,
Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR)"**



***Durban, South Africa
August 28-September 8, 2001***

Report Prepared by the APA Delegation to the WCAR in consultation with
APA's Committees on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP) and
Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA)

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AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Executive Summary

The accreditation of the American Psychological Association (APA) as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN) in the year 2000 provided a significant opportunity for APA to contribute psychological perspectives to the UN's global agenda. By early 2001, APA had recruited a team of NGO representatives to work at UN Headquarters in New York, with the oversight of APA's Office of International Affairs and the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP).

At the outset of their work, the UN/NGO Team recommended that APA participate in several upcoming UN conferences, including the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR), which convened in Durban, South Africa, on August 28-September 8, 2001. The conference was attended by 2,500 governmental representatives from 170 countries, 1,300 media representatives, and 4,000 NGO representatives, including six APA delegates.

The APA WCAR Delegation consists of six APA members, five of whom are designated representatives of those APA entities that coordinated efforts to ensure that APA had a presence at the WCAR and that issues of psychology were addressed by the conference. Those entities were the APA UN/NGO Team, the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP), the APA Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), and the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues (APA Division 45). The sixth delegate was an accompanying APA staff member. The names and affiliations of the APA WCAR Delegation (hereinafter the Delegation) were presented to the APA Board of Directors (BOD) at its June 2001 meeting, at which

time the BOD authorized the Delegation's participation in the conference, with funding provided by the Office of International Affairs (OIA), the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA), the American Psychological Foundation (APF), the University of Michigan, and the delegates.

Since the WCAR, the Delegation has been involved in a number of activities designed to bring the WCAR home to American psychologists and other groups. This report is the culmination of their work. It includes information about the background and social-political context of the conference, the role and activities of the Delegation and their impact on the conference's major product, the *WCAR Declaration and Programme of Action*, as well as postconference activities and follow-up within the UN and among governments and NGOs.

The themes of the conference and its overall goals encouraged a broad range of disenfranchised, oppressed groups throughout the world to call the world community's attention to the sources, causes, and forms of their unique circumstances and to seek identification in the conference's Declaration as a *victim* of racism. In addition, the themes of the conference also encouraged the largest group of "traditional" victims of racism—i.e., Africans and African Descendants—to call for reparations for slavery and colonialism. Other victims sought other types of remedies. Consequently, victims' claims to a large extent defined the social-political context of the conference and generated a number of hot-button issues that heightened the sometimes conflicting interests of civil society and governments.

The role and activities of the APA WCAR Delegation were guided by the policy statement, *APA Resolution on Racism and Racial Discrimination: A Policy Statement in Support of the Goals of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance*, prepared by CEMA and

CIRP in consultation with the UN/NGO Team and approved by the BOD at its June 2001 meeting. Accordingly, the Delegation sought to encourage NGOs and government representatives to acknowledge the psychological dimensions and effects of racism and to promote remedies and strategies that involve the use of psychological/mental health data and interventions. To this end, the Delegation was successful in getting the specific mention of "mental health" in at least four paragraphs of the approved *Declaration and Programme of Action* of the WCAR. In addition, by working closely with the Health and other NGO caucuses, the Delegation also advocated the mention of "health/health care" (to be inclusive of both physical and mental health) in numerous other paragraphs of the approved *Declaration and Programme of Action*.

The report of the WCAR was approved in January 2002 by the UN General Assembly, which also approved the establishment of an Anti-Discrimination Unit to coordinate and monitor follow-up activities within the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The 2003 annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the UN General Assembly cited follow-up activities that governments, UN agencies, and NGOs have launched to support the goals of the WCAR.

The Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action* stresses the vital role of NGOs in its implementation. Consistent with the responsibilities associated with APA's UN accreditation status and active role in the WCAR, the Delegation ends this report with recommendations derived in part from input they have received at dialogue sessions with diverse groups of psychologists. The recommendations address actions that APA might take internally, at the level of the UN, and with other psychological and mental health associations to support the WCAR *Declaration and Programme of Action*.

Background

The UN and Civil Society

The United Nations was established by 100 nations ("States") in 1945. It engages in a range of activities related to such international concerns as maintaining peace, promoting development, improving health, providing humanitarian assistance, promoting the global environment, and reducing fertility. Its concern with issues of racism dates back to 1948, when its *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which includes mention of racism, was adopted. Racism and other issues related to economic and social development are under the purview of the UN Economic and Social Council, which is responsible for fostering international cooperation for development. In doing so, the Economic and Social Council supports and actively consults with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and thereby maintains a vital link between the UN and civil society. NGOs are nonprofit voluntary citizens' groups that seek to bring citizens' concerns to the attention of the world's governments; monitor UN and governmental policies and initiatives; and provide analysis, expertise, and other resources to the UN.

The APA/NGO Team

In the year 2000, APA received accreditation as an NGO with the Economic and Social Council of the UN. The APA UN/NGO Team is headed by Corann Okorodudu, EdD, and works with the oversight of APA's Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP). Generally, in collaboration with other NGOs, the APA UN/NGO Team seeks to: (a) advocate for psychological concerns in policy and program development at the UN and with its Member States and other NGOs, (b) educate UN agencies and other parties on psychological issues and inform APA of

relevant UN activities, and (c) assess and monitor implementation of policies and initiatives from a psychological perspective.

Selection of the APA WCAR Delegation

The APA WCAR Delegation consists of six APA members, five of whom are designated representatives of those APA entities that coordinated efforts in attempting to ensure not only that APA had a presence at the WCAR, but also that issues of psychology were addressed by the WCAR. Those entities were the APA UN/NGO Team, the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP), the APA Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), and the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues (APA Division 45). The sixth delegate was an accompanying APA staff member. The names and affiliations of the Delegation were presented to APA BOD at its June 2001 meeting, at which time the BOD authorized the Delegation's participation in the WCAR, with funding provided by OIA, OEMA, APF, University of Michigan, and the delegates. The members of the Delegation are listed below.

- **Corann Okorodudu, EdD**, is the APA Main (or lead) NGO Representative to the UN and in that capacity chairs the APA WCAR Delegation. Dr. Okorodudu has served as Chair of CIRP, President of Division 48 (Peace Psychology), is currently a Division 48 representative to the C/R, and has a longtime prior involvement in UN activities through serving as a UN/NGO representative for APA Division 9, SPSSI.
- **Thema Bryant, PhD**, is a member of the APA/NGO Team to the UN, Chair of the Global and International Issues Committee of Division 35, and recently was elected Cochair of the Human Rights Subcommittee for the Elimination of Racism, composed of NGO representatives at the UN. She is an early career psychologist.

- **Anderson J. Franklin, PhD**, is the designated representative of Division 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues) and was that division's President-Elect at the time of his appointment.
- **Bertha G. Holliday, PhD**, is the APA staff representative and directs APA's Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs. She organized the 1997 APA Miniconvention on Psychology and Racism, which involved more than 300 presentations, and administers APA's 6-year-long National Conversation on Psychology and Racism.
- **James Jackson, PhD**, is the designated representative of CIRP and was that committee's Chair-Elect at the time of his appointment. Dr. Jackson is the principal investigator of the largest national study of African American mental health funded by the government and is also the PI on a grant related to aging in Black populations.
- **William Parham, PhD**, is the designated representative of CEMA and was a member of that committee at the time of his appointment. Dr. Parham was recently reappointed to CEMA.

The WCAR

Conference Background

There are four international agreements that guide the UN's efforts on racism: The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the 1965 UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Based on these agreements, the UN has to date declared three decades to combat racism:

1973-1982 First Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, with a focus on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

1983-1992 Second Decade for Action to Combat Racial Discrimination, with a focus on recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination.

1994-2003 Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, with a focus on the role of human rights education and a broadened view of racism and the need for preventive, institutional change.

Each UN Decade to Combat Racism has been accompanied by a UN World Conference, where, through a complex consensus-building process among governments and involving NGO consultation, a declaration (or statement of the problem) and plan of action are developed for adoption by the UN:

The First World Conference to Combat Racism was conducted in 1978 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Second World Conference was conducted in 1983 in Geneva.

The 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa, represents the third of such conferences.

Conference Context

The UN General Assembly established the objectives of the WCAR in 1997 when it authorized the conference. Later, at one of the WCAR preparatory meetings, the following major conference themes were identified consistent with those objectives

and with the decade's emphasis on developing both a broadened view of racism and strategies for related preventive institutional change:

- Sources, causes, and forms of racism
- Victims of racism
- Measures of prevention, education, and protection
- Provision of effective remedies at national, regional, and international levels
- Strategies to achieve full and effective equality

The themes of the conference and its overall goals encouraged a broad range of disenfranchised, oppressed groups throughout the world to call the world community's attention to the sources, causes, and forms of their unique circumstances and to seek identification in the conference's Declaration as a *victim* of racism. In addition, the themes of the conference also encouraged the largest group of "traditional" victims of racism—i.e., Africans and African Descendants—to call the world community's attention to the need for reparations for slavery and colonialism. Other victims sought other types of remedies. Consequently, victims' claims were the source of a major dynamic of the conference and served to heighten the sometimes conflicting interests of civil society and governments.

Other factors also served to shape the social-political context of the conference. These included:

- NGO frustration with the lack of progress from the prior world conferences on racism
- Changes of Presidential administration of the U.S. government and associated decreased U.S. support of the WCAR
- Geopolitical issues, the domination of these issues by the United States in an

increasingly unilateral manner, and the inability of NGOs to influence these developments

- Increasing visibility of Middle East tensions—especially related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Reticence of advanced industrial nations (especially the United States and Great Britain) to consider the possibility of reparations for the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
- The decision of the U.S. and the Israeli government delegations to leave the WCAR because the conference document purportedly ". . . was bound to contain hateful language against Israel, and... negotiations would be futile." [It should be noted that no such language was present in the final WCAR documents.]

Within this context, the following hot-button issues emerged during the conference's preparatory process:

- Palestinian self-determination
- Spelling of "Holocaust/holocaust"
- Zionism as racism
- Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade as a "crime against humanity"
- Reparations
- Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Some of these issues were resolved during the preparatory process (e.g., it was informally decided that Zionism would not be equated with racism); but others were not (e.g., language related to slavery as a crime against humanity and reparations).

The UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance was conducted

in Durban, South Africa, on August 28-September 8, 2001. This conference was attended by representatives from 170 countries, including 16 heads of state, 58 foreign ministers, and 44 ministers. Also in attendance were 2500 governmental representatives, 4000 NGO representatives, and 1300 media representatives. The conference was immediately preceded by youth and NGO forums.

Role and Activities of the APA WCAR Delegation

The role of the Delegation was governed and circumscribed by two factors: (a) legal considerations that dictate that members may not advocate positions in the name of APA that are not based on approved APA policy (e.g., resolutions); and (b) the specific policy statement, *APA Resolution on Racism and Racial Discrimination: A Policy Statement in Support of the Goals of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance* (Appendix 1), which was initially drafted by the UN/NGO Team, substantially revised by CEMA and CIRP in consultation with the UN/NGO Team, and approved as an emergency action by the BOD at its June 10, 2001, meeting.

Major tenets of that resolution are that APA:

- (a) denounces racism in all its forms;
- (b) furthers the objectives of the 2001 WCAR through efforts focused on elimination of all forms of racism and racial/ethnic discrimination at all levels of the science and practice of psychology in the United States;
- (c) pursues diverse racial representation at all levels of APA governance;
- (d) calls upon all psychologists to eliminate processes and procedures that perpetuate racial injustice in research, practice, training, and education;
- (e) calls upon all psychologists to speak out against racism and take proactive steps to

prevent the occurrence of intolerant or racist acts; and(f) promotes psychological research on the alleviation of racial/ethnic injustice.

This is the agenda that guided the Delegation's efforts at the WCAR. Consequently, the Delegation did not lobby or actively seek to influence any of the previously noted WCAR hot-button issues, as no specific APA guidance (policy) had been developed on these issues. Consistent with the APA Resolution on Racism..., the Delegation did seek to actively educate the international community (NGOs and government representatives) on the importance of understanding racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance from a psychological and mental health perspective. More specifically, the Delegation sought to encourage the WCAR to acknowledge the psychological dimensions and effects of racism and to promote remedies and strategies that involved the use of psychological/mental health data and interventions. *To this end, the Delegation was successful in getting the specific mention of "mental health" (and related research, data, and interventions) in at least four paragraphs of the WCAR's approved Declaration and Programme of Action. The included language is noted below.*

Paragraph 18: "Requests States to adopt public policies and give impetus to programmes on behalf and in concert with indigenous women and girls, with a view to...dealing with urgent problems affecting them in regard to education, their physical and mental health, economic life and in the matter of violence against them, including domestic violence;..."

Paragraph 92: "The [national] information should take into account economic social indicators, including,

where appropriate...mental and physical health care...in order to elaborate social and economic development policies with a view to closing the existing gaps..."

Paragraph 109: "...Urges States...to enhance measures to fulfill the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, with a view to eliminating disparities in health status...which might result from racism..."

Paragraph 154: "...Encourages the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations to promote and develop activities for the recognition of the impact of racism...as significant social determinants of physical and mental health status ... and to prepare specific projects, including research to ensure equitable health systems for victims."

This significant success is attributed to the Delegation's involvement in all of the WCAR processes. The WCAR, like all UN conferences, had a lengthy and formal preparatory process. Most facets of the process involved participation of NGOs. The Delegation prepared for its WCAR efforts through participation in and/or monitoring many of these processes and through other efforts. It also must be noted that Dr. Okorodudu's leadership, mentoring, and guidance (based on her broad and deep knowledge of UN and NGO processes, procedures, and personalities) were absolutely invaluable in preparing the Delegation for its role and efforts.

The following is an overview of the Delegation's efforts at the WCAR. The Delegation did the following:

- Revised the APA lobbying document consistent with the most recent draft of the *Conference Declaration and Programme of Action*,

indicating where in the draft recommended language related to psychology and mental health was to be incorporated; and distributed and discussed this document with various conference caucuses (special interest groups).

- Based on the APA resolution, broadly disseminated the *APA Declaration* to conference participants and caucuses (Appendix 2).
- Participated daily in meetings of the health caucus (composed of representatives from numerous NGOs) to ensure that whenever possible, proposed language on physical health was linked with the mention of mental health.
- Attended meetings of other caucus groups to encourage linkage between psychological aspects of racism and the concerns of a given caucus and to build support for inclusion of language in WCAR documents related to mental health and psychology.
- Attended NGO briefings and briefings by various groups of governments for NGOs.
- Attended open WCAR (government) work sessions and informally encouraged government representatives to insert language related to psychology and mental health.
- Delivered to a WCAR (government) plenary an intervention (paper) on "Psychological causes and consequences of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance" (Appendix 3) and broadly disseminated this paper. This intervention was entered onto the official WCAR record.
- Presented a 2-hour symposium for NGOs and others on "The psychological aspects of racism."

A more comprehensive chronology of the activities of the Delegation is presented in Appendix 4.

Conference Outcomes

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance was a historic event that identified and assessed many facets and impacts of racism. It provided a global platform for the voices of the most oppressed, for many marginalized communities to come together and be heard: Dalits, Roma people, African descendants across the Diaspora, victims of modern day slavery, indigenous peoples from all world regions, etc. The conference broke ground by providing opportunities for conversations within and between these diverse issue communities and national delegations, thereby enlarging the scope of the conference and connecting the causes, conditions, and consequences of racism and related oppression and intolerance.

After intensive and often difficult deliberations on a number of issues, the conference adopted a *Declaration and Programme of Action* that might not be as strong on some issues as some of the participants in the conference would have liked it to be, however it reflects a historic breakthrough in the degree of consensus that was reached. The Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action* thus serves as a basis for measuring progress in the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance now and into the future.

In addition to human rights standards, the Declaration section of the outcome document reaffirms a number of cross-cutting principles that are important to the analysis and implementation of all aspects of the Programme of Action, among them:

- cultural diversity as an asset for the advancement and welfare of humanity
- equal participation in national and global decision making

- racism as consisting in violations and obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights and as root causes of internal and international conflicts
- rejection of doctrines of racial superiority and research on "distinct races"
- recognition of multiple and aggravated forms of racism and other oppressions as well as their intersectionality
- the importance of a gender perspective, including the intersectionality principle
- the importance of solidarity, respect, tolerance, and multiculturalism as the moral ground and inspiration for the worldwide struggle against racism

The full text of the approved *WCAR Declaration and Programme of Action* is attached as Appendix 5. The following are selected excerpts provided to enable the reader to gain some quick sense of the breadth of the conference's concerns and the temperance of its language.

Concerning the Middle East

- Called for the end of violence and the swift resumption of peace negotiations.
- Recognized the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state.
- Recognized the right to security for all States in the region, including Israel.

Concerning Slavery

- Acknowledged and profoundly regrets the massive human sufferings and plight of millions of persons as a result of slavery, the slave trade, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, apartheid, colonialism, and genocide.
- Acknowledged that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity and should always have been so.

- Called upon all states who have not yet done so to express remorse or present apologies to restore the dignity of the victims of the slave trade.

Concerning Reparations

Recognized the need to develop programs for the social and economic development of those societies and the diaspora within the framework of a new partnership...in the following areas: debt relief, poverty eradication, building or strengthening democratic institutions, promotion of foreign direct investment, and market access.

Concerning Migrants and Trafficking in Persons

Urges States to prohibit discriminatory treatment against foreigners and migrant workers and to enact laws against trafficking in persons.

Concerning Indigenous Peoples

Urges States to work with indigenous peoples to stimulate their access to economic activities and increase their level of employment...through the establishment, acquisition, or expansion by indigenous peoples of enterprises and the implementation of measures such as training, the provision of technical assistance and credit facilities.

Concerning Refugees

Urges States to take effective steps to protect refugee and internally displaced women and girls from violence, to investigate any such violations, and to bring those responsible to justice...

Concerning Other Victims

- Calls upon States and encourages non governmental organizations to raise awareness about the racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance experienced by Roma/Gypsies/Sinti/Travellers, and to promote knowledge and respect for their culture and history.

- Urges States to incorporate a gender perspective in all programmes of action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance...

Concerning Anti-Racism Education

- Recommended various anti-racism education, prevention, and protection measures; urged States to commit financial resources to education and media campaigns promoting tolerance.
- Recognized that the media should represent the diversity of a multicultural society; urged States to encourage media to avoid stereotyping.

Concerning Racism and the Justice System

Calls on States to ensure full and effective access to the justice system--particularly for persons of African descent; urged the elimination of police practices of racial profiling

On Monitoring the Effects of Racism

- Urges States to collect, compile, analyze, disseminate, and publish reliable statistical data that assess the situation of victims of racism including data on...health and health status...mental and physical health care...
- Urges States to work with health professionals, scientific researchers, and international and regional health organizations to study the differential impacts of medical treatments and health strategies on various communities
- Urges States to enhance measures to ensure the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the elimination of disparities in health status that might have resulted from racial discrimination

On Racism Interventions

- Urges States to promote new and innovative methods and procedures of conflict resolution, mediation, and conciliation

Postconference Activities and Follow-Up

Follow-Up to the World Conference Within the UN Approval of the WCAR Report. The report of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance was approved by the UN General Assembly in January 2002. In February 2002 the UN General Assembly approved specific follow-up activities and initiatives to the WCAR by a vote of 137 governments in favor, two against (the United States and Israel), and two abstentions (Australia and Canada). The representative of the United States explained that his negative vote was due to the fact that the United States had withdrawn from the WCAR and had not been part of the agreement to adopt the Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action*, because the conference had placed inappropriate and unacceptable focus on a single country-specific situation irrelevant to the subject matter of the conference. The representative of Israel explained his negative vote as due to efforts at the conference to isolate and attack Israel, which was an affront not only to Israel but to any individual valuing the true objectives of international efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination. (These comments might best be understood in relationship to this report's previous discussion of Conference Context.)

Having approved the report, the major follow-up activities and initiatives adopted by the UN General Assembly included the following:

- Establishment of an Anti-Discrimination Unit within the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights that would focus on combating racism and promoting equality and nondiscrimination;

- Appointment by the UN Secretary-General of five (regional) independent eminent experts (one from each region) to follow the implementation of the provisions of the WCAR *Declaration and Programme of Action*;
- Preparation of an annual report on WCAR follow-up activities to the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Commission by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- The requirement that all relevant organs, organizations, and bodies of the UN system become involved in the follow-up to the WCAR and the invitation to the specialized agencies and related organizations of the UN system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes, and medium-term strategies to take into account the follow-up to the WCAR;
- The invitation to all human rights treaty monitoring bodies and all mechanisms and subsidiary bodies of the UN Commission on Human Rights to consider the provisions of the WCAR *Declaration and Programme of Action* in the discharge of their respective mandates; and
- Urging of all governments to establish and implement without delay national policies and action plans to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, including their gender-based manifestations.

The General Assembly also approved the recommendation of the UN Secretary-General that WCAR follow-up activities would require approximately \$1.2 million from the UN's contingency fund for the biennium 2002-2003 for establishment of the Anti-Discrimination Unit and support of the work of the five experts.

Actions by the Commission on Human Rights

The report of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance was approved by the UN General Assembly in January 2002. In February 2002 the UN General Assembly

The Commission on Human Rights has a central role in the monitoring of the implementation of the Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action*. As required by the UN General Assembly, the annual reports of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly have contained information reflecting activities by governments, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN bodies and specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and youth groups to implement the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. In the discussion which follows we briefly report on some of the activities of some of these entities.

- To begin with, the Anti-Discrimination Unit has been set up in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and assigned responsibility for implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Specific activities of the Anti-Discrimination Unit have included the following:

1. Preparation of the annual progress reports to the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the General Assembly on actions taken by governments, the UN system, and nongovernmental organizations, including youth organizations, to implement the Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action*;

2. Production and dissemination of an annual publication on progress achieved;
 3. Provision of support for the work of the group of the Five Independent Eminent Experts;
 4. Exploration of the possibility of establishing and maintaining a database of good practices in addressing racism;
 5. Provision of support for the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action*;
 6. Provision of support to the Working Group of Experts of People of African Descent;
 7. Preparation for several regional seminars conducted thus far; and
 8. Continuing and strengthening links among NGOs.
- The Secretary-General appointed the following independent eminent experts on June 16, 2003: Martti Oiva Kalevi Ahtisaari, former President of Finland; His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan ben Talal of Jordan; Edna Maria Santos Roland of Brazil, Rapporteur-General during the WCAR; Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, former President of the UN General Assembly and the Organization of African Unity; and Hanna Suchocka, former Prime Minister of Poland. In their first meeting held in Geneva from September 16-18, 2003, they: (a) paid special attention to possible linkages among racial discrimination, xenophobia, and terrorism and underlined the importance of the principle of nondiscrimination in combating terrorism; (b) identified the following priority areas for attention—access to education, access to justice, and awareness-raising; (c) recommended that

the international community find ways to measure racial inequalities, perhaps through developing a Racial Equality Index similar to the Human Development Index used by the United Nations Development Program; and (d) emphasized the importance of mobilizing civil society, using a transdisciplinary approach.

- A Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent has been meeting and held its third session on September 29 to October 10, 2003, to study the problems of racial discrimination people of African descent face. The following are some highlights gleaned from the dialogue at the third session of this group, which:

1. Acknowledged that while they show similarities, people of African Descent represent a diverse community on different continents, reflecting different issues, needs, and expectations
2. Attributed the persistent problem of the "invisibility" of people of African descent in Latin America to the fact that they are often excluded from domestic data collection and the media and that many countries in the region are often unwilling to recognize that people of African descent experience racial discrimination
3. Acknowledged that the General Assembly proclaimed the year 2004 as the International Year to Commemorate the Struggles against Slavery and its Abolition, called attention to the importance of the UNESCO Slave Route Project and the contribution of people of African descent to their liberation and the development of their countries
4. Noted its intent to use a multidisciplinary approach to its work and to benefit from the contributions of specialists from various fields, including history, econom-

ics, sociology, psychology, law, political science, religion, and spirituality

Activities of Governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs

The recent report of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights also cited activities that governments, UN agencies, and NGOs have launched to support the *Durban Declaration and Programme of Action*. The following are examples of reported activities.

- The Czech Republic sponsored its fourth comprehensive public information and education campaign against racism. The government of Denmark reported that it has decided to establish a national action plan to promote diversity, tolerance, and equal treatment and to combat discrimination. The government of Namibia has adopted legislative, judicial, and administrative measures to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in addition to a constitution that expressly prohibits racial discrimination and apartheid.
- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child decided at its 28th session, September 24 to October 12, 2001, to request all State Parties in their next periodic reports on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to include their implementation of CRC-relevant commitments made at the WCAR. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has undertaken research, published materials, and conducted training and education campaigns to gain insight into HIV/AIDS-related racism, discrimination, stigma, and denial. UNESCO has organized a series of regional consultations to discuss the results of a number of studies that take a closer look at particular aspects of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related

intolerance. UNESCO has also produced educational materials that can foster peace, human rights, mutual understanding, and dialogue.

- NGOs have been just as involved in follow-up to the WCAR.
 1. The American Psychological Association is a member of a network of NGOs who formed the International NGO Committee on Human Rights Subcommittee for the Elimination of Racism in New York, after the World Conference, to promote the effective implementation of the Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action*. A member of the APA UN/NGO Team is a representative to the NGO Committee on Indigenous Issues and participates in the annual Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
 2. The Anti-Defamation League convened Jewish leaders from around the World for the League's Conference on Global Anti-Semitism, which took place from October 31 to November 1, 2002.
 3. The Center for Women's Global Leadership focused its June 2002 training on the intersection of racism, sexism, and other oppressions.
 4. The National Action Committee for the Rights of Children and Women in Cameroon used the occasion of International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2002, to share the Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action* with policy and opinion shapers. They have also translated the Durban *Declaration and Programme of Action* into local languages.
 5. Organized by the American Friends Service Committee and other NGOs, a nationwide follow-up meeting to the

world conference entitled "Movement Beyond Borders: U.S. Communities Build a Multiracial Justice and Human Rights Vision" was conducted on May 1-4, 2003. It brought together approximately 300 students, activists, and academics and provided them with an alliance-building opportunity. The meeting discussed the state of the anti-racism movement in the United States and the outcomes of the World Conference as a tool to promote racial justice.

Postconference Follow-Up Activities of the APA WCAR Delegation

Since the WCAR, the Delegation has been involved in a number of activities designed to bring the WCAR home to American psychologists and other groups. Articles describing the Delegation's activities have occurred in OEMA's news journal, *The Communiqué*, and CIRP's newsletter, *Psychology International*. *The Monitor on Psychology* also published an article on the Delegation's WCAR activities in January 2002. Delegate Parham prepared articles on the WCAR for the May 2002 *Division 17 Newsletter* and the Winter 2002 issue of the ABPP newsletter, *The Diplomat*. Moreover, status reports have been provided consistently to CEMA and CIRP, which provides oversight for the APA's UN initiatives.

In addition to news articles, the Delegation has given presentations across the nation on its WCAR activities (see Appendix 4). Most important among these presentations are the following: (a) At the March 2002 APA Spring Consolidated Meetings, the Delegation gave a preliminary debriefing in the President's Plenary; (b) in August 2002, the Delegation presented a symposium followed by a town hall meeting at the APA Convention in Chicago; and (c) in January 2003, the Delegation give a symposium at the National

Multicultural Conference and Summit in Hollywood, CA. Prepared by the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, nearly 1000 WCAR Briefing Books, which included the major APA WCAR documents, the final approved WCAR *Declaration and Programme of Action*, and related information, have been distributed thus far at these and other sessions.

Apart from providing information on the objectives of the WCAR, the efforts of Delegation, the hot-button issues, and the outcomes of the conference, the presentations were intended to engage the participants in dialogue to explore APA's role in fulfilling the goals of the World Conference. In addition to questions requesting more details about the conference, the following themes were gleaned from the dialogue:

- the need to keep the issues of the WCAR on the front burner of APA;
- concerns for going beyond increased racial representation to APA's impact on racism in education, research, public policy and practice; and
- concerns for what is happening on the national level as well as the international level in regard to issues of racism and assessing where we are in psychology in addressing these issues.

Although the Delegation cannot assess the impact of its various informational activities in regard to the WCAR beyond many expressions of appreciation and encouragement, it has received two supportive letters that offer testimony to the potential impact that remains to be tapped. The first letter sent to Bertha Holliday (4/12/02) from the Asian American Psychological Association expresses appreciation for "the depths and the scope of effort invested in exploring issues of

racism. . . as complex human phenomena and worldwide concerns." The association affirmed the importance of a number of the articles in the WCAR *Declaration and Programme of Action* and pledged to uphold many of its strategies including: (a) promoting diversity, (b) training competent professionals who will empower clients, (c) encouraging and disseminating research that promotes social awareness, (d) providing a network of support and activism, (e) training future leaders, and (f) collaborating with other national and regional organizations committed to battling racial discrimination.

The second letter was addressed to the Delegates from the National Institute for Multicultural Competence (7/30/03). The following are excerpts from the letter, which describes a WCAR organizational initiative:

I want to personally thank you all for the tremendous job you did as delegates from the American Psychological Association (APA) to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR) that took place in 2001. The NIMC is a multicultural and social justice advocacy group that has worked over the past ten years to promote organizational changes in the American Counseling Association (ACA) and APA as well as within the local universities and communities where we live and work.

Having reviewed the summary materials that you distributed at the 2002 APA Convention, the members of the NIMC have agreed to highlight the purposes and results of the WCAR at four universities that have been included in a national tour that is sponsored by the NIMC and entitled "Promoting Multicultural Competence and Social Justice." At the current time, the national tour will provide professional development and consultation services that focus on a variety of issues related to multicultural competence and social justice advocacy at four universities: Seton Hall University,

the University of South Florida, the University of Nebraska at Kearny, and Colorado State University.

As suggested in the "Action Plan" that is included in the WCAR report, the NIMC tour will present an analysis of the complex problem of racism, the psychological impact this complex problem has on the victims and perpetrators, and the types of strategies that have been developed and implemented to deal with this serious and multifaceted problem. Much of the information and proposed strategies for dealing with racism is contained in the report from the WCAR that was distributed at your program at the 2002 APA Convention. In presenting this information during the national tour we hope to contribute in some small way to the on-going struggle for the elimination of racism and the building of a greater level of social justice and peace in our nation.

The members of the NIMC thought you would be interested in our initiative. But most of all, we wanted to simply extend our thanks for your work in this area.

Recommendations

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action stresses the vital role of NGOs in its implementation. Consistent with the responsibilities associated with APA's UN accreditation status and active role in the WCAR, we offer the following recommendations. These recommendations are derived in part from input received by the Delegation at dialogue sessions throughout the nation with diverse groups of psychologists. The recommendations address actions that APA might take internally, at the level of the UN, and with other psychological and mental health associations to support the *WCAR Programme of Action*.

Actions Within APA

1. Broadly disseminate the "APA Resolution on Racism and Racial Discrimination: A Policy Statement in Support of the Goals of the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance." According to the resolution, APA will:

- Actively pursue diverse racial representation at all levels of APA governance;
- Call upon all psychologists to eliminate processes and procedures that perpetuate racial injustice in research, practice, training, and education;
- Call upon psychologists to speak out against racism and take proactive steps to prevent the occurrence of intolerant or racist acts; and
- Promote psychological research on the alleviation of racial/ethnic injustice.

2. Use the APA Resolution on Racism... and the WCAR *Declaration and Programme of Action* as frameworks to support and broaden current racial diversity initiatives of various governance groups within APA

3. Encourage psychologists to engage in activities in support of the WCAR Programme of Action

4. Develop a special issue of the *American Psychologist* that would focus on research and interventions related to major issues in the *WCAR Declaration and Programme of Action* featuring international and UN experts with mental health/psychological expertise

5. Submit the final report and all related documents to the APA Archives and the Archives of the History of American Psychology established at the University of Akron, OH

6. Consider the issue of staff support as well as greater clarity regarding governance oversight for future delegations to UN meetings and conferences

Actions at the Level of the UN

7. Continue WCAR follow-up activities of the APA UN/NGO Team working with other NGOs in the International Human Rights Subcommittee on the Elimination of Racism and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as with other NGO committees and with UN personnel

8. Approach the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regarding APA's preparing human rights training materials for mental health workers who deal with ethnic/racial minority populations including migrants and refugees [The OHCHR is developing specific human rights training materials, within the UN Decade of Human Rights Education, aimed at specific professional categories, e.g. human rights monitors, police, judges, prosecutors and lawyers, and prison officials. In the development of these materials, OHCHR works in close cooperation with relevant experts and professional organizations. These training materials always include a specific component that addresses the contribution that relevant professions can make in overcoming discrimination while performing their professional duties. Source: 3/4/02, CHR, "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and all forms of discrimination," for more information, see: E/CN.4/2002/21.]

Actions With Other Psychological, Counseling and Other Associations

9. Establish partner/liason relationships with other professional psychological associations, allied health groups, community service agencies, educational institutions, and political

action coalitions in sponsoring programs and outreach efforts to address injustices identified in the WCAR document

10. Engage and collaborate with international psychological associations to support WCAR outcomes

11. Create discussion guides, consistent with provisions of the WCAR *Declaration and Programme of Action*, that address psychological issues and interventions related to indigenous peoples, trafficking, contemporary slavery, migrants and refugees, reparations, anti-Semitism and other issues for use in middle school, high school, and college classroom settings

Appendices

Appendix 1: APA Resolution on Racism and Racial Discrimination: A Policy Statement in Support of the Goals of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance

Appendix 2: APA WCAR Declaration

Appendix 3: APA Delegation Intervention at the WCAR: "Psychological Causes and Consequences of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance"

Appendix 4: Chronology of the Activities of the APA Delegation

Appendix 5: WCAR Declaration and Programme of Action (as approved by the UN and annotated by APA)