

***Announcing a side event at the United Nations Durban Review Conference –
all delegates accredited to the Review Conference are welcome to attend***

- Title:** **“The workplace: Addressing racial discrimination & promoting diversity”**
- Organizers:** Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
- Date and Time:** 22 April 2009, 13.00 – 15.00
- Venue:** Palais des Nations Room XXIV, Geneva
- Topic:** The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action refer to the special importance of eliminating racism and racial discrimination in the workplace, and of creating equal opportunities in employment. The Programme of Action (para. 104) urges the private sector to support the creation of workplaces free of discrimination. This event will focus on some of the practical challenges faced by companies in eliminating racial discrimination and promoting diversity in the workplace.

Objectives:

- Through a panel discussion, the side event will raise awareness about progress made, lessons learned, and challenges that remain in creating workplaces free of racial discrimination.
- The panel will refer to specific examples of concerns about continuing racial discrimination in the workplace, as well as positive initiatives taken by some companies to address discrimination and promote diversity.
- The side event will seek to identify practical opportunities for further progress in combating workplace discrimination and promoting diversity.

Panelists:

Moderator: Marcia Kran, Director, Research and Right to Development Division, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

- Representative of the International Labour Organization working on these issues (TBD);
- Selby Baqwa (Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Nedbank, South Africa);
- Eric Dziedzic (Principal Specialist-Diversity, Strategy Development Unit, Novo Nordisk, Denmark);
- Mandana Zarrehparvar (Director - Equal treatment and access to justice, Danish Institute for Human Rights);
- Sukhvinder Singh (Head of Workplace Integration, Strategy-Policy Directorate, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Great Britain);
- Abiola Okpechi (Anglophone Africa Researcher of the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, South Africa);
- Christopher Avery (Director of the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, United Kingdom).