

Results ICARE DURBAN Plus 5 poll.

Summary

In total 92 persons/NGOs filled out the poll. This is not so much, especially not since the poll was viewed by 543 visitors. The geographic spread shows that most voters are based in Europe and the U.S.A. and the minority in other countries. The outcome is a close call. 42 of the 92 voters are in favour of a Durban plus 5, 45 of the 92 voters are against a Durban plus 5. This comes as no surprise and only confirms that the NGO community is still divided over the happenings during the WCAR in Durban in 2001.

Most voters were present at the WCAR itself (76 of 92), the majority of the voters (59) has no ECOSOC status or does not know (15), while 18 voters do have ECOSOC status. Only 41 of the 92 voters gave the name of their Organization. Some of the replies on the question why voters are in favour or against a Durban Plus 5 are quite interesting but confirm (again) the divisions which exist. You'll find an overview of those replies further on in this document, but here are two 'appetizers', one 'for' and one 'against' a Durban plus 5:

Durban was an extremely important conference where the 'victims' of xenophobia and racism had ample chance to speak, especially in the NGO Forum. Also, racism was defined in such a way that a wide variety of issues regarding human rights could be presented under the same 'umbrella', We should not be afraid of the denigrating which happened at Durban - it shows that certain basic issues were touched. However we should try to prevent extreme or 'thoughtless' groups from stealing the limelight. A Durban + 5 would be a good opportunity to look again at what was accomplished in Durban 1.

How could anyone be in favour of this? The WCAR was a racist conference, largely taken over by Sangoco and the Palestinian and Arab Caucuses, perpetrating hate, aggression and racism against the Jewish NGOs and anyone (just a few) who protested against that. I don't know what is worse, the silent complicity of the NGO International Steering Group or the perpetrators themselves. People who want a follow-up are either blind, careless or part of the perpetrators in Durban.

Outcomes

Completed 92 100,00%

Viewed 543

It is now almost 5 years ago that the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism was held in Durban. Was your organization accredited/present at the WCAR in Durban and/or the NGO Forum?

Yes	76	82,61%
No	16	17,39%
Total	92	

Does your organization have ECOSOC Status with the UN?

Yes	18	19,57%
No	59	64,13%
I don't know	15	16,30%
Total	92	

Are you in favor of a follow-up to the WCAR in the form of a Durban plus 5 conference?

Yes	42	45,65%
No	45	48,91%
I don't know	5	5,43%
Total	92	

If you are in favor of a Durban plus 5 can you tell us why?

Some of the replies:

I think 5 years are long enough to see some results of the things that have been agreed on in Durban and it needs a follow-up to make sure that these issues don't get dropped from the respective agendas

Racism has increased over the past five years, particularly in relation to people seeking asylum in the EU and of course the terrorist attacks on the World Trade centre

To evaluate what progress has been made by NGO's and Governments.

To review and monitor National Action Plans.

To keep issues of addressing and eliminating Racism on the agenda.

To plan for the next WCAR.

because nothing changed in my country after the conference. The action plan is ignored and there should be constant pressure from the international community against this ignorance

In the United States, more people than ever are unemployed and, in addition, facing problems and lack of assistance in health care, housing, education, and other areas. In addition, many people have been harassed by the Homeland Security Office and other U.S. governmental agencies. It is as if the U.S. government willingly decided to go backward in reference to the progressive movement of the World Conference Against Racism. Poor and unemployed people in the United States must work with poor and unemployed people from other countries and progressive NGOs in order to move themselves forward.

There are renewed and more intense outbreaks of racism and related intolerance throughout the world. The forces that were operating against the WCAR process from within more especially those that lead the USA Government have furthered their aggressive foreign policies conducive to the growth of intolerance. On the other hand the world dynamics against racism and intolerance expanded their scope of action, that being true especially of our country, where there are large initiatives for racial equity being pursued by the civil society and finding echo in government.

A Durban plus 5 would definitely be important for reviewing the advances and setbacks so far.

Caste discrimination needs to be solved internationally just like apartheid in South Africa

A lot of efforts were made and - due to several reasons - the outcome of the WCAR was quite meagre.

Not much has been achieved towards the adoption of national action plans as well as in fulfilling other recommendations from WCAR by the UNO Member States - it looks as if the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action should be forgotten.

Because the issue of eliminating racism has been handicapped by the focus on terrorism and a follow-up might refocus to engage in activities.

Sept. 11, 2001 Terror Attacks overshadowed the UNWCAR events. There should be another conference for that reason alone. The same problems that inspired the Conference are still present around the world, and new ones have emerged like Darfur, the Iraq War, and continued Israeli/Palestine Conflict.

A great opportunity to learn and share with participants and friends the amount of success, strategy used, and how to forge ahead.

Racism is far from dead. We need to many global leaders meet and commit to eliminating racist laws, (i.e. regarding international immigration) and equal rights for all, in practice not just in theory.

With everything that has happened since Sept. 11th and the bombings in Madrid and London, I think that awareness of anti-Muslim, anti-black hatred in addition to a rise in anti-Semitism must be addressed at a new level in a new time. These problems as well as old problems are still rampant.

Racism is endemic in virtually all societies worldwide. It is ongoing problem. The Iraq War and the ' War of Terror' has created significant divisions worldwide. Anti-Semitism and 'Islamophobia' are of serious concern. Much of Africa remains in poverty, as does South America. Hurricane Katrina illustrates the problems for African Americans in the richest country in the world. In Australia, aboriginal people continue to be in the lowest groupings in regard to their socio-economic positions. The Roma in Europe and Dalits in India continue to experience discrimination. Worldwide refugees are facing new demonization. In the Western industrialised world the 'other' are perceived as a 'security risk'. (I could write a book about why). In fact I think ' Durban plus 5' is very, very important.

WCAR became vilified and misunderstood and therefore placed outside of the documents we rely on to build understanding and support for important human rights positions. We need to meet to bring the important values and issues we discussed in Durban back to the center of attention.

Durban was an extremely important conference where the 'victims' of xenophobia and racism had ample chance to speak, especially in the NGO Forum. Also, racism was defined in such a way that a wide variety of issues regarding human rights could be presented under the same 'umbrella', We should not be afraid of the denigrating which happened at Durban - it shows that certain basic issues were touched. However we should try to prevent extreme or 'thoughtless' groups from stealing the limelight. A Durban + 5 would be a good opportunity to look again at what was accomplished in Durban 1.

If you are against a Durban plus 5 can you tell us why?

Some of the replies:

Because I fear that it would ironically increase tensions amongst ethnic or religious communities rather than reducing racism. For example, in Durban, the Conference increased anti-Semitism worldwide and was a great shame to the international community.

The NGO part of the conference was a debacle

Are you kidding? You want to give a follow-up to a racist conference????

We don't need another antisemitic hate-fest. We need to build coalitions between NGOs that are willing to work on each other's issues, respecting each other's issues.

I'm inclined to say no because the WCAR was such a racist event specially the NGO forum. Perhaps with strict rules +5 could be done in a productive way, but I'm not holding my breath.

I would like to have such a conference but I don't see a mechanism to prevent the same situation as in 2001.

No indication the lessons of 2001 have been learnt

Although there were some positive aspects to Durban, the huge expense, the chaos at the NGO forum that included human rights violations, and the lack of domestic follow up, have all created deep rifts in the NGO community and between some NGOs and governments that have not healed. Unless the purpose of any follow up to Durban was to create enforceable guidelines for future such meetings, and mechanisms to hold countries accountable for meaningful follow up, the exercise would be a waste of time, and I am opposed to any further conference that would use the Durban model.

This was a terrible conference. The UN should've never allowed all the intimidation and hate. I mean, a conference where it is allowed to sell and distribute anti-Semitic stuff is NOT an anti-racism conference! I was called a 'Jew loving traitor' in my face because I protested against idiots that shouted down speakers during the anti-semitism seminar. I am not Jewish by the way. Not that this matters; this and others things should have been an affront to everybody! I can go on and on about the undemocratic process during the NGO forum, the take-overs of meetings by Palestinian caucus members and others.

How could anyone be in favour of this? The WCAR was a racist conference, largely taken over by Sangoco and the Palestinian and Arab Caucuses, perpetrating hate, aggression and racism against the Jewish NGOs and anyone (just a few) who protested against that. I don't know what is worse, the silent complicity of the NGO International Steering Group or the perpetrators themselves. People who want a follow-up are either blind, careless or part of the perpetrators in Durban.

The conference was antisemitic and filled with hate. A few days later the ideological family members of the hate groups in Durban flew themselves into the WTC in New York. Do I need to say more.

We would really very much dislike a repeat of such hatred, violence and racism as were expressed by so many in Durban at a Conference supposedly against such prejudices. Until there can be real guarantees that such a Conference would really be peaceful, non discriminatory and permit true dialogue and understanding among all, we are definitely against such a harmful event.

A little less conversation a little more action. What we need at present are not conferences, but practical measures at national level implemented by state or sub national governments.

We really need to work on upholding Human Rights principles within civil society first; the NGO community discredited itself completely in Durban.

Highly divisive conference; Paid little attention to --and represented a retreat from-- human rights norms established and fought for at prior conferences; Promoted anti-Semitism at NGO Conference and negotiations kept raising anti-Israeli canards at governmental conference; Polarized more than it created commitment; NGO Conference praised and highlighted role of Fidel Castro, America's longest serving dictator and gross human rights abuser; (More hypocrisy); UN anti-discrimination and tolerance agendas will be better served by starting anew on these issues --perhaps in the new proposed Human Rights Council -- with the treaty norms and not by going into the already highly charged Durban context. Other organizations will not support NGO presence at a repeat of the 'Lord of the Flies'-type atmosphere and other reasons!

Which country are you in?

Argentina	3	3,26%
Australia	4	4,35%
Austria	5	5,43%
Belgium	4	4,35%
Brazil	1	1,09%
Brunei	1	1,09%
Canada	5	5,43%
Colombia	2	2,17%
Cyprus	1	1,09%
Czech Republic	1	1,09%
Denmark	3	3,26%
France	4	4,35%
Georgia	2	2,17%
Germany	5	5,43%
Great Britain	2	2,17%
Greece	1	1,09%
India	1	1,09%

Indonesia	1	1,09%
Ireland	2	2,17%
Ireland, Northern	1	1,09%
Israel	2	2,17%
Italy	1	1,09%
Macedonia	1	1,09%
Malaysia	1	1,09%
Moldova	1	1,09%
Netherlands	4	4,35%
Poland	1	1,09%
Russian Federation	5	5,43%
Sweden	3	3,26%
Switzerland	2	2,17%
U.S.A.	13	14,13%
Uganda	3	3,26%
United Kingdom	6	6,52%
	92	