



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 September, 2011

Excellency,

Upon the request of Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Ron Prosor, I have the honour to bring your attention to his letter dated 20 September 2011, regarding the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nasser', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



20 September 2011

Excellency,

I write in reference to the PGA's letter of 22 July 2011 (reference # D6642) regarding the high-level meetings of the General Assembly that will take place this week. I wish to inform you that Israel will not participate in the meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action.

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban in 2001, and its proceedings, were misused and abused by some participants. Entrusted with the mission of countering racism, this conference sadly became a vehicle for advancing hatred, anti-Semitism, intolerance and prejudice against one state: the State of Israel.

Hence, Israel was compelled to withdraw from the Durban Conference in 2001– and did not partake in its Review Conference in 2009. We will not take part in events such as the meeting on 22 September 2011 to commemorate the Durban Conference and its outcome documents. For the same reason, Israel rejects draft resolution A/66/L.2 and the political declaration that it contains.

The Jewish people have fought against racism throughout our history – and Israel remains at the forefront of these efforts today. All members of the international community who are genuinely dedicated to combating racism in a professional and impartial manner will continue to find a deeply committed partner in the State of Israel.

Allow me to request that you include this letter in the official record of the United Nations and circulate it to all member states.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Prozor', written over a horizontal line.

Ron Prozor
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York