



Tabled Document No 2.

By: THE HON CATHERINE BRANSON  
AUST. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
Date: 25 MAY 2009.

President  
The Hon. John von Doussa, QC

25 July 2008

The Hon Stephen Smith MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I am writing in regards to the anti-Racism Review Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2009. As you may be aware, this conference is designed to evaluate progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa in 2001. There will be regional meetings in 2008 to provide input to the international conference.

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) has committed a great deal of resources to addressing racism within Australia. Most notably, we organised a *Beyond Tolerance* conference in 2002 to follow-up from the original Durban conference. As a result I would be most grateful if you could inform me of the Australian Government's position in regards to the Review Conference and whether Australia will be involved in either the regional meetings or the Review Conference itself. HREOC is very keen to remain cognisant of developments in this area at the international level.

Yours sincerely,

John von Doussa, QC  
President