B'nai B'rith BOG Resolution on the Durban Conference

WHEREAS the notorious United Nations World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa in 2001 attempted to hijack the important fight against racial discrimination and use it to demonize and delegitimize the democratic State of Israel; and

WHEREAS the conference was rife with anti-Semitism in three main parts: anti-Semitic street demonstrations that made Jewish participants feel unsafe, an associated NGO Conference that sought to revive the Zionism is Racism lie and a conference of member states that produced the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), which unacceptably singled-out Israel as the only country to be mentioned in a document that purportedly fights racism; and

WHEREAS B'nai B'rith brought the largest delegation of Jewish representatives, led by Honorary President Richard D. Heideman, to the Durban conference and the follow-up Durban Review Conference in Geneva in 2009 and held a high-level conference in New York on the 10th anniversary of the WCAR; and

WHEREAS the Jewish representatives walked out of the NGO Conference and the United States and Israel walked out of the WCAR proceedings to protest anti-Semitism and blatant anti-Israel bias; and

WHEREAS the NGO Conference produced an outcome document that was so outrageous in its anti-Zionism that even the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights at the time rejected it; and

WHEREAS the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement was borne of the Durban conference and has since turned college and university campuses around the world into battlegrounds where anti-Israel resolutions are constantly brought up, spurring a rise in anti-Semitic attacks on campuses that make many Jewish students feel unsafe; and

WHEREAS anti-Semitism has been rising throughout the world at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS the irredeemably flawed DDPA continues to be the foundation of U.N. efforts to fight racism, including at the obsessively biased U.N. Human Rights Council; and

WHEREAS the U.N. General Assembly voted to interrupt its 76th session's General Debate to hold a commemoration event for the 20-year anniversary of the WCAR and the DDPA; and

WHEREAS B'nai B'rith has always been and remains dedicated to fighting intolerance and bigotry in any form, including racism and anti-Semitism; and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that B’nai B’rith will convene a symposium in advance of the U.N.’s commemoration event, which will discuss the anti-Semitic history of the Durban conference and its dangerous aftereffects on Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.