



EU Explanation of Vote

15 November, 2021

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union to explain our vote on the draft resolution contained in document L.61/Rev.1.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

The EU remains fully committed to the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance including its contemporary forms, as well as to the promotion and protection of human rights for all without discrimination on any grounds.

Racism is a global scourge. No country or region is free from this phenomenon and we have an obligation to act to eliminate it. Racism in all its forms must be tackled in a comprehensive way by taking effective measures at the national, regional and international level, in particular through the ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which is the universal foundation for efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate racism.

The EU remains firmly committed to the primary objectives and commitments undertaken at the 2001 Durban World Conference to combat and eradicate all manifestations of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Chair,

We appreciate that South Africa, on behalf of the G77 and China, organized informal consultations. However, as in previous years, we would have wished to

* *The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

have a process directed towards finding a wider compromise on this resolution, which is important for all regions.

In this regard, the EU has engaged constructively and made several proposals with the aim to reach compromise. We have done so because we believe that consensus is needed to start focusing on the implementation of the resolutions.

We regret that despite our constructive engagement, none of the EU's substantive proposals were accommodated. We therefore regret to note that the draft resolution before us do not bring us closer to the much needed consensus. In the future, we hope for impactful negotiations, where we all work together towards consensus on these critical issues.

We notably regret that our language proposals on the need to address stereotypes, essentialization, stigmatization and assigned identities, all crucial concepts in the fight against racism, were not taken on board.

Given the importance and criticality of this issue for all regions, this is a resolution that we would like to be able to support and have consensus on. However, neither the present resolution nor the consultation process move us closer to this consensus. We regret that for these reasons, the Member States of the EU continue to be unable to support the draft resolution.

I thank you.