U.S. Explanation of Vote on a Third Committee Resolution on the Durban Declaration

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<https://usun.usmission.gov/explanation-of-vote-on-a-third-committee-resolution-on-the-durban-declaration/>

**Resolution entitled, A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

AS DELIVERED

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We thank our colleagues from the Republic of South Africa for their efforts on this and similar texts. The United States remains profoundly committed to combating racism, xenophobia, and all other forms of intolerance at home and abroad. Part of that commitment has been an effort to openly and honestly confront the legacies of slavery and associated injustices that reverberate in present forms of entrenched and institutionalized racism in the United States and around the world.

We deeply regret, however, that we cannot support this resolution. Our concerns about the Durban Declaration and Program of Action and its follow-up are well-known, including its endorsement of overly broad restrictions on freedom of expression that are incompatible with our Constitution and elements that we consider to be antisemitic in applying double standards that single out the State of Israel.

For these reasons, we must vote against this year’s resolution. Despite our longstanding concerns about the DDPA, however, we are fully supportive of other elements of this resolution, including its endorsement of the important work of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

We also proudly support the declaration of a Second International Decade for People of African Descent.

Thank you.