



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 September 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, and H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, the co-facilitators to lead consultations on the political declaration and the modalities of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

The co-facilitators, via the aforementioned letter forward herewith, transmit the final text of the draft Political Declaration, and inform of the placement of the text **under silence procedure until 6 p.m., Monday, 13 September 2021.**

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa and H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal, for ably facilitating the consultations on the draft Political Declaration and to all Member States for their engagement in this process.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir'.

Volkan BOZKIR

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

10 September 2021

Excellency,

We have the honor of addressing you in our capacity as the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on the Political Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

We would like to thank all delegations for their participation and constructive engagement during the third informal consultations meeting on the Political Declaration and throughout this process. Attached, please find the final draft Political Declaration. The text has been carefully drafted to balance the views of Member States' expressed throughout the negotiations. We are placing the Political Declaration under silence procedure until **6:00 pm. on Monday, 13 September 2021.**

We count on your support and cooperation to agree on an action orientated Political Declaration to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

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



H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini  
Permanent Representative of South Africa  
to the United Nations



H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes  
Permanent Representative of Portugal  
to the United Nations

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

## **United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

### *The General Assembly*

*Adopts* the following political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action:<sup>1</sup>

## **United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2021, on the occasion of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action<sup>1</sup>;

1. Reaffirm that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in 2001<sup>1</sup> and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, adopted in 2009, as well as the Political Declaration<sup>2</sup> of the tenth anniversary of its adoption, provide a comprehensive United Nations framework and solid foundation for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and reaffirm our commitment to their full and effective implementation;

2. Reaffirm that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance constitute a negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that equality and non-discrimination are fundamental principles of international law;

3. Recall the importance of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as the principal international instrument to prevent, combat and eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, as well as of universal ratification and effective implementation of the Convention;

4. Reaffirm our commitment to leave no one behind and to that end, the urgency for all countries to come together to fulfil the promise of the United Nations and our determination to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in full and on time, as well as our commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and to build trust to ensure the future we want by, inter alia, preventing human rights violations and abuses, addressing the root causes of discrimination in all its forms, and of inequalities within and among countries, as well as their growing manifestations, which

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<sup>1</sup> See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/66/3

contribute to acts of xenophobia, racism, intolerance, hate speech and disinformation;

5. Acknowledge and profoundly regret the untold suffering and evils inflicted on millions of men, women and children as a result of slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies;

6. Welcome the progress made in many parts of the world in the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance since 2001, while acknowledging with concern that, in spite of concerted efforts by the international community in the past twenty years, building on efforts of the past decades, the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their new forms and manifestations, still persists in all parts of the world and countless human beings continue to be victims to the present day;

7. Further acknowledge, with deep concern, the rise in discrimination, hate speech, stigmatization, racism, systemic racism, stereotypes, racial profiling, violence, xenophobia and intolerance, both in person and on-line, directed against, inter alia, Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent, indigenous peoples, Roma, and persons belonging to other racial, ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities, as well as motivated by prejudices against persons based on their religions or beliefs, such as, among others, Islamophobia, antisemitism, Christianophobia, and against women and children, migrants, refugees, forcibly displaced persons, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and other persons in vulnerable situations;

8. Note with concern the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the existing inequalities within our societies and regret that, in that context, persons belonging to racial and ethnic minorities and to other groups, including Asians and people of Asian descent, especially women and girls, have been victims of racist violence, threats to violence, discrimination and stigmatization;

9. Resolve to pursue our common goal of ensuring the effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including for victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all societies, while continuing to promote the respect for human rights and to enhance democratic governance, the rule of law, independent judicial institutions and the fight against impunity nationally and internationally;

10. Recall the proclamation of 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and welcome the proclamation of 31 August as the International Day for People of African Descent;

11. Welcome the establishment of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, which will serve as a consultation mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders as a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African Descent;

12. Reiterate that the primary responsibility for effectively combating acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance lies

with States and affirm that, whenever they occur, they must be condemned and their reoccurrence prevented and urge them to take appropriate preventive measures, including legislative measures, in this regard;

13. Note with appreciation the adoption of legislative measures and the establishment of specialized national mechanisms to combat racism, and all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and recognize the need to integrate a gender perspective into relevant policies, strategies and programmes of action in order to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

14. Aim to ensure that people of African descent have full access to effective protection and remedies through the competent national tribunals and other State institutions against any acts of racial discrimination, and the right to seek from such tribunals just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered as a result of such discrimination;

15. Recall Human Rights Council resolutions 43/1 of 19 June 2020 and 47/21 of 13 July 2021, and take note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights<sup>3</sup> on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and People of African Descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers, and its annex entitled “Four-point Agenda towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality”, submitted pursuant to resolution 43/1;

16. Firmly believe that sustainable development and the respect, promotion, protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as well as the implementation of international human rights, obligations and commitments in accordance with international human rights law, are crucial to prevent acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and commit to promote measures to counter and address those acts, including through education, media and sports;

17. Call on all States, the United Nations system and international and regional organizations and invite all relevant stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society, private sector and academia, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their efforts in the elimination of all racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to continue cooperation with all relevant United Nations human rights bodies, and welcome the continued engagement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in mainstreaming the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action into the United Nations system;

18. Proclaim together our strong determination to mobilize political will at the national, regional and international levels and to accelerate momentum to make the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the protection of the victims thereof, a high priority for our countries.

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/47/53 and A/HRC/47/CRP.1

