

**High-level meeting of the General Assembly to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary
of the Adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Monday, 28 September 2026, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

**Theme: “Mobilizing Global Support for the Full and Effective Implementation of the
Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”**

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background

In its resolutions 80/193 and 80/299 the General Assembly decided to hold a one-day high-level meeting to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the theme “Mobilizing global public support for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”.

Adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, the DDPA remains the most comprehensive United Nations framework for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The DDPA is a victim-centered document that recognizes the plight of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, refugees, displaced persons, victims of human trafficking, and persons belonging to various minorities. It reaffirms that States have the duty to protect and promote the human rights of all victims, calls for a gender-responsive approach that recognizes intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, and urges to take prompt, decisive and appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The DDPA further recognizes that the enduring legacies and persistence of the structures and practices associated with slavery, the slave trade, colonialism and other historical injustices continue to contribute to lasting social and economic inequalities in many parts of the world today, as well as to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Twenty-five years after its adoption, racism and racial discrimination remain deeply embedded across institutions and societies and are often exacerbated by emerging digital technologies and artificial intelligence.¹ The twenty-fifth anniversary is therefore an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the DDPA, renew political commitment to its implementation and mobilize broad public support for meaningful and sustained action.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 80/193, also decided to adopt a succinct political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels for the full and effective implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

The scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting were subsequently established by the General Assembly in its resolution 80/299.

The list of speakers is open and will close on 16 September 2026 at 5 p.m. General Assembly resolution 80/193 encourages participation at the level of Heads of State and Government.

II. Objectives

The high-level meeting aims to:

- **Identify strategies for mobilizing renewed political will, collective action and global public support** for the full and effective implementation of the DDPA and its follow-up processes;
- **Take stock of progress and identify challenges and opportunities** in advancing implementation of the DDPA at national, regional and international levels;
- **Facilitate dialogue among governments, civil society, affected communities, youth, international organizations, and other stakeholders** on their respective roles in implementation;
- **Highlight meaningful and diverse participation as a core condition** for effective anti-racism efforts, including the participation of youth and affected communities in policy-making across all sectors;
- **Enhance public awareness and understanding of the DDPA** and its continuing relevance and importance in addressing contemporary and emerging forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

III. Programme

¹ For instance, see the report by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, A/HRC/44/57.

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Opening plenary meeting

Statements by:

- The President of the General Assembly;
- The Secretary-General;
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- The Head of State of South Africa or a representative
- A representative of non-governmental organization
- A youth representative

The informal meeting will adopt a succinct Political Declaration which will be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for formal adoption by the General Assembly at a subsequent plenary meeting.

10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - General Debate

The opening plenary meeting will be followed by a general debate, with statements by Member States, observer States and observers of the General Assembly, as time permits.

The list of speakers will be established in accordance with the established practices of the General Assembly. **The time limit for the statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States, which will be strictly enforced by means of automatic microphone cut-off.**

Member States and observer States wishing to deliver statements in the general debate are invited to inscribe through the e-delegate portal. Observers of the General Assembly wishing to speak during the general debate are requested to contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch on email to casast@un.org with copy to mahmassani@in.org. Practices of the General Assembly will apply.

Delegations are encouraged to email their statements to estatement@un.org at least two hours before delivery to facilitate interpretation.

The United Nations Webcast services will provide live streaming coverage of the High-Level Meeting in all available UN official languages, through the UN Web TV website at <http://webtv.un.org>.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – An Interactive Panel Discussion: “Youth leadership: embedding anti-racism across everyday decisions, policy-making, institutions and technologies”

This interactive panel discussion, consisting of a discussion between two preselected invited panelists, will explore how young people from marginalized racial and ethnic groups are shaping public debate, driving action against racism across institutions, sectors and technologies and contributing to mobilizing public support for the implementation of the DDPA. The panel will highlight youth leadership not only as a source of advocacy and public engagement, but also as a vital driver of institutional and societal transformation in the fight against racism. The discussions will also examine the conditions that enable youth-led initiatives to succeed, including the measures needed to ensure young people's safe, meaningful, effective and sustained participation in public life and decision making.

Guiding questions:

- How are young people mobilizing public support and building momentum for action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance? What factors can make their efforts effective?
- What legal, institutional, financial and other forms of support are needed to ensure that young people affected by racism and racial discrimination can participate safely, effectively, meaningfully and consistently in public affairs?
- What concrete measures can institutions undertake to strengthen youth leadership and embed anti-racism as a cross-cutting priority -across their work?

Panelists will be invited to deliver opening remarks for up to eight minutes each. The Chair will then facilitate an interactive exchange, including interventions and questions from the floor.

The Chair will conclude the panel by highlighting key takeaways from the discussion, including practical recommendations for embedding anti-racism as a cross-cutting approach across institutional work and for strengthening youth leadership in the implementation and follow-up of the DDPA.

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Continuation of the General Debate

The general debate will continue from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with statements by Member States, observer States and observers of the General Assembly, as time permits.

End of the meeting.
