



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 August 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 modalities resolution, and inform of the placement of the draft resolution under silence procedure until Friday, 20 August 2021, 6 p.m.

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 modalities resolution 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



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal  
to the United Nations*

ONU/2021/

18 August 2021

Excellency,

We have the honour of addressing you in our capacity as the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental 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.

We wish to thank all delegations for their active participation and constructive engagement during the informal consultations. Attached to this letter is the final text of the draft modalities resolution, which has been carefully drafted and balances the views of Member States expressed during the informal consultations. The text also takes into account the language adopted by consensus or that received significant support in recent modalities resolutions.

**We are placing the draft resolution under silence procedure until Friday, 20 August 2021, 6:00 PM.**

We count on your support and cooperation to adopt this resolution in a timely manner to provide the Office of the President of the General Assembly with the mandate to begin preparations for this important high-level meeting.

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

## **Scope, modalities, format and organization 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 General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all its previous resolutions on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference;

*Reaffirming* the paramount importance of universal adherence to and the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2106 A (XX) of 21 December 1965, in addressing the scourges of racism and racial discrimination;

*Recalling* its resolution 75/237 of 31 December 2020, in which it, inter alia, called for the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and decided to hold a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the second day of the general debate of the seventy-sixth session, on the theme “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”;

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action will be held on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, and consist of an opening plenary meeting from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., two consecutive round tables from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and a closing plenary meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and also decides that the general debate on that day will be held from 11 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and that this arrangement does not constitute a precedent;
2. *Also decides* that the speakers at the opening plenary will be the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Head of State of South Africa, one speaker from each regional group, a representative of a non-governmental organization and a youth representative, both of whom actively engaged in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to be selected by the President of the General Assembly;
3. Further decides, without setting a precedent for future high-level meetings of the General Assembly, that Member States speaking in the opening plenary meeting may submit a pre-recorded statement by their Head of State or Government, head of delegation or other dignitary, which will be played in the General Assembly Hall, after introduction by their representative who is physically present in the Assembly Hall;
4. Decides that other speakers, not a representative of a Member State, invited to make a statement at the opening plenary meeting or the closing plenary meeting may submit a pre-recorded statement, which will be played in the General Assembly Hall, after introduction by the President of the General Assembly;
5. Also decides that, in addition to the verbatim records of the high-level meeting, the President of the General Assembly will circulate as a document of the Assembly a compilation document of the statements delivered by means of pre-recorded statements during the high-level meeting and submitted to the President no later than the day on which the pre-recorded statement is played in the Assembly Hall, and that such pre-recorded statements will be attached to the verbatim records of the meeting.
6. *Further decides* that the political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its follow-up processes shall be adopted by the General Assembly at the opening plenary meeting;

7. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements of the round tables will be as follows:

(a) The round tables will address the overall theme of “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”;

(b) Each round table will be chaired by a Head of State or Government to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly after consultations with the Member States;

(c) In order to promote a substantive and constructive dialogue, participation in the round tables will include Member States, observers, representatives of entities and experts of the United Nations system, parliamentarians, local governments, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), where they exist, the private sector, academia, as well as selected representatives of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations that are actively engaged in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, such as youth, community organizations and indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions, taking into account, the principles of transparency, inclusivity, including gender balance and geographical representation;

8. Invites Member States, Observer States and observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level, including at the level of Heads of State and Government, in the high-level meeting;

9. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the high-level meeting, including its round tables, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for gender parity, to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis<sup>1</sup> and to bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the high-level meeting;

11. *Decides* that the closing plenary meeting will comprise the presentation of summaries of the discussions by the chairs of the round tables, followed by statements from Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Deputy Secretary-General;

12. *Also decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting, including the opening and closing plenary meetings, as well as the round tables will be webcast, and encourages the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General and all relevant United Nations entities to give it the highest visibility possible;

13. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.