Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen
Chairperson,

Allow me to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting in commemorating the International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under the theme “mitigation and countering of rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies”. Indeed, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) remains the most comprehensive, action-oriented global framework to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It condemns the persistence and resurgence of neo-Nazism, neo-Fascism and violent nationalist ideologies based on racial or national prejudice, and states that these phenomena can never be justified in any circumstances.

Chairperson, Distinguished delegates,

The African group is concerned that racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote populist, nationalist agendas are spreading in various parts of the world. The Group is convinced that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races. Nationalist populism that advances exclusionary or repressive practices and policies that harm individuals or groups on the basis of their race, ethnicity,
national origin and religion, or other related social categories should be condemned.

Chairperson,

Reliable media is on critical pillar in the achievement of democracy, rule of law and good governance. The DDPA recognizes the positive contribution that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression of the media and other new information technologies, including the internet, and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can make to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and further reiterates the need to respect the editorial independence and autonomy of the media in this respect. There is need therefore, to promote the use of new information communication technologies, including the internet to contribute to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Group calls on states’ obligation under human right law to counter such extreme ideologies online, as well as the responsibilities of technology companies in light of human principles. It also calls on the international community and the UN family to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2010. The African Group reiterates requirement to Justice to victims rights violation resulting from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in light of their vulnerabilities.
Chairperson, Distinguished delegates, Excellences,

The Group welcomes the decision of the UN to establish a permanent forum on people of African descent, which will serve as a consultation mechanism for people of African descent and other interested stakeholders as a platform for improving the quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent and to contribute to elaborating a United Nations declaration. This is the first step towards a legally binding instrument on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent, including migrants and refugees, who are often the target of racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote populist, nationalist agendas. The Group reiterates that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well being of societies.

The Group is further concerned of the removal of the historic and landmark World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related intolerance of 2001 from among the 20 major achievements of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. In this connection, the Group requests the Secretary-General and the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the resources necessary for the effective fulfillment of the mandates of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban declaration and Programme of Action, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, The Group of Independent Eminent
Expert on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards This should ensure the participation of experts in each session of those follow-up mechanisms in order to provide advice on the specific issues under discussion and assist the mechanisms in their deliberations and the adoption of the action-oriented recommendations in relation to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action.

In concluding, the African Group affirms its commitment to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on any basis. Slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, apartheid and colonialism must never be forgotten. In this regard, the Group applauds the UN through the Department of Information and the International Community that honored the memory of victims through the establishment of the permanent memorial commemorating 200 years of abolishing trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery at the premises of the United Nations, and continuing education outreach activities and promotions in retrospect on different sources of media, respectively.

I thank you for your attention.