



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

31 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 second revised text of the political declaration (Rev2) and extend an invitation to an informal consultation on the compiled text, to be held on **Friday, 3 September 2021**, at **10 a.m.** via the Cisco WebEx Platform. The logistical information will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.

The deadline for the submission of additional written comments is close of business on Friday, 3 September 2021 and should be sent to the attention of the focal points: Mr. Paulo Graça (paulo.graca@mne.pt) and Ms. Teboho Babedi (babedit@dirco.gov.za).

I trust that you will continue to extend your full cooperation to Ambassador Joyini and Ambassador Lopes as they near the conclusion of their mandate.

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

31 August 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 second informal consultations meeting on the Political Declaration. Attached, please find Rev2 of the draft Political Declaration. We have attempted to balance Member States written and oral contributions. For transparency, attached please find a compilation of written contributions received from Member States after the second informal consultation.

We have the honour to invite all delegations to the third informal consultation to be held via the Cisco WebEx Platform on **Friday, 3 September 2021**, at **10:00am**. The logistical information will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.

We kindly request all delegations to submit eventual additional comments in writing, by close of business on Friday, 3 September 2021 to our focal points: Mr Paulo Graça (paulo.graca@mne.pt) and Ms Teboho Babedi (babedit@dirco.gov.za).

We look forward to your engagement in this important process.

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:¹

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 Action¹; (based on A/RES/66/3, PP1)

1. Reaffirm that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in 2001¹ and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, adopted in 2009, as well as the Political Declaration² 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; (based on A/RES/66/3, OP 1 and OP2)

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; (A/RES/66/3, OP5)

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; (A/RES/66/3, OP6)

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 contribute to acts of xenophobia, racism, intolerance,

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

² A/RES/66/3

hate speech and disinformation; (based on A/RES/75/1, OP1, OP7 and OP12)

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, as these constitute serious violations of human rights and, in some cases, qualify as crimes against humanity; (A/RES/69/16, OP17 i)

6. Welcome the progress made in many parts of the world in the fight against 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; (based on A/RES/66/3, OP3 and OP4)

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 other racial, ethnic or linguistic minorities, as well as motivated by prejudices against persons of other 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 and youth and other persons in vulnerable situations; (based on A/RES/75/188, OP4 and OP 11 and on A/74/L.92, PP 25)

8. Note with concern the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the existing inequalities between groups 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, physical harassment 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 the strengthening of democratic governance, the rule of law, independent judicial institutions and fight against impunity, nationally and internationally; (based on A/RES/75/1, OP10)

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

11. Welcome the establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, which will serve as a consultation mechanism for 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; (based on DDPA, para 15)

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; (based on DDPA, para 69)

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; (A/RES/69/16, OP 17 d)

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 Rights³ and the annex thereto entitled “Four-point Agenda towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality”, submitted pursuant to resolution 43/1, and of the establishment of a new independent expert mechanism in order to further transformative change for racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement globally;

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 sport; (based on DDPA, para 80 and 86)

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 fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to cooperate fully with all United Nations human rights anti-racism 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; (A/RES/66/3, OP11)

³ A/HRC/47/53 and A/HRC/47/CRP.1

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. (A/RES/66/3, OP12)