



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 September 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 17 September 2021, I have the honour to inform you that, in line with General Assembly resolution 75/320, and, without setting the precedent, I have invited the following representative of a non-governmental organization and a youth representative to address the Assembly at the opening 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, to be held at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, 22 September 2021, in the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York:

- Dr. Barryl A. Biekman, Coordinator of the Monitoring Working Group on Durban Declaration and Program of Action and People of African Descent at Tiye International and Chair of The African European Women's Movement "Sophiedela" (pre-recorded statement);
- Youth representative - Catherine Labiran, founder, The Praxis Project.

I have the further honour to inform you that I intend to appoint Dr. Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa to chair the Round Table One and H.E. Mr. Pacôme Moubelet Boubeya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Gabonese Republic to chair the Round Table Two and present the summaries of the discussions to the Assembly at the closing plenary meeting. I invite the General Assembly to take relevant decision at the opening segment of the high-level meeting.

Also, in line with the operative paragraph 7 (c) of General Assembly resolution 75/320, I invited the following representatives, time permitting, to participate in the roundtables of the High-level meeting, to be held in Conference Rooms 1-2-3, UN Headquarters, New York:

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

11:00 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. – Round table 1: “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent – Where do we stand 20 years after the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action?”

- Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
- Ms. Edna Maria Santos Roland, Chairperson of the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (pre-recorded statement);
- Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (pre-recorded statement);
- Ms. Vanessa Griddine-Jones, Esq., Executive Director, Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute (pre-recorded statement).

03:00 pm – 05:00 pm. Round table 2: “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent – How to address the past to move forward?”

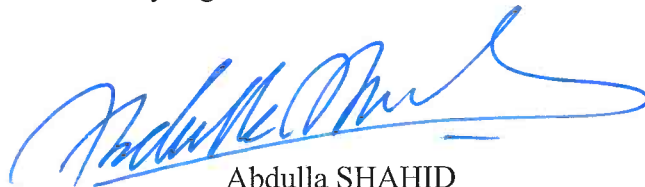
- Ms. Domonique Day, Chairperson of the Working Group of Experts of People of African Descent;
- Prof. Verene Shepherd, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
- Ms. Rosa Campoalegre, member, Latin American Social Science Council (pre-recorded statement).

In addition, I intend to invite Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Inaugural Chair of the CARICOM Reparations Committee, as a keynote speaker at the roundtable Two (pre-recorded statement).

Finally, I have the honour to inform you that immediately before the start of the formal plenary, an informal part of the meeting will take place to present a video highlighting the most important moments leading up to the Durban Conference and featuring some of the prominent activists engaged in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

For further information, your office may contact Ms. Gail Farngalo, Head of Human Rights Team (gail.farngalo@un.org), and Ms. Inga Kanchaveli, Senior Advisor on General Assembly Affairs (inga.kanchaveli@un.org).

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



Abdulla SHAHID