



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6 July 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 leading consultations on the political declaration and 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 the zero draft of the Political Declaration for 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 have the further honour to invite delegations to the first informal consultation to be held virtually via the Cisco WebEx Platform on Monday, 12 July 2021 at 10 a.m. The logistical information will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.

I sincerely encourage you to continue to extend your full cooperation to Ambassador Joyini and Ambassador Lopes to a successful conclusion of the 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



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

6 July 2021

We have the honour to addressing you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the processes related to 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 have the honour to submit herewith the zero draft of the Political Declaration for the High-Level meeting.

We take the opportunity to once again thank all Delegations for providing their preliminary comments to the content of the Political Declaration, which are in essence reflected on the draft.

We further have the honour to invite all delegations to the first informal consultation to be held virtually via the Cisco WebEx Platform on **Monday, 12 July 2021 at 10:00am**. We will first invite Delegations to provide general comments on the Political Declaration and then proceed with a reading of the text. The logistical information will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.

We kindly request all delegations submit all comments in writing, by close of business on **Tuesday, 13 July 2021** to our focal points: Ms Joana Estrela (joana.estrela@mne.pt), M. 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 2009² and their follow-up processes, at all levels, as well as the Political Declaration³ 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 its full and effective implementation; **(based on A/RES/66/3, OP 1 and OP2)**

2. Reaffirm 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, and our commitment to build trust between countries to ensure the future we want by, inter alia, addressing the root causes of inequalities; **(based on A/RES/75/1, OP1, OP7 and OP12)**

3. 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 and genocide; **(A/RES/69/16, OP17 i)**

4. 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 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

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

² See A/CONF.211/8, chap. I.

³ A/RES/66/3

persist 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)**

5. Further acknowledge, with deep concern, the rise in discrimination, hate speech, stigmatization, racism, systemic racism, violence both in person and on-line, xenophobia and intolerance directed against inter alia Africans and people of African descent, Asian and people of Asian descent, indigenous people, Roma, as well as motivated by Islamophobia, antisemitism and Christianophobia, or prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs, and against persons in vulnerable situations, women and girls, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, migrants and children, and also notes the differential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the existing inequalities within societies; **(based on A/RES/75/188, OP4 and OP 11 and on A/74/L.92, PP 25)**

6. 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 Rights⁴ and that equality and non-discrimination are fundamental principles of international law; **(A/RES/66/3, OP5)**

7. Recall, in that regard, the importance of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁵ and 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)**

8. Resolve to pursue our common goal of ensuring the effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, especially for victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all societies, while continuing to promote the respect for human rights and to enhance democratic governance and the rule of law by strengthening transparent and accountable governance, independent judicial institutions and fight against impunity; **(based on A/RES/75/1, OP10)**

9. Welcome the proclamation of 31 August as the International Day for People of African Descent;

10. 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; **(based on DDPA, para 15)**

11. Welcome the adoption of legislative measures and the establishment of specialized national mechanisms to combat racism, 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)**

⁴ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

12. 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)**)

13. Welcome with appreciation the pursuant report HRC/47/53 and its Annex entitled "Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers" of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

14. Firmly believe that sustainable development and the faithful implementation of all international human rights norms and obligations are crucial to prevent acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and commit to promote measures to combat those acts especially through formal and non-formal education on young people, the media and sport; **(based on DDPA, para 80 and 86)**

15. Call upon the United Nations system and international and regional organizations and invite all stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society and the private sector, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their efforts in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and welcome the continued engagement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in incorporating the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action into the United Nations system; **(A/RES/66/3, OP11)**

16. Proclaim together our strong determination 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)**