

Introduction of the proposed topics

Xenophobia:

This topic was drawn from the DDPA, which is a document adopted by consensus during the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001. The issue of xenophobia is of particular concern to my country and presumably to others as no country can claim to be immune from this scourge.

Incitement to Racial, Ethnic and Religious Hatred:

This topic is expressly mentioned by the Human Rights Council decision 3/103, which established the Ad Hoc Committee, as an area in which Complementary Standards are to be developed. The African Group has identified this issue as an area to be covered in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. We have also been cognisant that while the issue of incitement to religious hatred has been dealt with extensively through Council resolutions which were adopted by consensus during its previous sessions, including resolution A/HRC/16/18, entitled "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief", the other related aspects have not been dealt with.

Racial and xenophobic acts committed through information and communication technologies:

This topic was drawn from the existing Council of Europe instrument which addresses this very important contemporary manifestation. It serves as a best practise which could be universalised to address an important gap in international human rights law.

Racial, ethnic and religious profiling:

This contemporary manifestation became more prominent worldwide following the events of 9 September 2001 in the United States. The Council of the European Union has also already taken measures to eliminate 'ethnic profiling' through the 'Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC' which aims to establish a legal framework. This topic was also mentioned in resolution A/HRC/16/18, which was adopted by consensus by the Council.