

19 July 2011

DRAFT

Political Declaration:

United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

We, heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2011, on the occasion of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. Welcome the progress achieved in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance since 2001;
2. Acknowledge that in spite of concerted efforts by the international community in the past ten years, building on efforts of the past decades, the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance still persists in all countries and that countless human beings continue to the present day to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
3. 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 that equality and non-discrimination are fundamental principles of international law;
4. Resolve to pursue our common goal of ensuring the effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including victims of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance in all societies;
5. Renew our political will towards building a world free from all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and, in this regard, we commit to:
 - a) intensify our efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels aimed at the full and effective implementation of all relevant international instruments, declarations and outcomes related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including through the universal ratification of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
 - b) adopt effective, tangible and comprehensive measures and share best practices at all levels with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

c) accelerate progress to eradicate poverty which, together with underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities, is closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

d) promote the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and good governance in order to prevent and fight effectively against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

e) combat impunity for acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance through appropriate legislation and access to a fair and equitable justice system;

f) promote human rights education and training as well as awareness-raising activities in cooperation with stakeholders by engaging all members of society to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to foster cultural diversity, solidarity and harmony;

6. Call upon the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and all stakeholders 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 High Commissioner for Human Rights to incorporate the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action into the human rights mainstreaming in the UN system;

7. Proclaim together our strong determination to make the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the victims thereof a high priority for our countries.