



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 April 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 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, the zero draft of the resolution entitled, “Scope, modalities, format and organization 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” (attached), and further reminds of the informal consultation to be held on 3 May 2021, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the General Assembly Hall.

I trust that you will extend your full cooperation to Ambassador Lopes and Ambassador Joyini throughout 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

ONU/2021/98

27 April 2021

Excellency,

We have the honour of addressing you in our capacity as the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental 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.

Following our initial letter of 22 April 2021, we have the honour to provide you with the zero draft (attached) of the resolution entitled “*Scope, modalities, format and organization 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 kindly remind Delegations that the first informal consultation to hear your views and thoughts on the above-mentioned draft resolution, as well as on the possible content of the political declaration, will take place on **3 May 2021**, from **3:00 to 6:00 pm** at the **General Assembly Hall**.

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

Scope, modalities, format and organization 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 General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 75/237 of 31 December 2020, in which it, inter alia, called for the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and decided to hold a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the second day of the general debate of the seventy-sixth session, on the theme “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”,

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action will be held on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, and consist of an opening plenary meeting from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., one round table from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and one thematic panel from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and a closing plenary meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and also decides that the morning meeting of the general debate on that day will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and that that arrangement does not constitute a precedent;

2. *Also decides* that the speakers at the opening plenary will be the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Head of State of South Africa, one speaker from each regional group, a representative of a non-governmental organization and a youth representative, both of whom active in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to be selected by the President of the General Assembly;

3. *Further decides* that the political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its follow-up processes shall be adopted by the General Assembly at the opening plenary meeting.

4. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements of the round table will be as follows:

(a) The round table will address the overall theme of “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”;

(b) The round table will be chaired by a Head of State or Government to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly after consultations with the Member States;

(c) In order to promote a substantive and constructive dialogue, participation in the round table will include twenty-five Member States, to be invited by the President of General Assembly, in consultation with the regional groups and bearing in mind the level of representation and the equitable geographical representation with due regard for gender balance;

5. *Also decides* that the organizational arrangements of the thematic panel will be as follows:

(a) The thematic panel will address the overall theme of “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”;

(b) The thematic panel will be chaired by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights;

(c) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, civil society, the private sector, academia, medical associations,

DRAFT RESOLUTION

indigenous leadership and community organizations to serve as speakers on the panels, taking into account gender equity, level of development and geographical representation;

(d) In order to promote a substantive and constructive dialogue, participation in the thematic panel will include Member States and observers, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and experts, as well as selected representatives of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations that are active in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. Invites Member States and all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level, including at the level of Heads of State and Government, in the high-level meeting;

7. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the high-level meeting, including its round table and thematic panel, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for gender parity, to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis¹ and to bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the high-level meeting;

9. *Decides* that the closing plenary meeting will comprise the presentation of summaries of the discussions by the chairs of the round table and the thematic panel, followed by statements from the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the Deputy Secretary-General.

10. *Also decides* that the final format of the high-level meeting, in-person, virtual or a hybrid, will follow the decision of the President of the General Assembly on the format of the general debate of the seventy-sixth session based on an assessment of the health conditions;

11. *Further decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting, including the opening and closing plenary meetings, as well as the round table and thematic panel will be webcast, and encourages the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give it the highest visibility possible;

12. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting.

¹ The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.