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Agenda item 70 (b)

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2020

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/75/476, para. 23)*]

75/170. International Day for People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons,

Reaffirming also that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and noting its previous resolutions on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,²

Reaffirming its resolutions 64/169 of 18 December 2009, in which it proclaimed the year 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent, and 68/237 of 23 December 2013, in which it proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See A/CONF.189/12 and A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1, chap. I.



Noting Human Rights Council resolution [43/1](#) of 19 June 2020,³ in which the Council strongly condemned the continuing racially discriminatory and violent practices and excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies against Africans and people of African descent and condemned structural racism in criminal justice systems around the world,

Committed to upholding human dignity and equality for the victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, in particular people of African descent in the African diaspora,

Noting that 2021 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling that 2020 marks the midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent and its programme of activities,

Recognizing the important contribution of women and girls of African descent to the development of societies and the promotion of mutual understanding and multiculturalism, and bearing in mind the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent,

Convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance manifest themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and may be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and the limitation or denial of their human rights, and recognizing the need to integrate a gender perspective into relevant policies, strategies and programmes of action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to address multiple forms of discrimination,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business, and in this regard reaffirming also the promises to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14,

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Reiterating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

Emphasizing that, despite efforts in this regard, millions of human beings continue to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary forms and manifestations, some of which manifest in violent forms,

Recalling that, on 31 August 1920, the first International Convention of the Negro Peoples of the World ended in New York, and as a result of the discussions led by Marcus Garvey, the Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World was promulgated,

Taking into consideration the relevance that the celebrations of international days have on the values that society shares and their impact on the actions aimed at the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 31 August as the International Day for People of African Descent, in order to promote greater recognition and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies, and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent;

2. *Invites* all Member States, all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, the private sector and academia, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day for People of African Descent in an appropriate manner, including through education and public awareness-raising activities, in order to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent;

3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations for appropriate observance.

46th plenary meeting
16 December 2020