



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 September 2019

Original: English

Seventy-third session

Agenda item 121

Commemoration of the abolition of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

Belize: draft resolution

Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [61/19](#) of 28 November 2006, entitled “Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade” and subsequent resolutions entitled “Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade”,

Recalling also the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

Recognizing that too little is known about the transatlantic slave trade and its lasting consequences, felt throughout the world, and welcoming the increased attention that the annual commemoration by the General Assembly has brought to the issue, including raising awareness in many States,

Recalling the initiatives undertaken by States in reaffirming their commitment to implement paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Durban Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at countering the legacy of slavery and contributing to the restoration of the dignity of the victims of slavery and the slave trade, and that the international community and its members were invited to honour the memory of the victims,¹

Recalling also its resolution [68/237](#) of 23 December 2013, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2024, and its resolution [69/16](#) of 18 November 2014, by which it adopted the programme of activities for the Decade,

¹ See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), chap. I.



Stressing the importance of educating and informing current and future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

Encouraged by the activities of Member States to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of slavery and the slave trade, as well as by their activities to address contemporary forms of slavery,

Recalling that the permanent memorial initiative complements the work being done at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the Slave Route Project,

Welcoming the culmination of the initiative of Member States, notably the States members of the Caribbean Community and the African Union, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of the Secretariat and civil society to erect the *Ark of Return*, at United Nations Headquarters as the permanent memorial to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, in acknowledgement of the tragedy and in consideration of the legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations trust fund for partnerships – permanent memorial, established with a view to implementing the initiative to erect a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade and, in particular, on contributions received and their utilization,² and recalls in this regard its decision in paragraph 6 of resolution 69/19 of 21 November 2014 that any funds remaining in the trust fund would be retained to support the maintenance of the memorial;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery³ relating to the diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade, including through enhancing public awareness of the *Ark of Return* and to communicate the dangers of racism and xenophobia, and encourages continued action in this regard;

3. *Notes with appreciation* that the residual balance in the trust fund has been transferred to an appropriate trust fund administered by the Office of Central Support Services for the purpose of maintaining the memorial;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to organize an annual series of activities to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, including a commemorative meeting of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters and, as appropriate, activities through the network of United Nations information centres;

5. *Requests* the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters;

6. *Reiterates its request*, in resolution 64/15 of 16 November 2009, for Member States to develop, in accordance with their national legislation, educational programmes, including through school curricula, designed to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and consequences of

² A/71/170.

³ A/73/88.

slavery and the slave trade, and to provide such information to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach, including actions taken by Member States in implementing the present resolution, as well as steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “Commemoration of the abolition of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade”.
