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Agenda item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Preliminary exchange of views on the preparations of the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

**Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective
Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
on its seventeenth session***

Addendum

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action during its seventeenth session, held in Geneva from 16 to 20 December 2019 and on 16 January 2020, devoted one meeting to a preliminary exchange of views on the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In line with Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/Res/42/29, the following discussions will be integrated in a report to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session and to the Human Rights Council at its forty-fifth session.
2. During the meeting devoted to the preliminary exchange of views on the preparations of the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), the representative of Iran expressed the wish of his delegation that, on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the DDPA, this Working Group would address the wide range of issues addressed in the DDPA, as well as the new manifestations of discrimination, in particular issues of xenophobia and Islamophobia.
3. The representative of South Africa suggested the convening of a one-day high-level plenary event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA during the high-level segment of the 76th session of the General Assembly (GA) in 2021. In this regard, the General Assembly will have to adopt a resolution at its 75th session, mandating the hosting of the event. The event would aim at mobilising political will, reaffirming commitment to the full and effective implementation of the DDPA. That the Human Rights Council also convene an event (meeting/dialogue). The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) should also invite Member States, international and regional organisations, civil society and other stakeholders to organize various initiatives to commemorate with high visibility that celebrates positive developments and address remaining challenges, this will effectively increasing awareness at all levels. And that the OHCHR should also be encouraged to prepare information materials on the 20th anniversary that can be disseminated at various events and information centres
4. The representative of the European Union aligned with the proposal of South African for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the DDPA as a proposal which is similar what was done for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the DDPA.
5. The representative of Zimbabwe aligned with the proposal of South Africa to convene two events for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the DDPA, including one thematic event in Geneva and one high-level political event in New York.
6. The representative of the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations raised concerns with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action being the least know of all UN declarations and suggested that the United Nations should provide promotional material of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
7. The representative of Jamaica believed that the 20th anniversary of the DDPA should have high visibility and appropriate planning. She stated that her delegation supports several of the proposals put forward by South Africa, Cuba and other delegations.

Conclusions

8. **The Working Group underlines that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action continue to have strong reaffirmation and recognition in the United Nations as a comprehensive framework and solid foundation for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. As such, the 20th anniversary of this historic instrument needs be celebrated, and light needs be shed on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.**

Recommendations

9. **The Working Group recommends that Member States mobilise political will for the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and convene a one-day high-level plenary event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the**

adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action during the high-level segment of the 76th session of the General Assembly in 2021. In this regard, the General Assembly will have to adopt a resolution at its 75th session, mandating the hosting of the event, which would aim at reaffirming commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

10. The Human Rights Council to convene a commemorative event on the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

11. Recognizes the importance of the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the observance of the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and invites Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other actors to consider providing support to enable non-governmental organizations to organize and participate in the activities of the twentieth anniversary;

12. Invite Member States, international and regional organisations, civil society and other stakeholders to organize various initiatives with high visibility that celebrate positive developments and address remaining challenges, which will effectively increase awareness at all levels;

13. Prepare information materials on the 20th anniversary that can be disseminated at various events, through United Nations information centres and OHCHR's and other United Nations' webpages.
