



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Twenty-fourth session

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**

**Bolivia (Plurinational State of)\*, Cuba\*, Ecuador, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution**

### **24/... From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 57/195 of 18 December 2002, in which the Assembly assigned responsibilities to the relevant United Nations institutions to ensure the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the international level,

*Recalling further* all previous resolutions by the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the comprehensive follow-up to and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the most recent of which is Council resolution 22/30 of 22 March 2013, in which the Council underlined that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance remains a solid basis and the only instructive outcome of the World Conference for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Recalling* the political declaration 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, adopted on 22 September 2011,<sup>1</sup> which reaffirmed the political commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, and their follow-up processes at the national, regional and international levels,

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\* Non-member State of the Human Rights Council.

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/3.

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 66/144 of 19 December 2011, in which the Assembly encouraged the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, with a view to proclaiming the decade starting in 2013 the Decade for People of African Descent and, within this context, recalling Assembly resolution 67/155 of 20 December 2012,

*Emphasizing* the opportunity for achieving important synergy in the combat against racism through the effective observance of the International Decade for People of African Descent and in accelerating the universal implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

*Stressing* the importance of a consistent global effort to inform the public about the contribution of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

*Stressing also* the important role of the independent eminent experts in following up on the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

*Recognizing* that poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and contribute to the persistence of racist attitudes and practices, which in turn generate more poverty,

*Expressing concern* that the current economic and financial crisis and its consequences on poverty and unemployment may have further contributed to the rise of extremist political parties, movements and groups and exacerbated identity-related issues, and that in this period of economic crisis, non-citizens, members of minorities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are still the main scapegoat of extremist political parties that have a xenophobic and racist agenda and that sometimes incite racial hatred and violence,

*Deploing* the misuse of print, audiovisual and electronic media, including the Internet, and any other means that constitute incitement to acts of national, racial or religious violence, discrimination and hatred, which have targeted and severely affected racial and religious communities and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, emanating from a variety of sources,

*Recognizing* that the Internet and social media can also be a useful tool for preventing the spread of racist ideologies by extremist political parties, groups and movements, as well as its potential to contribute to development as an international and equal forum, aware that there are disparities in the use of and access thereto,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and takes note of its report and the recommendations contained therein;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Decides* that the Intergovernmental Working Group should convene its twelfth session from 6 to 17 October 2014;

3. *Welcomes and acknowledges* the importance and significance of the work of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent in examining the current situation of people of African Descent, in particular its focus on the themes of “Recognition

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<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/23/19.

through education, cultural rights and data collection”, and within this context, takes note of its report and the recommendations contained therein;<sup>3</sup>

4. *Welcomes* the unified publication of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and the political declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 66/3 of 22 September 2011, adopted at the high-level meeting of the Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and requests that it be printed and disseminated widely to the public, including to non-governmental organizations, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information;

5. *Also welcomes* the launch by the Office of the High Commissioner of a database containing information on practical means to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in accordance with paragraph 191 (d) of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and encourages States to contribute relevant information to the database;

6. *Underlines* the need for the General Assembly to proclaim the International Decade for People of African Descent and, within that context, to adopt the draft programme of action for the decade for people of African descent elaborated by the Working Group as mandated by the Assembly in its resolution 66/144;

7. *Emphasizes* the imperative need to find the necessary political will to address comprehensively, by all available measures, the various forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to provide adequate remedies;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to resuscitate the work of the independent eminent experts, one from each region, to follow the implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

9. *Reiterates*, particularly considering contemporary challenges in this area, the primacy of elaborating complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in accordance with paragraph 199 of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, with a view to maximum protection, adequate remedies and combating impunity for non-recurrence;

10. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts in building support for the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

11. *Underlines* the importance of international and regional cooperation, and encourages Member States to enhance and deepen their cooperation in the full and effective implementation of Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

12. *Reiterates* the important role of national human rights institutions and specialized bodies in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to cooperate with national human rights institutions and to use their regional networks to sensitize and raise awareness about the significance and importance of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its full and effective implementation;

13. *Invites* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to cooperate with the Inter-Parliamentary Union with a view to mobilizing parliaments and parliamentarians

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/24/52.

in their role in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary support from regular as well as non-earmarked extrabudgetary resources for the effective performance of the Durban follow-up mechanisms;

15. *Decides* to remain seized of this important issue.

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