



General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 October 2012

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Twenty-first session

Agenda item 9

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

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council*

21/33.

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 Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2002/68 of 25 April 2002 and 2003/30 of 23 April 2003, and Human Rights Council resolution 18/28 of 30 September 2011,

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 2011,¹ 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,

Recalling also 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

* The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its twenty-first session (A/HRC/21/2), chap. I.

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/3.

Council, with a view to proclaiming the decade starting in 2013 the Decade for People of African Descent,

Taking note of the Global African Diaspora Summit, held in Sandton, Johannesburg, on 25 May 2012, and the outcome adopted at its conclusion,

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

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 discrimination and violence against them,

Underlining the importance of eliminating discriminatory practices and laws that hamper some specific groups of individuals from fully participating in the public and political life of the countries they live in, including legal and practical obstacles such as discriminatory regulations regarding voter registration, the lack of identification documents, administrative and financial barriers, and discrimination in access to citizenship,

Concerned at the use of the Internet and social media by extremist groups and individuals to disseminate racist ideas and propagate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

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,

Deploring 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,

Deeply concerned that despite the immense potential of sport in promoting tolerance, racism in sport is still a serious problem,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in its constructive work aimed at the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, including by increasing efforts to complement the work of other Durban follow-up mechanisms with a view to achieving better coordination and synergy with other human rights mechanisms, thereby avoiding duplication of initiatives;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;²

3. *Decides* that the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action should convene its eleventh session from 7 to 18 October 2013;

4. *Recalls* that preventing and combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is a primary responsibility of States and, in this regard, recommends that States:

(a) Consider developing and implementing national plans of action to combat racism and racial discrimination, and to promote equality, equity, social justice, equality of opportunity, respect for diversity and the participation of all; These plans should aim at creating conditions for all to participate effectively in decision-making and realize civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights in all spheres of life on the basis of non-discrimination;

(b) Consider linking their development programmes and priorities for the improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of individuals and groups experiencing racial discrimination, social exclusion and marginalization, and that these linkages should be reflected in, inter alia, States' reports for the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council;

(c) Invest in education as a tool for transforming attitudes and eliminating ideas of racial hierarchies and superiority;

(d) Consider collecting ethnically disaggregated data with a view to setting up concrete targets and designing appropriate and effective anti-discrimination legislation, policies and programmes aimed at promoting equality and preventing and eliminating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; any such information should, as appropriate, be collected with the explicit consent of individuals, based on their self-determination and in accordance with provisions on human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as data protection regulations and privacy guarantees; this information must not be misused;

(e) Consider adopting effective measures to combat criminal acts motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, take measures so that motivations are considered an aggravating factor for the purpose of sentencing, prevent these crimes from going unpunished and ensure the rule of law;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring equality for all in the enjoyment of civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, without any discrimination based on race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin as one effective way through which States may prevent and address the rise of tension and conflict;

6. *Underlines* in the above context that all citizens have the right to participate freely in the electoral processes in their countries, including the right to vote, consistent with article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly since any restriction inconsistent with that article is incompatible with democracy, the rule of law and transparent and accountable electoral processes;

7. *Welcomes* the setting up of projects at the national level by civil society groups, including with the financial support of public authorities, including the creation of a

² A/HRC/19/77.

social network-based platform targeting young people and aiming specifically at countering right-wing extremism and fostering a democratic culture;

8. *Encourages* States to use the opportunities provided by new technologies, including the Internet, to counter the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred;

9. *Calls on* States to strengthen measures to prevent racist and xenophobic incidents in major sporting events, including by individuals or groups of individuals linked to extremist movements and groups;

10. *Urges* States, in cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, the International Olympic Committee and international and regional sports federations, to intensify the fight against racism in sport by, among other things, educating the youth of the world through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires human understanding, tolerance, fair play and solidarity;

11. *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 and conditions and the extent of racism against Africans and people of African descent and, in that regard, takes note of the report of the Working Group,³ and welcomes the draft Programme of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent contained in an addendum thereto,⁴ including the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/144;

12. *Decides* to transmit the draft Programme of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent to the General Assembly for its consideration, with a view to its adoption, within the context of the International Decade for People of African Descent;

13. *Deplores* the special form of discrimination faced by people of African descent known as “Afrophobia”;

14. *Calls for* renewed efforts to mobilize political will for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to fully implement paragraphs 53 and 57 of General Assembly resolution 65/240 of 24 December 2010 with respect to the establishment of an outreach programme and for the follow-up to the commemoration of the ten-year anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

16. *Calls on* the international community, the Office of the High Commissioner and the Department of Public Information to intensify efforts to widely distribute copies of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and encourages efforts to ensure its translation and wide dissemination, including through posting all relevant documents on their websites;

17. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to initiate consultations with various international sporting and other organizations, enabling them to contribute to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination;

³ A/HRC/21/60.

⁴ A/HRC/21/60/Add.2.

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

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

*39th meeting
28 September 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 37 to one, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain]
