

## *Durban Declaration and Programme of Action*

### **High-level meeting to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action: “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”**

Wednesday, 22 September 2021  
United Nations General Assembly Hall  
New York

#### **Concept Note (10 September 2021)**

#### **Background**

In its resolution 75/237, the General Assembly decided to hold a one-day high-level meeting to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the theme “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”.

During the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, Member States adopted a landmark document for combatting these scourges: the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Declaration embodies the commitments of the international community to address the legacy of the past as well as contemporary forms and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination, including the acknowledgement that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity and should have always been so. The Programme of Action constitutes a comprehensive road-map recommending how Member States and other stakeholders should implement these commitments.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action is a victim-centred framework, which emphasises the plight of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, displaced persons, victims of human trafficking, and persons belonging to various minorities. It reaffirms that States have the duty to protect and promote the human rights of all and should apply a gender perspective, thereby recognising the existence of multiple forms of discrimination. In particular, the Declaration and Programme of Action emphasise that people of African descent continued to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as a consequence of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism. The documents also acknowledged the value and diversity of the cultural heritage of Africans and people of African descent and affirmed the importance and necessity of ensuring their full integration into social, economic and political life.

The General Assembly defined the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting in its resolution 75/320.

The General Assembly also decided to adopt a political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its follow-up processes at the opening plenary meeting.

## Format

The high-level meeting will take place on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, comprising of an opening plenary meeting, two consecutive roundtables and a closing plenary meeting. The roundtables will provide a platform for speakers, encompassing representatives of Member States and a broad array of stakeholders,<sup>1</sup> to highlight the successes and challenges of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, with a particular focus on people of African descent, and to discuss contemporary and emerging challenges in this area and the way forward in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

### **09:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – *Opening plenary meeting***

During this segment, following speakers will address the General Assembly for 5 to 6 minutes each:

- President of the General Assembly
- United Nations Secretary-General
- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Head of State of South Africa
- One speaker from each regional group
- Representative of a non-governmental organization
- Youth representative

The General Assembly will also adopt the political declaration.

### **11:00 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. – *Round table 1: “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent – Where do we stand 20 years after the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action?”***

In this round table, the speakers will discuss progress made, challenges encountered and lessons-learned in efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance 20 years after the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. They will share their views on the state of play in the fight against racism, in particular through the lens of the situation of people of African descent.

**Chair:** Head of State or Government

**Speakers:** The Chair and representatives of Member States will address the General Assembly for 3 minutes each and, time permitting, participants from stakeholders enumerated in A/Res/75/320, para.7 (c), will take the floor.

### **03:00 pm – 05:00 pm. *Round table 2: “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent – How to address the past to move forward?”***

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly Resolution 75/320, para. 7 (c): “In order to promote a substantive and constructive dialogue, participation in the round tables will include Member States, observers, representatives of entities and experts of the United Nations system, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, national human rights institutions, where they exist, the private sector, academia, as well as selected representatives of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations that are actively engaged in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, such as youth and community organizations and indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions, taking into account the principles of transparency, inclusivity, including gender balance, and geographical representation”.

In this round table, the speakers will discuss how addressing past racial discrimination and considering reparations can contribute to moving the fight against racism forward. They will also speak about the relevance and pertinence of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in addressing new and emerging trends in the fight against discrimination.

**Chair:** Head of State or Government

**Speakers:** The Chair and representatives of Member States will address the General Assembly for 3 minutes each and, time permitting, participants from stakeholders enumerated in A/Res/75/320, para.7 (c), will take the floor.

**06:00 pm – 07:00 pm. *Closing plenary meeting***

The closing plenary meeting will comprise the presentation of summaries of the discussions by the Chairs of the round tables, followed by statements from the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Deputy Secretary-General.

**Speakers:** The interventions by the Chairs of the round tables may be delivered by the representatives of corresponding Permanent Missions and will last 8 minutes each, the closing statements will last 5 minutes each:

- Chair round table 1
- Chair round table 2
- Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights
- Deputy Secretary-General.

End of meeting.



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**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO  
COMMEMORATE THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF  
THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

**Wednesday, 22 September 2021**

**STATEMENTS BY STATES ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES.**

**LIST OF SPEAKERS**

**ROUND TABLE ONE (11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.)**

1.	<b>CUBA</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
2.	<b>MALAWI</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
3.	<b>SEYCHELLES</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
4.	<b>EQUATORIAL GUINEA</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
5.	<b>KENYA</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
6.	<b>COMOROS</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b>
7.	<b>UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b>
8.	<b>GUYANA</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b>
9.	<b>ZIMBABWE</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
10.	<b>MALDIVES</b>	<b>HEAD OF STATE</b>
11.	<b>COSTA RICA</b>	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
12.	<b>BARBADOS</b>	<b>HEAD OF GOVERNMENT</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
13.	<b>FIJI</b>	<b>HEAD OF GOVERNMENT</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)



## Durban Declaration and Programme of Action 20th Anniversary

14.	<b>SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES</b>	<b>HEAD OF GOVERNMENT</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
15.	<b>CHINA</b>	<b>DEPUTY HEAD OF GOVERNMENT</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
16.	<b>NAMIBIA</b>	<b>DEPUTY HEAD OF GOVERNMENT</b>
17.	<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	<b>DEPUTY HEAD OF GOVERNMENT</b>
18.	<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>HIGH-LEVEL</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
19.	<b>EGYPT</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
20.	<b>ALGERIA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
21.	<b>IRAQ</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
22.	<b>PERU</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
23.	<b>NIGERIA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
24.	<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
25.	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
26.	<b>GUATEMALA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
27.	<b>INDONESIA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
28.	<b>MAURITIUS</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
29.	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
30.	<b>MOZAMBIQUE</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
31.	<b>NIGER</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
32.	<b>SENEGAL</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>



## Durban Declaration and Programme of Action 20th Anniversary

33.	<b>LESOTHO</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
34.	<b>SURINAME</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
35.	<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
36.	<b>JAMAICA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
37.	<b>SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC</b>	<b>VICE-MINISTER</b>
38.	<b>RUSSIAN FEDERATION</b>	<b>VICE-MINISTER</b>
39.	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
40.	<b>BRAZIL</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
41.	<b>ANGOLA</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
42.	<b>STATE OF PALESTINE</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>



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**LIST OF SPEAKERS**

**Round Table Two (3 p.m. to 5 p.m.)**

1.	<b>PAKISTAN</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
2.	<b>IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
3.	<b>SUDAN</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
4.	<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
5.	<b>TUNISIA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
6.	<b>NICARAGUA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
7.	<b>UGANDA</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
8.	<b>VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>
9.	<b>BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)</b>	<b>VICE-MINISTER</b>
10.	<b>QATAR</b>	<b>VICE-MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
11.	<b>CHILE</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
12.	<b>SRI LANKA</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)
13.	<b>NEPAL</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
14.	<b>BELGIUM</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>



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15.	<b>MALAYSIA</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
16.	<b>ERITREA</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
17.	<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
18.	<b>ARGENTINA</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
19.	<b>MOROCCO</b>	<b>HEAD OF DELEGATION</b>
20.	<b>HOLY SEE</b>	<b>MINISTER</b> (PRE-RECORDED VIDEO STATEMENT)