

United Nations High-level Week, 14 – 30 September, 2021



United
Nations



Durban Declaration and Programme
of Action 20th Anniversary

High-level meeting on the 20th Anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

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WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) is the UN's blueprint for effectively tackling racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and represents a fundamental development in human rights.
- The 20th anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA comes at a crucial turning moment in the global fight against racism and racial discrimination which is creating new momentum to review the efficiency of previous measures, revisit challenges, rectify shortcomings and commit to prompt and more effective measures against racism and racial discrimination.
- The DDPA is a victim-centred document and focuses on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including of Africans, 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 victims and should apply a gender perspective, recognising the multiple forms of discrimination.
- Much of today's racism is deeply entrenched in centuries of colonialism and enslavement. It is especially important to recognize historical injustices, repair longstanding wrongs and reverse their consequences.
- Reparatory justice is crucial for reconciliation, prevention of future conflicts and the creation of societies based on fairness, equality, respect and solidarity. It requires a multipronged approach that is grounded in international human rights law.
- The theme for the high-level meeting is "*Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent,*" and will highlight the need to make amends for centuries of violence and discrimination.

OBJECTIVES

This high-level meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government intends to organize and support various high-visibility initiatives, seeking to effectively increase awareness at all levels, to

commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

FORMAT AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The high-level meeting will consist of an opening plenary meeting, two consecutive round tables and a closing plenary meeting.
- The meeting will adopt a short and concise political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will for the full and effective implementation of the DDPA and its follow-up processes.
- To bring to life the issues addressed in the DDPA and catalyze engagement and action, the UN is launching a new campaign to #FightRacism.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.un.org/en/durban-20-anniversary>

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#FightRacism