

**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TUNISIA IS ORGANIZING
a **SIDE EVENT** on:**

The fight against all forms of racial discrimination in Tunisia
Friday, 23rd November 2018 - from 1 pm to 3 pm, Room XXIV, Palais des Nations

Concept note

The adoption by the Tunisian Parliament on 9 October 2018 of a law on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination is an important achievement for Tunisia. It thus consolidates the system of human rights as reflected in the Constitution. Its implementation should be a new step towards the full enjoyment of Tunisian people of their rights, without distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, color, descent or national or ethnic origin. Its implementation should constitute a new challenge for the Tunisian society to ensure the full enjoyment of all Tunisians of their rights on an equal footing, without distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on the race, the color, ancestry or national or ethnic origin.

Tunisia is the second African country and the first Arab country to adopt a law on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. An intense debate took place on this issue in Tunisian society, in which civil society, political parties and parliamentarians took part. This law, which was proposed by the Government, was finally supported by almost all parliamentarians, reflecting the will of the Tunisian state to reject all forms of racial discrimination and fight against this phenomenon in an energetic manner as attested by the actions to be carried out and provided for by this law, as well as the penalties that are imposed in case of violation thereof.

The fight against all forms of racial discrimination must be a daily struggle that must be waged relentlessly to change attitudes and to consolidate in practice awareness and behavior that prevent the trivialization of this repugnant phenomenon and ensures the full enjoyment of human rights by all without any form of discrimination.

The organization by the Permanent Mission of Tunisia in Geneva of this side event on this law should offer the opportunity to share with the Representatives of member States and other stakeholders the experience of Tunisia in this matter and to examine ways and means to ensure better implementation of national laws and programs on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. This requires consideration of the difficulties that may hinder any action or policy aimed at the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

The list of panelists will include:

- (1) H.E, Mr. Walid Doudech, Tunisian Ambassador to the United Nations. (Moderator)
- (2) Jamila Ksiksi, Member of the Tunisian Parliament.
- (3) Omar Fassatoui, OHCHR, Tunisia Office.
- (4) Saadia Mosbah, President of the Tunisian M'nemty Association.
- (5) Silvia Quattrini , Minority Rights Group, MENA Programmes Coordinator.

(6) Mactar Ndoye: OHCHR, Anti-Racial Discrimination Section.

All member states and non-governmental organizations and human rights institutions are invited to participate in this side event.