

**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

25 January 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as newly appointed Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 7/34 and 34/35.

In resolution 7/34 of 28 March 2008, the Human Rights Council mandates the Special Rapporteur to gather, request, receive and exchange information with all relevant sources on all issues pertaining to her mandate (para. 2). In this context, the resolution requests the Special Rapporteur to develop a dialogue with States and other relevant stakeholders (para 3. (a)) and calls upon States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the discharge of her mandate (para. 5).

In line with this resolution, I seek to gather contributions from States and other relevant stakeholders in preparation of my first thematic report. The report will focus on racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in the context of laws, policies and practices relating to citizenship, nationality and immigration.

In order to prepare my report, I invite States to provide information and share views on the following issues:

- Steps taken to ensure that access to citizenship and naturalization is granted on an equal basis i.e. without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, descent, or national and ethnic origin;
- Efforts to combat gender discrimination affecting racial, ethnic and other minorities with regards to access to citizenship and nationality;
- Efforts made to remove barriers for the naturalization of long-term or permanent residents belonging to ethnic and racial minorities and other groups, including people without nationality;
- Steps taken for the regularization of former citizens of predecessor States;
- Measures taken to ensure that provisions to strip individuals of their nationality comply with State's obligations to ensure the non-discriminatory enjoyment of the right to nationality;

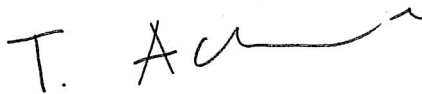
- Measures taken to prevent and reduce statelessness of persons belonging to racial, national, and ethnic minorities;
- Laws and policies imposing restrictions on immigration on the basis of nationality;
- Safeguards designed to ensure that immigration laws, policies, and practices do not discriminate – in purpose or effect – against certain groups of non-nationals.

States are encouraged to share good practices in relation to the above-mentioned issues, as well as obstacles in their implementation.

I will present this report at the thirty-eight Session of the Human Rights Council in June 2018. I would therefore appreciate receiving any relevant information your Excellency's Government might wish to submit by 28 February 2018. Submissions will be posted on the website of my mandate at the time of the report's publication, unless they contain a clear request not to be made public.

Contributions may be sent through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, CH-1211, Geneva 10 (Fax: +41 22 917 90 06; e-mail: [racism@ohchr.org](mailto:racism@ohchr.org)).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



E. Tendayi Achiume  
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia  
and related intolerance