

Group of Independent Eminent Experts for the implementation of
the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Preliminary recommendations – 9th session

The Group of Independent Eminent Experts:

1. Expresses concern over manifestations of lack of political will and insufficient dedicated resources, at national, regional, and international levels, to effectively implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action over twenty years after its adoption;
2. Calls on Member States, the UN system, and all stakeholders, including civil society representatives, to redouble their efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
3. Reiterates the importance of global outreach programmes led by the United Nations for public information on and mobilization in support of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its full and effective implementation as requested in previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, including to counter disinformation about the content of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
4. Affirms that the teaching of history, in particular the role that the resistance and uprisings by enslaved Africans played towards the abolition of the trade in enslaved Africans and the fact that the anti-slavery movement constituted the first global human rights movement, is fundamental to fight against contemporary forms of racism, especially systemic racism;
5. Calls on Member States, the UN system, and all stakeholders, including civil society, to observe publicly the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on 25 March, UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on 23 August (which commemorates the uprising of enslaved Africans and the beginning of the Haitian revolution), and the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery on 2 December;
6. Urges Member States and all stakeholders, including civil society representatives, to ensure that considerations relating to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance be fully integrated in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other UN processes, including the 2023 SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future;
7. Recalls that the fundamental human rights principles contained and developed in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action are also enshrined in different international human rights treaties that give rise to legal obligations for their respective State parties;
8. Encourages increased coordination and cooperation between all international human rights mechanisms working on combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
9. In this context, recommends that particular attention be given by all relevant actors to enhancing the contribution of the Treaty Bodies that monitor the implementation of the core human rights conventions to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. This can be achieved by each of these bodies individually and

through a systemic approach, leading to more intensive cooperation among them in directing dialogue with States parties, coordinated follow-up for concluding observations, and consistent interpretation of relevant treaty provisions;

10. Recommends that OHCHR prepare an expert study taking stock of how the work of the different UN Treaty Bodies has contributed to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and making recommendations on how to address identified challenges;
11. Proposes that the Group of Independent Eminent Experts meet annually in Geneva for a three-day session to be organized at an opportune moment to ensure visibility for the role and work of the Group and good participation from all stakeholders, including Member and Observer States and civil society representatives. Proposes also that the annual session continue to be webcast and be, from now on, held in a hybrid format to allow for remote participation;
12. Proposes that the Group of Independent Eminent Experts conduct two annual advocacy visits of two working-days each, to opportune places and at opportune moments, to raise awareness about the need to enhance the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and increase political support for the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
13. Proposes that the Group of Independent Eminent Experts report annually on its session and activities to the Human Rights Council, and that this report be also transmitted and presented to the General Assembly; and
14. Invites the five regional groups to nominate candidates for appointment to the Group of Independent Eminent Experts as requested in Human Rights Council resolution 51/32 and General Assembly resolution 77/205, thereby ensuring the Group can fulfil its mandate.