



**“ A global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is a matter of priority for the international community.”**

## **AT A GLANCE: THE DURBAN DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

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The United Nations General Assembly will hold a one-day High-Level Meeting in New York to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).

Adopted by consensus at the 2001 World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa, the DDPA is a comprehensive, action-oriented document that proposes concrete measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

### **Why is it important?**

The DDPA recognizes that no country can claim to be free of racism, that racism is a global concern, and that tackling it requires a universal effort. Representing the firm commitment of the international community to tackle these issues, the DDPA has strong moral value and serves as a basis for advocacy efforts worldwide.

### **Highlights of the DDPA**

- The DDPA reasserts the principles of equality and non-discrimination as core human rights, thus transforming victims of discrimination into rights-holders and States into duty-bearers.
- Assigning the primary responsibility of combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to States, the DDPA also calls for the active involvement of international and non-governmental organizations, political parties, national human rights institutions, the private sector, the media and civil society at large.
- It calls for the universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and its effective implementation by States Parties.
- The DDPA adopts a victim-oriented approach to problems of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Specific recommendations are formulated to combat discrimination against Africans and persons of African descent, Asians and persons of Asian descent, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, minorities, the Roma and other groups.
- It recognizes that victims often suffer from multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, birth or other status.
- The DDPA emphasizes the importance of preventive and concerted action, especially in the field of education and awareness-raising, and calls for the strengthening of human rights education.

**General Assembly High-Level Meeting, 22 September 2011**  
**Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

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- It calls for comprehensive national action plans to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It calls for the reinforcement of national institutions and formulates concrete recommendations in the areas of national legislation and the administration of justice.
  - The DDPA outlines measures to address discrimination in the fields of employment, health, policing and education. It calls on States to adopt policies and programmes to counter incitement to racial hatred in the media, including on the Internet.
  - It urges States to adopt measures of affirmative or positive action to create equal opportunities for victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the political, economic, social and cultural decision-making spheres.
  - The DDPA urges governments to provide effective remedies, recourse, redress and compensatory measures to victims and to ensure that victims have access to legal assistance so they can pursue such measures. It also recommends the creation of competent national bodies to adequately investigate allegations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia or related intolerance.
  - The DDPA acknowledges that slavery and the slave trade are crimes against humanity, and should have always been so. It expresses regret over the fact that the slave trade and colonialism contributed to lasting social and economic inequalities.
  - The DDPA calls on all States to recognize the need to counter anti-Semitism, anti-Arabism and Islamophobia world-wide, while opposing all forms of racism.
  - Last but not least, the Programme of Action spells out a number of strategies to achieve full and effective equality through international cooperation. They involve an effective international legal framework, enhanced regional and international cooperation, an active role for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the participation of a wide variety of actors, including civil society, non-governmental organizations and youth in the struggle.

**For more information on the High-Level Meeting, please visit the website at:  
[www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011](http://www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011)**