



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

## **WORLD LEADERS REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM AT UN MEET**

(22 September, New York) In a political declaration adopted by consensus at a High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly today, world leaders reaffirmed their political commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, calling it a comprehensive framework and “solid foundation” for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

“I would encourage all countries, individually and collectively, to intensify efforts aimed at reducing instances of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,” stated the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, in his address to the meeting.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) includes specific recommendations to combat discrimination against many groups, including Africans and persons of African descent, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, the Roma, Asians and persons of Asian descent, women, children, and minorities.

“Let us do more to embrace diversity and safeguard these groups’ dignity... victims of prejudice must be at the centre of our efforts,” said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

“Let us stand firmly against anti-Semitism. We must oppose Islamophobia, and reject discrimination against Christians. Bias based on religious identity has no place in our world. Let us defend the rights of all, without distinction of any kind...” he continued.

In her opening statement, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, noted, “The road to a world free from racism is not an easy one. Anti-discrimination work needs careful planning and a long-term focus. It requires commitment and persistence... we must do better. The victims of racism demand and expect this of us.”

On behalf of victims of racism world-wide, Sarah White of the Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights, said:

“The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action are important to help give people hope and opportunities... This fight is about all our struggles – people of African descent, people of Asian descent, indigenous, women, children, minorities. Our strength comes from organizing and bringing our voices together on one platform to make the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action work.”



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

[www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/](http://www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/)





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## **About the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Adopted by consensus at the 2001 World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa, the DDPA proposes concrete measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It 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.

**The full text of the political declaration is available on the High-Level Meeting website at: [www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/resolutions.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/resolutions.shtml)**

**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)**

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