



Statement by H.E. Penda Naanda, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council (General Debate Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including the reports of the Intergovernmental Working Group and the High Commissioner), 16 June 2020.

Thank you, Madam President,

Namibia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and the NAM.

Namibia strongly condemns the racial injustices being perpetuated against people of African Descent. There should be no place for racism in any society anywhere in the world.

We thank the Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) for the report and also appreciate the report submitted by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Namibia and its people have long struggled against severe colonialism, which included genocide, and against racism and the abominable system of Apartheid. Hence, also in view of the particular challenges faced by women of African descent, we remain steadfast in our pursuit to see increased concrete action towards the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerances globally, including those under foreign occupation such as Western Sahara and Palestine. The comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the DDPA remains an absolute priority.

Thus, Namibia trusts that the mandates of the IGWG on the effective implementation of the DDPA and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are consensually extended and renewed.

In fact, Namibia was hoping that the extension of the mandate of the IGWG was going to be open-ended, as in the past; and the Special Rapporteur surely requires more resources, especially dedicated human resources.

Finally, Namibia strongly supports all programmed and recommended activities towards the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

I thank you, Madam President.