



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY  
AMBASSADOR KINGSLEY MAMABOLO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON  
AGENDA ITEM 70: "ELIMINATION OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,  
XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE", AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE  
OF THE 70TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, 2 November 2015)**

Chairperson,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 70: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
2. The Group wishes to thank the Secretary-General for the reports submitted under this agenda item. We also acknowledge the distinguished panel of experts, for the comprehensive reports and presentations this morning.
3. The Group welcomes the recently adopted 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, in the spirit that no one in our societies shall be left behind, and where there is mutual respect and recognition for all citizens of the world.
4. The Group of 77 and China reaffirms that the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination as well as the outcomes of the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the 2009 Durban Review Conference, are the fundamental international frameworks for the effective elimination of racism, and related intolerance. In this context, the Group reemphasizes that a resolute and renewed political will, adequate funding as well as sustained international cooperation are indispensable to address all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
5. As it may be recalled, this important item formed part of the agenda of the General Assembly since 1947 and regrettably continue to be relevant even the contemporary world. The subtle, residual and resurgent forms of all the scourges of racism make it imperative for the UN Human Rights System to be remain seized with this priority matter.
6. The Group recognizes the continued relevance of the Programme of activities on the Implementation of the International Decade of People of African Descent; and welcomes recent efforts on the elaboration of complementary standards to strengthen and update international instruments on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance in full support of the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Chairperson,

7. The practices of slavery have over the years have evolved into other forms and manifestations which continue to make Africans and People of African Descent, Asians and People of Asian Descent victims of oppression and racism. The as yet to be defined phenomenon of globalization is a classical case in point. The key drivers of globalization and owners of the global wealth in the form of multinational companies and extractive mining industries continue to exploit the human

resources of the developing countries as well as plunder their natural resources with impunity. It is for this reason that the developing countries are firmly on a path towards the elaboration of new normative standards in international human rights law aimed at ensuring accountability for these entities and combatting their violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

8. The Group wishes to underline that the Durban Declaration and Program of Action is the only instructive Outcome Document of a major Conference prescribing measures and providing remedies for the victims of all the scourges of racism. We call on all Member States, who are responsible for historic injustices, to honour the memory of the historical victims of racism through atonement as well as providing remedial measures with the view to the attainment of human dignity and substantive quality. It is unacceptable that racism can be meted out by State authorities to People of African Descent in the Diaspora and in the countries where they live as citizens.

Chairperson,

9. The G77 and China emphasizes its grave concern at the growing incitement to hatred accompanied by intolerance as well as lack of respect for diversity including on the basis of religion, language and culture. These trends have led to increases in extremism, violence and terrorism. We are seriously concerned about and reject racial profiling and negative stereotyping against persons based on their religions or belief and the increase in incidents related to religious hatred. We therefore reiterate the call, on Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to oppose religious intolerance and to enhance dialogue with the aim of mutual understanding, promoting tolerance and respect of ethnic, cultural and religious diversity as critical in combating the scourge of racism.

10. The situation of migrants who become victims of exploitation, xenophobia and discrimination is also of serious concern to the Group. On this note, we reaffirm the call for countries to eliminate discrimination against migrants due to their nationality and stimulate the trafficking of persons and unsafe and unregulated migrations.

Chairperson,

11. It is widely known that the persistence of racism and racial discrimination is related to past atrocities from conquest, colonialism, the Holocaust, slavery and other forms of forced servitude. The legacy of slavery in particular, is at the heart of situations of profound social and economic inequality, which continue to affect people of African descent. It is important that the fight against racism should recognize the social and economic dimensions of the injustices of the past and seek to redress them appropriately.

12. This continued struggle against racism and racial discrimination must be based on human solidarity and waged through cooperation, partnership and inclusion, needless to say, at all levels. At the national level, equal participation of all individuals and peoples in the formation of just, equitable, democratic and inclusive societies continues to be an absolute necessity.

Chairperson,

13. We need more than the promulgation of legislation and the establishment and strengthening of requisite institutions and structures in the legislative, judicial, administrative, and educational and information fields. We need reinvigorated political will to redouble our efforts to eradicate this ghastly phenomenon.

14. We again reaffirm the critical role that education plays at all levels to promote understanding

among all peoples in this abhorrent war against racism and racial discrimination. Education is a powerful tool for creating awareness at all levels of society, particularly among young people and even more so in this day and age where there are new ways of disseminating messages of racism and racial discrimination.

Chairperson,

15. The Group commends the work of the human rights council for its leadership and commitment to the eradication of all the scourges of racism. We encourage the Council to work for the early finalisation of its ongoing processes of elaborating of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

16. Finally, Chairperson, the Group welcomes the yearlong celebrations of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations and is mindful of its theme. The Group underlines the inextricability between development, security and human rights for all. The Group remains unwavering in its support for the instructive report of the former Secretary General entitled "in larger freedom: development, security and human rights for all". We commend the sterling work achieved by the erstwhile Commission on Human Rights for developing a body of law (international human rights law) which included among others, the adoption of the 1948 United Nations Bill of Rights and all the other important complimentary instruments. We encourage the current human rights council to continue this excellent trajectory.

I thank you.

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