



SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT

GENERAL DEBATE

**3RD SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN
DESCENT**

GENEVA

16 APRIL 2024

2 minutes

Check against delivery.

Chairperson,

South Africa congratulates you and other members of the Forum on your appointment and wishes you every success in fulfilling your mandate. My delegation wishes to also align itself with the statement of the African Group delivered by Gambia.

South Africa welcomes the convening of the Third Session of the Permanent Forum in Geneva under its timely theme of *“Second International Decade for People of African Descent: Addressing Systemic Racism, Reparatory Justice, and Sustainable Development.”*

As the end of the International Decade for People of African Descent is fast approaching, we collectively have a responsibility to present and future generations to address rising inequalities, continued racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including other contemporary forms and manifestations. 23 years since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, many Africans and people of African descent continue to be victims of such acts. It is therefore imperative that we guard against actions that deliberately seek to undermine the DDPA, as the comprehensive roadmap to tackle the scourge of racism and racial discrimination globally; its follow-up mechanisms, including those that seek to dissociate this Forum from the DDPA.

South Africa reaffirms the centrality of the DDPA to the work of this consultative Forum. We recognise the important contribution of the Permanent Forum along with the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) towards the elaboration of the draft Declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/226, is drafted by Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).

To successfully combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance we must intensify our collective efforts at the national, regional and international levels.

Chairperson,

South Africa, therefore, supports calls for a review of the current Decade and a renewal of the International Decade for People of African Descent, to give the anti-discrimination campaign the global attention it deserves.

In conclusion, South Africa remains committed to contributing and advancing efforts aimed at addressing the plight of People of African Descent.

My Delegation looks forward to fruitful deliberations with impactful outcomes.

I thank you.