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Statement by Youth Against Racism, International Non-Governmental Organization Advocacy Group, to the 3rd Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

Excellencies, friends, brothers and sisters of the world,

Youth Against Racism, which represents youth of African Descent would like to make the following contribution:

We would first like to congratulate and welcome the new Bureau of the Permanent Forum and thank the Secretariat for the support along the way.

This Forum cannot be complete without the immediate acknowledgment of the International Youth Summit Against Racism, which took place parallel to the WCAR.

Youth Against Racism, the INGO Advocacy Group I have been the Founder and President of since 1999, cannot even find a link to the Declaration that was produced by the aforementioned Youth Summit on the WCAR website of documents. This is a point that my organization takes very seriously. You can easily find this document on our website: www.youthagainstracism.com. Conservation of primary sources by the UN is critical.

Not only has the Youth Summit itself seen absolutely no follow-up by the UN or otherwise, the work of the 800 young people in 2001 has been all but forgotten by these hallowed proceedings. I am here to remind you of those youth. Their work. And the pledge, as laid out in Article 217 of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which states:

“[Article]217. Urges States to encourage and facilitate the establishment and maintenance of youth mechanisms, set up by youth organizations and young women and men themselves, in the spirit of combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances....”

There are many other calls in the DDPA where the good work of the Durban International Youth Summit Against Racism are signaled (Articles: 17, 120, 121, 128, 216 and as mentioned 217). However, since then, the groundbreaking work of young people has been overshadowed. To the point where Youth Against Racism sincerely believes, we are the only Organization left from that Summit and process.

The 3rd Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent cannot be complete without a refresh on Youth Organizations and our active participation in the UN process ever since 2001.

We demand a meeting with the High Commissioner for Human Rights to begin discussions about much-needed follow up.

Thank you.