**Information from the Russian Federation regarding the treatment of**

**UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism**

The Russian Federation, having studied the request of the Special Rapporteur of the HRC on contemporary forms of racism, would like to report the following.

The Russian Federation assumes that an uncompromising fight against contemporary forms of racism, including such ugly ones as neo-Nazism, must be a priority for the global community.

Russia is one of the few, and in some areas, the only country that financially supports the work of the UN human rights dimension to combat racism and its contemporary forms. We intend to continue to contribute to the implementation of programmes within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent and to promote the outcomes of the Durban Conference and the Durban Review Conference.

It is alarming that various manifestations of racism and xenophobia have become structural in a number of states, affecting the entire system of government and social relations. This was particularly evident in certain economically advanced countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, reports by UN human rights mechanisms of prejudice against, and often blatant discrimination against, people of African descent, effectively denying access to health services to this population group, are of concern.

At the same time, we would like to recall that racial discrimination has multiple forms and attributes, including the national origin of potential victims.

The Russian Federation pays considerable attention to climate issues, takes an active part in discussions on the international arena and makes a significant contribution to efforts to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the environment and climate, based on national socio-economic development conditions.

Without in any way diminishing the importance of combating racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, or of the climate change agenda, the Russian Federation considered the linking of human rights issues to climate change unjustified and largely artificial.

The Russian side is convinced that activities in the field of climate change are primarily the responsibility of specialist staff and structures.

Russia has consistently advocated increasing the effectiveness of existing international legal mechanisms in the climate sphere. Our country believes that work in these areas should be carried out separately: through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the key international legal instrument in the area of climate change, and the specialized human rights structures within the United Nations system.

Russia opposes attempts to "dilute" the mandate of the UNFCCC and to form a duplicative set of treaty obligations. This approach is not conducive to reducing global warming and puts additional strain on national legal systems.

While recognizing the overall importance of the role of civil society, the Russian Federation does not consider it reasonable to refer to "green" activists as major players in the climate agenda. In this regard, the Russian side considers it inappropriate to appeal to the uncodified notion of "climate justice" in international law.

We are forced to note with concern the negative trend towards diluting the mandate of UNEP and other international environmental and climate platforms. We note with regret the continuing attempts to shift the discussion of environmental issues to other non-core bodies. That has led, in particular, to the arbitrary expansion of the mandate of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at the expense of environmental and climate issues. The relevant Council resolutions are systematically saturated with language that actually puts the HRC in the lead on climate change and environmental issues. This ignores the fact that the Council and the OHCHR have neither the mandate, nor the relevant competence and expertise in this area.