

Permanent Observer Mission of the  
AFRICAN UNION to the  
United Nations

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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**STATEMENT BY  
H. E. JOAO SOARES DA GAMA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH**

**ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION**

**NEW YORK, 21 MARCH 2014**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination on the theme, **“The Role of Leaders in Combating Racism and Racial Discrimination”**. By sheer coincidence, the symbolism of this theme cannot be lost on us that the legacy of one of Africa’s Iconic leaders, the late Nelson Rolihahla Mandela manifests itself, a driving force for the elimination of racial discrimination in his own country, South Africa.

For the African Group welcomes this annual event as an opportunity to, not only join collective efforts in raising awareness about the pernicious impact of racism but more importantly to assess progress in our common struggle to combat racism and racial discrimination through the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action.

In taking stock today, some may argue, and perhaps justifiably, that we still have a long way to go in combating this scourge. But we will all agree that without strong and sustained Leadership all the best blue prints, legal instruments and institutions will remain blunt tools.

Mr. President,

It will be recalled that the aim of this commemoration is to, amongst other thing, mobilize political will at the national, regional and international levels as well as reaffirm political commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and their follow-up processes at all levels.

Let me conclude by reaffirming the African Group's commitment to continue to contribute to global efforts towards the total elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination.

I thank you.

2014

Statement by H. E. Joao Soares Da  
Gama, Permanent Representative of  
The Republic of Guinea-Bissau to The  
United Nations Chairman of The  
African Group for the month of March  
on behalf of The African Group  
International Day For the Elimination  
Of Racism and Racial Discrimination

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