

AFRICAN UNION

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**CONVENING OF ANOTHER WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST
RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND
RELATED INTOLERANCE
*(Item proposed by The Gambia)***

**CONVENING OF ANOTHER WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE**
(Item proposed by The Gambia)

OBJECTIVES

- To address all issues relating to the historic crimes of slavery, slave trade and colonialism and the new and emerging forms of contemporary slavery since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPOA) adopted at the world Conference held in 2001 in Durban, South Africa;
- To undertake a comprehensive review of the DDPOA, after almost 15 years, with a view to assessing the progress made and challenges encountered in its implementation as well as chart a new and robust way forward.
- To recalibrate the global strategy towards addressing the recent upsurge in xenophobic attacks, violent extremism, radicalization, inequality, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the factors giving rise to them;
- To galvanize the international community towards re-engaging with the on-going discourse on the negative historic legacies of trans-Atlantic slave trade slavery, colonialism and looting of cultural heritage and artifacts and the related issues of restitution, reparations and atonement for these wrongs, including the need for an agreement on strategies for achieving them.

ACTIONS REQUIRED AT THE LEVEL OF THE AFRICAN UNION

1. That the Assembly of the AU mandate the AU Commission and the Africa Groups in New York and Geneva to work collaboratively and pursue the tabling of this request at the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and to provide a feedback on the outcome of their efforts.
2. That the Assembly to further mandate the AU Commission and the Africa Groups in New York and Geneva to pursue the tabling of a UN General Assembly resolution on slavery, colonialism, reparation and restitutions. Furthermore, to mandate the AU the African Group in Geneva and New York to pursue the convening an international conference to comprehensively discuss the issue of the slave trade, slavery, colonialism, restitution and reparations. Such a conference shall also discuss measures and strategies to address the lasting negative impact that these historic wrongs. In this regard, other stakeholders including other member states of the United Nations, the Caribbean Community, the African Diaspora and relevant CSOs shall be engaged in order to advance this agenda from where it was left at the Durban Conference of 2001.

RATIONALE

3. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action is a comprehensive document on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other intolerances. The document also takes into consideration and condemns historical slavery, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and calls upon states to take responsibility for the role they played during the period of slavery.

4. Although Africa welcomes the measures that were taken by the United Nations as contributory factors to end colonialism and those for the remembrance of the victims of slavery. We deem it necessary for the debate on this issue to be escalated with full consideration given to the moral and sociological dimension of this matter and its negative effects on Africa, Africans and people of African descent. Members states of the United Nations seem to have reached consensus on the inhuman nature of slavery, and negative impact colonialism had on the development of the African continent and the progress of people of African descents. In light of this and in view of that fact that this historical injustice in the fundamental cause of Africa developmental issues and the progress of people of African descents, it is therefore of paramount important that we move away from mere rhetoric, statements and declarations that have been commonplace and embark on a resolute path to articulate and pass resolutions that direct UN bodies and call on states to concrete actions.

5. The resolution itself will correct the historical injustice that Africans and people of African descent have endured and restore human dignity to them. A total review of the Durban declaration and support for the Gambian initiative will also allow justice to prevail over impunity and once and for all level the global playing field for all nations and people to live as equal human beings free from subjugation and damaging psychological effects of racism, slavery and colonialism.

2016

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