

High Level Meeting of the General Assembly to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA)
New York
22 September, 2012

Statement by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), Presented by Oluwole Oshota, President of ISMUN

Co-Chairs,

I speak for the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), a member of the Durban +10 Coalition. Together with NGO partners world wide we have been working to mobilize support for this all important commemoration.

There is no doubt the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action is one of the most important international documents ever adopted. It informs on how a world of divisions between rich and poor was created through the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism and calls for recognition, justice and development for all victims of racism.

We are alarmed that racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia has been escalating since 2001, including in the richest countries of the world. Thus the United Nations has a duty to intensify its work against racism, a task which its first General Assembly already in 1946 accorded priority and decided to be "in the higher interest of humanity".

We strongly condemn the unprecedented disinformation campaign that has been organised against this commemoration and the DDPA and had expected that a stronger public information campaign would have been mounted by the UN leadership in defense of the commemoration and the DDPA as decided by the General Assembly.

We now call for a global mobilisation campaign by the United Nations to recover lost ground and develop world wide support for the DDPA, including in countries not participating in the commemoration. The public information campaign, especially towards young people, that was decided for this commemoration must be implemented by the UN and followed by the allocation of necessary resources for all the Durban follow up mechanisms and a five year plan towards the 15th anniversary for DDPA implementation by the United Nations.

The victims of racism deserve this priority. History will be unkind to those who did not join in the implementation of this great UN declaration and programme of action.