



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
16 July 2024

Original: English

---

## Seventy-ninth session

Item 69 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

### **Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

## **Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The Human Rights Council, in paragraph 15 of its resolution [47/21](#), adopted on 13 July 2021, requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare, on an annual basis, a written report on the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality; to present it to the Council starting from its fifty-first session; and to transmit it to the General Assembly.

2. The Secretariat has the honour to refer the General Assembly to the report of the High Commissioner contained in document A/HRC/57/67, in which key elements of intersectionality as an essential framework to combat systemic racism and confront legacies of enslavement and colonialism are unpacked. The High Commissioner finds that long-standing leadership and advocacy, notably by women of African descent, has led some Governments and others to increasingly seek to apply an intersectionality framework in responses to discrimination and inequalities. However, significant challenges prevail, and comprehensive implementation of all components of the framework is lacking. Disaggregated data and lived experiences continue to expose the systemic racism faced in different regions and in all areas of life, including during interactions with law enforcement. Women and different groups of people of African descent – and individuals within those groups – experience discrimination in qualitatively different ways, in the light of their diverse identities.

---

\* [A/79/150](#).



3. The High Commissioner concludes that a holistic application of this framework can be a game-changer, calling upon States to adopt multi-pronged approaches towards its implementation. The High Commissioner's agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality ([A/HRC/47/53](#), annex, and A/HRC/47/CRP.1) can support efforts by States to apply the intersectionality framework, to effectively implement their human rights obligations and commitments and to achieve sustainable development that leaves no one behind. The High Commissioner calls for a full shift in mindset, urging States to seize upcoming opportunities with renewed vigour and stronger political will to achieve transformative change for racial justice and equality for Africans and people of African descent. This can be realized only by responding to the full spectrum of lived experiences, as well as tackling the root causes and drivers of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including structures, institutions, laws, policies and behaviours that perpetuate such discrimination.

---