

## **Recommendations of the VII Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent**

### **National Plans of Action**

1. The Working Group calls upon those States that have not as yet elaborated National Plans of Action to combat racism, to do so, preferably before the Durban Review Conference is held. Those States that have elaborated National Plans of Action are called upon to fully implement them and to inform upon such implementation at the Durban Review Conference.

### **Administration of justice**

2. The Working Group urges States to identify factors that have resulted in the overrepresentation, in arrests, sentencing and incarceration, of people of African descent, particularly young men, and to take immediate and appropriate measures to eliminate these factors and to adopt crime prevention strategies and programmes that include alternatives to incarceration.

3. The Working Group recommends that States take measures to ensure that the disproportionately low levels of representation of people of African descent in the judiciary and other areas of the justice system be addressed.

### **Collection of data**

4. The Working Group recommends that States implement mechanisms whereby disaggregated information may be effectively captured on health, education, access to housing, employment, treatment in the criminal justice system and political participation and representation as regards people of African descent and that this information be the basis for the creation and ongoing monitoring of policies and practices that address any discrimination found to exist.

5. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should provide guidelines on the collection of disaggregated information to those States that request them.

### **Racism and media**

6. The Working Group recommends that, in association with the International Federation of Journalists, a code of conduct be drawn up that, while taking into account such fundamental issues as the right to freedom of expression, combats racial discrimination against people of African descent by elaborating standards that must be adhered to so as to eliminate the projection and perpetuation, through the media and new technologies, of negative images and stereotypes of Africa and people of African descent. This code of conduct should also include provisions that address and combat incitement to racial hatred.

**Access to education**

7. The Working Group recommends that the 8 Volume UNESCO General History of Africa series be popularised and included by States in their educational curricula.

**Racism and employment**

8. The Working Group invites the International Labour Organisation to make a contribution to the Durban Review Conference on growing xenophobic trends and how to combat them, as well as the elaboration of international standards for protection of domestic workers.

**National monitoring bodies**

9. The Working Group recommends that States establish independent bodies, where they do not already exist, to receive complaints by people of African descent of discrimination in accessing housing, education, health, employment and other fundamental rights. International and regional organisations are also called upon to establish like bodies.

**Racism and health**

10. The Working Group encourages WHO to continue its efforts for mainstreaming racial/ethnicity equality with Ministries of Health, and to strengthen its internal efforts to ensure that all its Working Teams and managers adopt an ethnic/racial equality perspective.

11. The Working Group recommends that States guarantee universal and effective access to medications, particularly those required for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other pandemics.

**Best practices for combating racism and promoting racial equality**

12. The Working Group recommends to the Human Rights Council that it request the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to produce a series of best practices in such areas as access to housing, education, health, employment and institutional and legal frameworks pertaining to people of African descent, as well as combating stereotyping against this group in the media.

**Racial profiling**

13. The Working Group reiterates its call to Governments to abolish and prohibit any discrimination within their jurisdiction and criminalize racial profiling envisaging sanction for those who violate the law and ensuring effective remedies for the victims.

**Racial Equality Index**

14. The Working Group reiterates the importance of the recommendation made by the Independent eminent experts on the follow up to Durban to develop a racial equality index as a tool to better assess the discrimination that affects people of African descent and other vulnerable groups and to guide the adoption of policies to remedy their situation.

**Reparations**

15. With reference to paragraphs 164, 165 and 166 of the Durban Programme of Action, the Working Group strongly recommends that the issue of reparations for people of African descent be considered at the Durban Review Conference.

**The United Nations**

16. The Working Group recommends that the United Nations create a UN fellowship programme for people of African descent.

**Regarding the Working Group**

17. The Working Group reiterates its recommendation that a fund be created to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations that represent people of African descent and NGOs in all meetings and activities of the Working Group.