

**GLOBAL SUMMIT ON COMBATING AND ELIMINATION OF RACISM**  
**DISCRIMINATION FOCUSING ON SPORT**

**JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA 20-21 NOVEMBER 2014**

At the outset, it would be most appropriate for me to thank the organizers of this very important event to launch its Global Charter on the Combatting and elimination of Racism discrimination in all sports in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Doha Goals Forum , Sexwale Foundation, for inviting me to share thoughts with the participants at this panel. I was pleased to have also attended the launch in Doha in June. I'd like to further commend them for having built this strategic partnership to be able to drive the Global Watch Initiative: **«Say no to Racism Discrimination in Sport»**.

Before commenting on the mandate of the IGWG which I have been chairing for the last 4 years, the important body of work done as regards the topics under discussion, and the possible synergies that can be built, allow me to you give by way of background some highlights on the context on the global anti-racism agenda in which this Global Initiative is being launched.

As you may be aware, since the adoption of the DDPA in Durban, South Africa in 2001, a lot of progress has been achieved to accelerate efforts towards the elimination of the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia and related to intolerance. The DDPA, which is the international community blueprint for action to fight racism, is an innovative and action-oriented agenda to combat forms of racism and racial discrimination, including its contemporary manifestations. Despite tangible progress made, the Review in 2009 that was done on the implementation of the DDPA highlighted concerns about the daunting challenges faced and the resurgence of serious manifestations of racism and concluded that as stated by then the High Commissioner, Mrs. Pillay (to whom I pay tribute for her extraordinary commitment), that “*procrastinating and expediency were not acceptable approaches*». It adopted the outcome document which enhanced the ability of OHCHR, treaty bodies, relevant special procedures and the Durban follow up mechanisms of the various aspects of racism and strengthened the resolve and the commitment of the International Community to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In their analysis of the challenges faced in the elimination of Racism, Racial discrimination, xenophobia, Member States concluded that the crucial factor was mobilization of political will at the highest level.

The commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of THE DDPA, on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 in New York provided a chance to strengthen political commitment in fighting racism and racial discrimination. Coming as it did during the 2011 International Year for People of African Descent, it reminded the world about victims identified in the DDPA and created another opportunity to focus on how to prevent and combat racism and racial discrimination in all his manifestations.

I'd also like to inform distinguished participants that the International Community achieved another breakthrough and was able to adopt two days ago in New York the program of activities for the International Decade for People of African descent, starting **on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015** ending on **31<sup>st</sup> December 2014** with the theme: **People of African descent: recognition, justice, development**. It decided to allocate predictable funding for the program for the decade and from extra budgetary resources of the United Nations to the effective implementation of the program of action and activities.

The Working Group, which I chair, contributed to the elaboration of the draft program of activities for implementation of the International Decade for People of African descent. This offers me an opportunity for a smooth transition to elucidate the mandate of the IGWG.

The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action is one of the three mechanisms established to follow up the Declaration and Program of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. The Intergovernmental Working Group was established by Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/68 and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2002/270 of 25 July 2002.

Its mandate, as spelled out in operative paragraph 7 of the Commission resolution 2002/68 is to:

- (a) Make recommendations with a view to the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action;
- (b) Prepare complementary standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in their aspects (task of the Ad Hoc Committee since 2006. The Intergovernmental Working Group is an open-ended working group, meaning that all United Nations Member and Observer States, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations with ECOSOC consultative status and non-governmental organizations that were accredited for the World Conference against Racism may attend public meetings of the Working Group. The Second part of the mandate has been given to the Ad-Hoc Committee since 2006.

IGWG and the theme under discussion: the IGWG has devoted a lot of time and attention to Racism in Sport. It invited Experts held high level meetings with participation of (FIFA, UEFA). We had an opportunity to first learn about the Global Watch, Global Charter, and Global Barometer at the eleven session of IGWG. It adopted important conclusions and recommendations and Member State Report regularly on the implementation of the recommendations.

We listened to multiple discourses in the analysis of the phenomenon but there was a general view that the world of sport can be viewed as a mirror on social issues related to Race, Human rights, social responsibility and accountability.

Some of the critiques were profound, compelling and sometime provocative. We also benefitted from the contribution of sportsmen, athletes and footballers who shared their own experience with racism in sport and how they thought the world of sport would be a place where racism would be suspended and where they would be valued and accepted as equal.

We are now in a better position to understand the dilemmas they faced. In instances of Racism do you remain silent do you openly denounce them and run the risk of ruining one's career?

Racism is the silent killer, as Tokyo has pointed out.

It is morally reprehensible, ethically irresponsible, and politically risky to allow the perpetuation of a system that commodifies, objectifies and dehumanizes individuals. We welcome the Global Watch Initiative as a global call for action and an initiative that would mobilize all right thinking actors in the elimination of racism in sport.

The IGWG very much values the interaction with civil society actors.

By way of conclusion, allow me to reaffirm my support to the initiative. My hope is that the Global Barometer will produce reliable data based on scholarly inquiry and will act as an instrument of assessment and progress.

It would be a very useful instrument to support Government Bodies, Policy makers, etc.

The Global Barometer because of its global nature will require a global buy-in. Hence the need for outreach activities aimed at sharing findings and insights with decisions makers as well as the valuable members of the Global Civil Society.

Thank you for your attention.