



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
To the United Nations, New York

**77<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**GENERAL DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 66 ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND  
RELATED INTOLERANCE**

**STATEMENT BY MS. ZAMZAM MOHAMMED, ADVISER**

**MONDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2022, 10AM**

**Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

Thank you for giving me the floor. The Kenyan delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by South Africa on behalf of the African Group.

We thank the Secretary-General for the submission of his reports under this agenda item and take note of the recommendations.

The Government of Kenya reaffirms its commitment to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the African Union Agenda 2063, as crucial efforts to advance global racial equality.

We hold it to be conspicuously clear that xenophobia, racism, and racial discrimination are the most lethal and inhumane ideas in human history. The very existence of our United Nations is owed to the militarisation of racism in the form of Nazism and its pursuit of a violent, genocidal racist agenda. Our sitting here today therefore manifests the most urgent duty any member of the UN can undertake: that is the search for every possible way to rid ourselves of political, economic, and social exclusion based on racial identity.

During Kenya's Presidency of the Security Council in October 2021, we held a High-Level Open Debate on Diversity, State Building, and the Search for Peace. We argued that exclusion is at the root of most violent conflicts. That it leads to entrenched grievance, to the deterioration of trust in institutions and weakened state legitimacy.

We suggested, then, as we do again today, that states, and by extension regional and multilateral organisations, should make their ability to justly and fairly manage diversity, a core competence. Otherwise, no matter their material wealth, they are fragile and vulnerable to damaging political and security crises.

**Mr Chair, we propose three further areas needing urgent attention:**

**First**, the United Nations must lead by example and ensure that its workplaces are free of racism, discrimination, indignity, harassment, and fear, as driven by the UN Charter.

We commend the Secretary General for launching the *Strategic Action Plan on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All at the United Nations Secretariat* early this year and commencing the appointment of the *Special Adviser on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All in the United Nations Secretariat*.

We hope that these measures will root out racism, instil anti-racist hiring policies and ensure accountability in all departments. In particular, we hope to see men and women of African, Pacific, and Asian descent hired at the most senior levels of the UN in an equitable manner.

**Second**, we call for Member States to translate their obligations and commitments into effective, actionable progress in the fight against racism.

Progress should be measurable, comprehensive, and constant to address racism and discrimination. This is particularly the case in terms of equitable and anti-discriminatory access to education, employment, and economic opportunity.

**Third,** global governance needs to counter racism. For one, the institutionalised attitudes to African migrants and refugees need to be purged of racism and discrimination. UN agencies charged with the movement and settlement of refugees and migrants should document and communicate racial bias as a threat to security and human rights. Just as importantly, reforms of institutions such as the UN Security Council must respond to the urgent case for African permanent membership if they are to reverse the starkly racial exclusion manifest in the status quo.

**Finally Chair,**

We call on all Member States to participate actively in the Durban follow-up mechanisms to accelerate change and erase inequalities, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

**Thank you.**