



**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Permanent Representative to the UN, at
Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

12 March 2021

Madam President,

The OIC thanks all the panelists for their contributions.

The 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and the mid-term review of the International Decade for the People of African Descent is another reminder and call for action to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in all its forms and manifestations.

Unfortunately, despite repeated calls and political slogans, we are still far away from curbing discrimination on the basis of race, colour or religion. Widening inequalities, emerging trends of populism and hyper nationalism have further exacerbated this situation.

In recent years, we have witnessed unfortunate incidents against youth from African Descent including racial profiling, police violence and extrajudicial killings even in some of the so-called progressive and developed societies.

Racism and racial discrimination remains pervasive, threatening the social fabric of our societies and undermining the aspirations for peaceful global co-existence.

The OIC is deeply concerned that racial discrimination coupled-with other vulnerabilities has deprived the People of African Descent from socio-economic development. Youth empowerment and their effective participation in the decision-making process remains critical and merits urgent attention.

There is also a need for both affirmative as well as preventive measures to combat racial discrimination and xenophobia.

We have to walk the talk.

Madam President,

The OIC reiterates its support to the People of African descent for their long struggle spanning over decades against systemic and structural discrimination.

We call for :



- bridging the gaps in international and national discourse related to racial discrimination including through criminalizing hate speech, racial profiling and violence.
- Providing equal opportunities and access to livelihood, education, health and employment to the people of African descent.

I thank you