



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement

43rd SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
DEBATE ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
(midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent)
Remarks by Pakistan
March 13, 2020

Madam President,

We thank the panelists for their presentations.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), which constitute a solid foundation for the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia and related intolerance.

Acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance constitute grave violations of human rights and Pakistan condemns them in all forms and manifestations. There is an urgent need to address this issue with greater resolve and political will, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the world.

Madam President,

Racial discrimination continues to be systemic and denies meaningful and effective development to people of African descent globally. There is need to increase visibility, identify gaps and guide the formulation of policies and actions to prevent, combat and eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Afrophobia and related intolerance faced by people of African descent.

Pakistan is proud of its citizens of African descent, known as Shedis. Inhabiting mostly in southern Pakistan, the Shedi community is a beautiful part of the mosaic of an inclusive and plural country.

As we reach midway in the International Decade for the people of African descent, we must unite our energies to fight the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, hatred and related intolerance directed against not just brothers and sisters of African descent but against all races, ethnicities and religion.

I thank you.