

ECOSOC Decision 2003/246

World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

At its 46th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2003, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/30 of 23 April 2003¹ and endorsed the Commission's decision:

(a) To request the Intergovernmental Working Group to make recommendations with a view to the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to prepare complementary international standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects, to convene its upcoming sessions for an initial period of three years, while encouraging it to work effectively to fulfil its mandate, to convene its second session of 10 working days, focusing on areas decided upon in its recommendations, namely, poverty, education and complementary standards, and to report on progress in this regard at the sixtieth session of the Commission;

(b) That the working group of experts on people of African descent should convene its future sessions for an initial period of three years, while encouraging it to work effectively towards the fulfilment of its mandate, and also the Commission's decision to request the working group to convene its second session of 10 working days and to report to the Commission at its sixtieth session on progress towards the fulfilment of its mandate;

(c) The Council also endorsed the Commission's recommendations that the General Assembly, after considering the analytical report of the Secretary-General on the extent of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,² to be submitted pursuant to Assembly resolution 57/195, consider the closure of the Third Decade;

(d) The Council also endorsed the Commission's recommendation that the General Assembly, in the coming decade of activities to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, place emphasis on the concrete implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on the basis of a broad-based consensus on the importance of the anti-discrimination struggle worldwide;

(e) The Council further endorsed the Commission's request that the Secretary-General provide the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance with all the necessary human and financial assistance to carry out his mandate efficiently, effectively and expeditiously and to

¹ E/2003/23 (Part II), chap. I.B.

² A/58/80-E/2003/71.

enable him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.