



General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 September 2025

English only

Human Rights Council

Sixtieth session

8 September–3 October 2025

Agenda item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Written statement submitted by Sikh Human Rights Group, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[18 August 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Advancing Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement: A Declaration on Diversity for Prevention and Inclusion

The Sikh Human Rights Group welcomes the forthcoming report of the High Commissioner on the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers.

While the report is not yet published, we note with concern the persistence of racial injustice, systemic discrimination and excessive and disproportionate use of force against people of African descent. Sustainable progress requires not only accountability and legal reform but also positive transformative change in institutions and societies.

We believe that our proposed Declaration on Diversity can serve as a constructive complement to existing rights-based instruments in this regard. The Declaration, a voluntary commitment by States, seeks to promote a culture that embraces diversity in all its forms, including ethnic, racial, linguistic, cultural, gender, disability, environmental and belief systems, as a natural and enriching feature of humanity.

While not being legally binding, the Declaration on Diversity encourages law enforcement bodies and other State institutions to adopt proactive programmes of education and training on diversity, thereby fostering respect, understanding and inclusion.

The suggested Declaration on Diversity provides a unifying framework for States to showcase best practices annually through a proposed UN Diversity Day, reinforcing positive models of coexistence, reducing discrimination, and combatting marginalisation.

In the context of combating racial discrimination and excessive use of force, we are convinced that the proposed Declaration on Diversity could be a valuable tool in educating law enforcement officers about diversity, helping them to understand communities they serve and to reduce bias and hostility. By shifting from a purely adversarial approach to one that also embraces positive programmes for inclusion, States and institutions can help prevent violations before they occur.

We encourage Member States to consider this initiative in light of the High Commissioner's forthcoming recommendations, and to work towards convening discussions on the proposed Declaration on Diversity as a complementary global framework to strengthen equality, racial justice and human rights for all.
