



## MIDRAND DECLARATION AGAINST RACISM

### PREAMBLE

**Having** met at Midrand, South Africa on 14 and 15 March 2016.

**Expressing** our appreciation to the South African Human Rights Commission for convening a multi-sectoral dialogue on racism

**Drawing** inspiration from struggle stalwarts and their contribution to fostering non-racism and ensuring an equal society

**Recognising** that twenty years after democracy racial inequalities still persist in multiple forms

**Recognising** that the divisions that exist are structural and systemic requiring concerted and consistent efforts by all stakeholders to ensure transformation of South African society

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Reaffirming** our commitment to all of which contain provisions that seek to advance non-racism.

**Recognising** that racism has been declared a crime against humanity and forms an essential part of South Africa's National Development Plan 2030.

**Recognising** further that the National Action Plan to combat Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance proposes a range of inter-sectoral approaches to address racial discrimination in South Africa.

**Committed** to the values of the South African Constitution which seek to eliminate the scourge of racial discrimination and advance a united nation.

**Recognising** that South Africa continues to experience racism and racial discrimination.

**Fully aware** of the efforts made by different role players including government to address racial discrimination in South Africa.

**Recognising** that the structure of the South African economy continues to perpetuate social inequalities that disproportionately affect the majority of South Africans

**Rejecting** the use of language, religion or culture that advance racial discrimination.

**Denouncing** scientific and historical interpretations that advance racial discrimination.

**Noting** the limitation of laws, policies and regulations to adequately deal with racial discrimination.

**Encouraged** by the role of the South African Human Rights Commission as a national human rights institution charged with the responsibility to advance human rights in South Africa in an effort to support democracy.

**Acknowledging** the need for the South African Human Rights Commission to work in close collaboration with state and non-state actors including business to foster a united, equal society free of racism and racial discrimination.

**NOW THEREFORE THE DELEGATES AT THE MIDRAND CONFERENCE AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Call upon all stakeholders, state and non-state to pledge their support to the implementation of the policies and programmes outlined in the National Action Plan to combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (NAP) and the National Development Plan.
2. We call upon the South African government to continue to implement sound economic policies to encourage growth and equitable distribution in order to address racial inequalities in South African society.
3. Call upon the South African government and other critical role players to review the educational curriculum in order to eliminate propagation of racial discrimination through the education system.
4. Call upon the South African Human Rights Commission to convene thought dialogues to interrogate societal values in order to drive systematic and cultural change.
5. We call upon the South African Parliament to consider gaps in policy and legislation in order to improve legal responses to address overt racist conduct.
6. Call upon business to demonstrate good corporate citizenship and incorporate human rights values, and non-racism in their policies and practices.

7. Call upon civil society and media to hold the public and private sector accountable to values of human rights and non-discrimination.

**Adopted on 15 March 2016**