



36<sup>TH</sup> HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL , GENEVA 11 – 29 SEP 2017 AGENDA 9

## **DECLARATION ON DIVERSITY**

**Whereas the UN has influenced considerable progress in fighting racism and the world community's commitment at the World Conference Against Racism 2001 is encouraging, racist attitudes still pervade widely.**

**The resurgence of racially xenophobic political movements under pretext of democracy and freedom of expression has given racism new lease of political license.**

**We recommend that indirect racism and incitement to racism be examined with greater scrutiny than done at present.**

**We wish to suggest a complimentary and lateral approach to ending racism by promoting diversity as a natural phenomenon. We suggest that the Human Rights Council consider initiating a Declaration on Diversity and possibly eventually a Convention on Diversity if it becomes a success.**

**There are few if any countries now that are monoethnic or monocultural. Diversity is the normative form of the State now, and most States have implemented measures to protect the diversity and choices in many spheres of life.**

**There are some civilisations such as India with the philosophy of 'bahuda' that have had diversity for thousands of years and accept it effortlessly leading to pluralism and coexistence.**

**The UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity is a useful backdrop to this, A broader Declaration on Diversity will cover race and other aspects too.**

**It will encourage countries to adopt and implement positive programmes in making diversity an aspect of their culture and political approach and promote best practices.**

**Thank you**

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