



European Union

Statement

ILO Governing Body, 326th session

10th – 24th March 2016

**Third supplementary Report: International Decade for People of African
Descent (2015-24) GB326/INS/15/3**

Geneva, 24 March 2016

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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(2015-24) - GB326/INS/15/3**

EU Statement

Thank you chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey, Serbia and Georgia.

The EU has supported from the outset the launch of the international decade on *People of African Descent: recognition, justice and development*, when it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly back in December 2014. We strongly support the objective of promoting respect, protection and fulfilment of all Human rights by people of African descent, underpinned by the principle of non-discrimination and equality.

We thank the Office for providing this report describing racism and the extent of structural discrimination towards people of African descent in the world of work, including for migrants, and providing as well a broader perspective on its long term impacts on poverty, social justice and development.

The EU has set Human rights and combating racism and discrimination at the heart of its values and fundamental principles and advocate for the promotion and protection of human rights in all its policies. All our Member States have ratified Convention 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation and we call for all ILO members to do so.

Our legislation is further specifically targeting discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, and establishes a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation.

We also have taken more targeted measures and initiatives to promote diversity and non-discrimination at the workplace, including on the grounds of ethnicity. This includes

financial support through the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme (2014-2020) to NGOs and Member States, awareness raising activities and specific publications. We are also supporting voluntary diversity initiatives from businesses, like diversity charters, that are aimed at encouraging companies to implement and develop diversity policies for promoting diversity in the workplace, regardless of race or ethnic origin.

We fully back the programme of activities endorsing the United Nations framework to combat racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia. The ILO has a wide range of international Labour Standards protecting the principle of equality and non-discrimination, and could greatly contribute to the decade through their implementation.

We consider that the activities already carried out by the office on Awareness raising, building reliable statistics and data collection, and capacity building for promoting ethnic diversity in the workplace mentioned in paragraphs 16, 19 and 20 of the report could be of particular relevance to the contribution to the decade.

We would consider as well that the Office needs to give particular attention to the gender dimension in its contribution to the decade, including but not limited to domestic work (paragraphs 5, 21).

In conclusion, we support the decision point.

Thank you Chair