



## **SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT**

**Negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of  
human rights**

**28 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Mr. President,**

South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Africa Group and congratulates the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for convening the Panel on this important topic.

South Africa is a country that experienced the system of apartheid, a special kind of colonialism that was declared a crime against humanity by the United Nations. South Africa believes that the consequences and legacies of colonialism across the world constitute the root causes of modern-day racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance, and cannot be reconciled with effective enjoyment of all human rights.

The consequences of colonialism in all forms and manifestations have led to economic exploitation, unequal relations between and within States, underdevelopment, systemic racism against peoples of African descent, indigenous peoples, neo-colonialism, and cultural subjugation.

**Mr. President,**

To effectively restore the human rights of all peoples of the world and to eradicate the negative legacies of colonialism, South Africa calls on all Member States to support the inalienable rights of the peoples of Palestine and Western Sahara for self-determination and freedom from colonial occupation.

The steps taken by some countries to apologise for the human rights violations and crimes committed as result of colonialism and associated systems must be intensified. Reparations and restoration of justice for the victims must be at the centre of all efforts of correction, including reconciliation. We call on others to follow these examples and embark on similar processes to ensure justice, reparation, and truth.

In conclusion, my delegation calls on all countries to embrace and support the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to intensify the efforts to eradicate the negative consequences of colonialism and systemic racism and related intolerance.

I thank you