



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

On behalf of the beneficiary delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from  
Mozambique, Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Delivered by

Ms. Charice Rolle

**ITEM 9 - GENERAL DEBATE**  
**37<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

20 March, 2018  
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf, Mozambique, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and my own country, The Bahamas.

We thank the Office of the High Commissioner and the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action for their reports.

As we commemorate this day of remembrance of slavery and the elimination of discrimination, our countries are deeply saddened that there remain millions of people today who are victimised by contemporary manifestations of the multiple scourges related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Further, we are concerned about the intellectual legitimisation of racism and xenophobia, particularly by scholars, the media and, in some cases, by those entrusted with leadership roles and expected to act as examples to society.

We view the resurgence of hate groups and proponents of extremist political ideologies, which thrive on messages of racism, xenophobia and discrimination, under the guise of patriotism and national, as worrisome.

While respecting the rights to freedom of expression and of conscience, to freedom of association and assembly, it is important that states ensure that racism, discrimination and xenophobia do not take societal root; that the principles of the rule of law, democracy and social justice are upheld.

To this end, we encourage states to continue to develop practical action plans and tools, including indicators, that seek to combat hatred, racism and intolerance.

Mr. President,

As we embark on earnest implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we are fully cognizant of the need to ensure that all people benefit from and can participate in the decisions that affect their lives. Indicators show that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are contributing factors to those inequalities that disadvantage many groups worldwide.

Finally, Mr. President, we reaffirm our commitment to working constructively towards the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and to collaborate with all United Nations Member States to uphold the human dignity of all people by eliminating racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

We thank you.