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## Meeting spécial de l'ECOSOC sur le thème

# Reimagining Equality: Eliminating racism, xenophobia and discrimination for all in the decade of action for the SDGs

New York, le 18 février 2021

Déclaration prononcée par M Adrian Hauri, représentant permanent adjoint

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Mister President, Excellencies,

The 2030 Agenda envisions a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination with the goal of leaving no one behind. Structural racism and xenophobia and related intolerance are among the root causes of inequality and they must be addressed within the framework of the SDGs. Hence, Switzerland welcomes today's special meeting on this topic.

The fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is of great importance to Switzerland.

Every country in the world is affected by racism, including Switzerland. In cooperation with civil society, Switzerland is carrying out prevention and awareness-raising work for victims of racial discrimination. For instance, Switzerland offers counselling services for victims at local and national level. Switzerland also regularly publishes a comprehensive monitoring report regarding racial discrimination in Switzerland, the next time in autumn 2021.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Switzerland examined the impact of the crisis on racial discrimination in Switzerland and evaluated options for action. However, these efforts are still ongoing and we are aware of the need to take further steps to eliminate racism, especially in the context of the current crisis.

For the fight against racism, we, the States, already have a comprehensive international framework. The DDPA, together with the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), offers a solid foundation and represents a firm commitment of the international community to tackle racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance at the national, regional and international level. Their full and effective implementation by States at all levels should hence remain a priority for us all.

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**Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès des Nations Unies**  
**Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations**

633 Third Avenue, 29th floor, New York, NY 10017-6706  
Tél. +1 212 286 1540, Fax +1 212 286 1555, [www.dfae.admin.ch/missny](http://www.dfae.admin.ch/missny)