Statement by Ivan Šimonović
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Third Committee
Item 67 (a) and (b)

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New York
Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present two reports under item 67 (a) elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and (b) comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

The report of the Secretary-General on global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/68/INSERT NR) is submitted pursuant to resolution 67/155.

The report summarizes information received from various actors, including Member States, United Nations entities, Regional Organizations, and civil society organizations. The report also gives an update of activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Durban follow-up mechanisms.

The report recommends demonstrating stronger political will and taking urgent measures with a view to reverse the continuing trends of increasingly hostile racist and xenophobic attitudes and violence. The report further highlights the need for strengthening intercultural dialogue, tolerance and respect for diversity as an essential tool for combating racial discrimination and related intolerance.

Finally, the report encourages Member States to invite the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to carry out country visits, and also those Member States that have not yet done so, to develop and implement national action plans in order to combat racial
discrimination and related intolerance. International and regional organizations are also encouraged to intensify collaboration in fighting against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The second is the report of the Secretary-General on how to make the International Decade for People of African Descent effective (A/67/879), submitted pursuant to resolution 67/155. The report is based on contributions received from Member States and other stakeholders. It also draws substantially on the contributions presented by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The content of this report is firmly anchored in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, among other important human rights instruments.

The report identifies objectives and practical steps to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to make the International Decade for People of African Descent effective.

Moving now to agenda item 68 on the right of peoples to self-determination.

The report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/157. The report outlines the relevant jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the treaty-based human rights norms relating to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. It also provides a summary of the developments relating to the consideration by the Human Rights Council of the subject matter, including by its special procedures and by the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic,
social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem.

Mr. Chairperson, this concludes my introduction of reports submitted under agenda items 67 and 68. Thank you.