



**UNITED NATIONS 78<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
THIRD COMMITTEE**

**Item 69: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:  
comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme  
of Action**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Special Rapporteur on contemporary  
forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Ms. Ashwini  
K.P.**

***Intervention of Belgium***  
27 October 2023

President,

Belgium aligns with the EU intervention and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report, which addresses online racist hate speech.

We share her concern about the rise of online hate speech, which is creating a veritable climate of racial hatred that could have devastating effects on the social fabric of our communities. Rather, our communities should be based on equality and non-discrimination. My delegation would like to echo one of the Special rapporteur's conclusions, namely that everyone, and in particular States, has a role to play in preventing and combating racist hate speech online. Starting point is the ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

In Belgium, incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence, including online, is punishable by law. In addition, one of the objectives of our Federal Anti-Racism Strategy is to combat cyberhate. This includes strengthening prevention measures, including media literacy education, and engaging in a structured and concerted dialogue with internet platforms to combat racism.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

In your report you recommend States to consider a "prompt and coordinated international responses" to online racist hate speech. *Could you give some examples of what such a coordinated response might look like? How could the international community better engage and ask companies that provide digital platforms to ensure a race-neutral approach and that algorithm biases do not reflect non-equality and discrimination?*

Thank you.