United Nations
Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
Thirteenth Session
New York, 20–24 April 2026

Agenda Item: Item 4 – Implementation of the mandate and programme of work:

(b) Focused thematic discussion (with guest speakers)

(II)Advancing non-discrimination, equality and development for all: 40 years of the right to development and 25 years of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Statement by
Dr Mohammed A M Qureshi
Humanity First

Distinguished delegates

Durban declaration focuses on taking concrete measure against discrimination in employment, health and housing with a focus on protecting minorities and migrants. As an NGO we can help marginalized communities by having a solution focused approach. There are two areas where an NGO working along with the countries they represent can work on. One is to provide direct support to these marginalized communities in areas of education providing them with safe spaces for women and refugees while building international alliances to support advocacy working with like-minded organizations that can help counter discrimination. The second aspect of speaking as an NGO is to make sure that the volunteers, staff and workers who work for you are trained on identifying areas where people can discriminate. Making sure that they are trained on cultural competency and they are recruited in a way where diversity is maintained. I am representing Humanity First that works globally in 67 countries, and we have focused on providing things that can cause increased disparities for marginalized communities. That would include providing water and building water wells for those communities that may not be a focus of governments

and entities. Building schools for refugees to improve education, having skills training centers that allow the communities who are struggling to stand up for themselves, building small clinics and hospitals in areas where communities are marginalized for any reason. With this I am offering a solution to make sure that we have a process of providing direct support to these communities. Thank you very much.