



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement

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OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Colonialism, enslavement, and the trade in enslaved Africans are not just **grim chapters** of our common history. Their impact stretches into the present, fuelling inequalities and perpetuating systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent. Across the world, people of African descent face entrenched barriers across many areas of life, including access to education, to health care, work, housing, policing, climate policy, and even in digital spaces.

Racism and dehumanizing rhetoric still permeate our institutions, communities, and online platforms. Anti-racism laws and policies are not effectively implemented in several states. Systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent was built up over generations and it can and must be torn down. Any meaningful attempts to end systemic racism must involve taking responsibility for the legacies of colonialism, enslavement, and the trade in enslaved Africans. And the harm caused must be repaired.

Reparatory justice is about exposing and coming to terms with the truth of our common history, not erasing it, ignoring it, or rewriting it. So what does reparatory justice look like? There is no one-size-fits-all formula. The report presented today outlines the key elements of a comprehensive



approach grounded in international human rights law. Such an approach includes a variety of measures to repair the legacies of the past and memorialize the suffering, resilience, resistance, and dignity of victims.

Over the past several years, **countries have taken action in different ways**. Some governments have offered formal apologies to their own communities or to other states including Belgium, Brazil, Germany, and the Netherlands. In some countries, truth-telling initiatives have produced research and the High Commissioner urges them to turn their findings into concrete recommendations. In others such as Colombia, France, Mauritius, Mexico, Qatar, Senegal, and South Africa, museums have been opened and commemorative days or months marked. In Belgium, Ghana, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Caribbean, for example, statues or place names linked to people involved in enslavement or colonialism have been identified, removed, or contextualized. In some cases, there has been a rollback.

Civil society groups are measuring the continuing impacts of the trade in enslaved Africans in the Americas and the Caribbean. Some individuals have claimed compensation before courts which has helped strengthen public movements and foster political pressure for change. Other stakeholders including museums, universities, religious groups, companies, and others are also doing their best to ensure the pursuit of their objectives. Museums, universities, religious groups, companies and even banks have researched, acknowledged and in some cases **apologized for their links with the past**. The High Commissioner hopes to see more initiatives like this and for all these stakeholders to participate in state led measures. These are all important steps, but much more is needed because so far no state has fully accounted for the harms of systemic racism past and present. The High Commissioner identified **five areas which require urgent attention** and that will help move the needle on reparatory justice.

First, **political commitment**. States hold the power to tackle racial discrimination. The Second International Decade for People of African Descent is an opportunity for political leaders to lead with concrete creative action to advance reparatory justice.

Second, genuine continuous **consultation with affected communities**. For example, consulting them on the content, the timing, the place and delivery of a formal apology can make all the difference between an authentic apology that is welcomed or one that rings hollow. Africans and people of African descent in all their diversity, women in particular need to guide the design and implementation of reparatory justice processes. They must be able to meaningfully and safely participate in decision making processes and inform an intersectional analysis for effective responses.

Third, **cooperation**. There is great value in countries coming together to promote and pursue reparatory justice across borders and regions, especially when their histories are connected by colonialism and enslavement. The High Commissioner is encouraged by the growing number of such initiatives, including by the African Union and the CARICOM.

Fourth, full **support for civil society organizations**, especially when led by people of African descent, they have spurred states, the United Nations and others to take bolder steps towards reparatory justice. They have often driven progress where governments have failed to act. The



High Commissioner also encourages solidarity across equality and human rights movements, especially in these days of growing polarization and division. Building partnerships and learning from each other can inspire and unite.

Finally, **global reform** to help correct historical exclusions, stronger African representation on the UN Security Council is an important step, as many nations were still under colonial rule when the system was created. Reforming development aid and financial systems would also ease crushing debt, enabling African economists to invest in education, health and other essential needs.

OHCHR is a steadfast partner on this path. It provides support for states in advancing the rights of people of African descent. OHCHR creates spaces for active listening and dialogue with Africans and people of African descent and does everything in its power to help protect human rights defenders working on these issues. OHCHR has a **Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent** that has a huge impact through a multiplying effect.

In closing, the High Commissioner emphasizes that reparatory justice is also about shaping a new more equal future. **Reparations deliver justice, justice fosters trust and trust unites communities**. The High Commissioner calls on the international community to boldly act together to achieve these important goals.

PANELLISTS

Dr. Tracie KEESEE, Member, International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement (EMLER)

Dr. Trace KEESEE introduces the EMLER's **report** titled 'Systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in the criminal justice system.' **Systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in the criminal justice system** is pervasive, deeply entrenched and reinforced at every stage, from initial police contact to post-conviction procedures.

During their continuous interactions with affected communities and individuals, the Expert Mechanisms received information on **widespread racial profiling**, discriminatory prosecutorial practices, unequal access to fair trial guarantees, and harsher sentencing outcomes for Africans and people of African descent, compounded by a lack of legal representation and structural socioeconomic disadvantages. The historical origins of many legal and law enforcement institutions - established during **colonial rule or rooted in racially oppressive systems** - continue to shape contemporary practices. Racial stereotypes portraying Africans and people of African descent as inherently criminal not only influence individual decisions by police, judges and prosecutors but also distort entire justice systems.

The **overrepresentation of people of African descent** in prisons and detention facilities across multiple countries is both a consequence and a symptom of systemic biases in criminal legal systems. All these violations are at high risk of increasing in the current global context. Addressing this injustice demands bold, systemic transformation. The evidence clearly shows that reforms must go beyond superficial policy adjustments and instead dismantle the structural foundations and co-create new safety systems.



In its thematic report, the Expert Mechanism identifies **twelve key elements** needed for a criminal justice system to free itself from racism and discrimination against Africans and people of African descent. These twelve elements include, among others, the **elimination of racial profiling and discrimination in access to bail and parole**, and fundamental issues such as adequate training, the use of disaggregated data and the diversity and representation across the justice chain. They also include promising practices such as racial and cultural impact assessments, sentence reviews, or restorative justice measures with alternatives to incarceration.

Furthermore, recommendations such as shifting away from the old narratives supporting policies that continue the ‘war on drugs’ and adopting instead a **human rights-based public health approach to drug policies** are also incorporated in the report. The Expert Mechanism calls on all states to implement these recommendations. In closing, the Experts calls on the UN Human Rights Council and all its stakeholders to work together to overcome the issue of systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in the criminal justice system.

PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY VISIT REPORTS

Dr. Tracie KEESEE, Member of the Expert Mechanism, presents the report on the country visit to **Belgium** carried out by the Working Group from 2 to 11 June 2025. Extending the gratitude of the Experts for Belgium’s genuine cooperation throughout their country visit, during which they travelled to the three regions of Belgium, where they held meetings with government officials, representatives of law enforcement agencies, oversight bodies and other stakeholders, including human rights institutions and civil society organizations. The Experts received direct testimonies from affected individuals, including detainees and communities.

The Expert Mechanism is of the view that systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in Belgium, as in many other countries around the world, is **rooted in the legacies of enslavement and colonialism**, which continue to shape structures, institutions and societal attitudes today. The **denial of the existence of systemic racism** by some is compounded by the amplification of racist and xenophobic rhetoric and the persistent portrayal of Africans and people of African descent as outsiders. The impact of these dynamics is visible across multiple sectors, including in law enforcement and the criminal justice system, where instances of racial profiling and other violations, underrepresentation, and lack of accountability, continue to erode community trust in institutions.

To conclude, Dr. Tracie KEESEE expresses satisfaction at the **willingness of Belgian officials to engage in dialogue and to cooperate** with the Expert Mechanism. The latter acknowledge the efforts taken to address racism, including in the context of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. The Expert Mechanism looks forward to continuing to cooperate with Belgium to implement the recommendations contained in its report.

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

Dr. Tracie KEESEE, Member of the EMLER, explains that to date, the Expert Mechanism has produced **four thematic and five country visit reports**, held four annual sessions, transmitted fifteen letters to Member States on specific incidents and situations, among other activities



detailed in its annual reports. The Expert Mechanism extend its thanks all its partners, including States, National Human Rights Institutions, Civil Society Organisations, and affected communities and individuals for their contributions to this year's report. Their participation in the call for inputs and the discussions held during its **annual session in May 2025** resulted in the thematic report titled 'Systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in the criminal justice system.' In closing, the Expert Mechanism recalls that the mandate entrusted to the EMLER by the UNHRC can only be realised with the input of affected communities and individuals and with the full cooperation of member states. In the current **liquidity and financial crisis facing the UN**, the Expert Mechanism calls on all states to ensure that the EMLER has the necessary resources available to effectively implement its mandate.

Ms. Gabrielle HEMMINGS, Civil Society Representative

Ms. Gabrielle HEMMINGS is a Jamaican woman of African descent, a doctoral student and an activist researching institutions, Caribbean development, and reparatory justice. From this perspective, she briefly expounds on the importance of reparatory justice, by recalling that in his report, the High Commissioner highlighted the **origins of underdevelopment in chattel enslavement and colonialism**. The Caribbean is a prime example.

While others inherit generational wealth, the Caribbean region has **inherited generational poverty**. The Caribbean region has inherited under-resourced education systems, battling with child illiteracy, and understaffed and underfunded healthcare systems, treating patients who have a plethora of illnesses - including Type 2 Diabetes and hypertension. Caribbean women have inherited a patriarchal society that manifests in one of the highest rates of violence against women and girls in the world. While dealing with all of this, the people of the Caribbean must yearly brace themselves for tumultuous natural disasters, that threaten to (and have), flattened their territories.

As a Caribbean history and development student, Ms. Gabrielle HEMMINGS explains that the historical records that speak of the **objectification of African people**, the drastic measures enslavers took to ensure enslaved Africans remained illiterate, the beating and rape of enslaved African women, the restrictions in enslaved ancestors' diets and the deliberate lack of funding for their ancestors who chose independence, leaves no doubt that these contemporary Caribbean realities are rooted in chattel enslavement and colonialism. Ms. Gabrielle HEMMINGS questions how one can place the onus on former colonies to create 'national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development' when at inception, they inherited conditions that institutionally were never meant to be favourable to them.

As a principal of a reparatory justice advocacy group doing work with churches, who undoubtedly, participated in and benefitted from chattel enslavement, Ms. Gabrielle HEMMINGS is aware of the acts of repair being engaged in by religious as well as financial, and higher education institutions. This does not go far enough. States continue to **deny the rightful demand for reparatory justice**. Those who advocate for it are told that their problems are rooted in fiscal mismanagement and corruption - as if this is endemic only to regions where people of African descent and other people of colour make up the majority. Then, when they are invited to, or attempt to, improve their conditions by migrating, they are **met with systemic racism** in these



countries. This manifests in the **prejudices in healthcare, housing, justice and academic systems** and the cries to ‘return home’ as the ‘do not belong.’

As a student in the United Kingdom, Ms. Gabrielle HEMMINGS is acutely aware of her privilege, especially when there are a lot less people of her ethnicity in her field. It is clear that the lack of representation in this field is not because the peoples of the Caribbean are ‘lazy’, ‘criminal’ or ‘lawless.’ In fact, they are evidently resilient. The why is, rather, simply systemic racism, introduced through colonialism and chattel enslavement which continues to perpetuate the prejudices and lack of resources. They fight against daily. This is their ‘why’ for leading the call for reparatory justice.

Mr. Makmid KAMARA, Sierra Leonean Human Rights Leader and Reparatory Justice Advocate

Mr. Makmid KAMARA starts with a quote from *Ida B. Wells* who once said that ‘**the way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.**’ One of the many efforts of the reparatory justice movement globally is to uncover the truth about Africans and about how Africans and people of African descent have been grossly and unjustly wronged for generations. The aim of the movement is also to inform the Human Rights Council that the imperative for reparatory justice has never been more pronounced. Welcoming the High Commissioner’s report and supporting the recommendations wholeheartedly, the global reparatory justice movement calls on member states to take the recommendations seriously and act on them urgently.

The discourse around **reparations for historical crimes** have emerged from the corridors into the mainstream. We are witnessing a global reckoning that will determine what could be the biggest human rights issue for the next century. As an advocate, Mr. Makmid KAMARA is encouraged by the High Commissioner’s focus on reparatory justice for this session’s report. He is also encouraged by the High Commissioner’s acknowledgment of the **importance of education in reforming false historical narratives** about Africans and people of African descent. For this reason, Mr. KAMARA’s organization called *Reform Initiatives* calls for reparatory justice education to replace human rights education.

Mr. Makmid KAMARA believes that **reparatory justice education** is the pathway for addressing the lack of knowledge about the slave trade, colonialism and their legacies. He believes that for there to be genuine global equity, discussions and processes around reform of the current global systems and structures must take a reparatory justice lens. This means there should be no pussy footing around when it comes to repairing systems that all know require restructuring. He further believes that there can be no climate justice, no environmental justice, no economic justice if there is no reparatory justice and vice versa.

Mr. Makmid KAMARA agrees with the High Commissioner’s report that **reparatory justice is multisectoral, multilayered and multifaceted**. This is why the global reparatory justice movement supports healing as a key component of the reparations process because reparations without interracial and intra-racial healing is incomplete and is a recipe for trauma in perpetuity. The movement acknowledges the increased role being played by the African Union and fully supports the AU’s (AU) decision to declare 2026 to 2036 as the decade of reparations and justice. The global reparatory justice movement **urges the European Union** to similarly declare this same



period as the decade of reckoning and repair. It further commends the AU's decision to establish a transcontinental framework, partnership framework between the African Union, CARICOM and Latin American states. In addition, the movement commends the AU's decision to amplify the voices of the most affected communities in the reparatory justice advocacy efforts.

Drawing to a close, Mr. Makmid KAMARA calls on states to ensure that **political and high level discussions on reparations** be accompanied by tangible actions that demonstrate genuine equity through fair representation and marginalized voices. He also calls on member states to collaborate with civil society working on reparatory justice, and suggests member states to establish national reparations Secretariats and convene national, subregional and international conferences on reparations. Mr. Makmid KAMARA further invites former colonial powers and those who profited and benefited from the enslavement of Africans to **acknowledge their wrongdoings and make meaningful apologies** for their crimes. They must undertake systemic and concrete measures geared towards racial repair, intersectional justice and global equity.

REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Makmid KAMARA reiterates the need for consultation and coordination between civil society and governments. The footsteps of one person cannot cause a stampede. The organization *Reform Initiatives* believes there should be a connection between what happens within the conference rooms and what happens on the field. For this reason, later this month, the **first Africa reparations festival** will be hosted in Nairobi on 22 and 23 October to socialize the issue of reparatory justice and to ensure that people of African descent within Africa and outside of the continent are able to engage with this issue.

Mr. Makmid KAMARA further illustrates that the organization *Reform Initiatives* has a framework for the advancement of reparatory justice called '**the six R principles**.' The first R is about **reconnection and reclamation**. The aim is to reconnect people who have been separated as a result of the enslavement of Africans and to reclaim what was stolen. The second R is around **re-education and de-consentization**. The aim is to re-educate people about the false narratives about Africans and people of African descent that has been perpetrated for centuries. The third R is **repair and reform**. The aim is to repair and reform the systems and structures that continue to subjugate and dominate Africans and people of African descent. The fourth R is about **resistance**. Resistance comes in different shapes and forms. The aim is to resist the backlash that will come as a result of the fight back for those who are continuing to hold on to power. Africans and people of African descent will resist together and in community with leaders in the various affected societies. The fourth, and final R is **rebuilding and reimagining**. In closing, Mr. Makmid KAMARA emphasizes its firm belief - '*if we reconnect and reclaim our stolen assets, we re-educate our people, we repair the systems and reform those that have been broken. We resist. We can rebuild and reimagine a future that is built on justice, accountability, healing and dignity.*'

Ms. Gabrielle HEMMINGS draws the Council's attention to several **misconceptions regarding reparatory justice**. For the sake of clarity, reparatory justice is not rooted in begging for handouts, entitlement or a lack of accountability for our realities. While most of us hopefully understand this position, that is not the case for the wider societies of all our states, particularly in the context of formal colonial powers. Thus, while there are a plethora of approaches, one of the best



practices of reparatory justice that can help to combat this is **truth speaking**, through the rightful and accurate recounting of our histories, not from a Eurocentric or Western centric perspective, but from one that is rooted in the truthful telling of the experiences of victims of colonialism, the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans, chattel enslavement and the contemporary continuing legacies. This will help buttress the movement for reparatory justice and nudge complicit parties to engage in reparatory justice as an answer to the discriminatory and unequal global and national systems that have left post colonial regions like the Caribbean, Africans and people of African descent across the world starting 20 steps behind their former colonizers and enslavers. Therefore, Ms. Gabrielle HEMMINGS concludes by stressing that states cannot truthfully support an end to systemic racism and criminal justice reform if we are not willing to through a **victim-centred and victim-led reparatory justice** approach address the historic and continuing harmful legacies that post-colonial societies, Africans and people of African descent face today.

Dr. Tracie KEESEE extends its thanks to the member states that have invited the Mechanism to visit, namely Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Italy, Morocco, Sweden, and the United States; and others cooperating with incidents and situations such as Germany, Spain and Switzerland. The Mechanism stands in solidarity with Africans and people of African descent who are disproportionately impacted by systemic racism in law enforcement and the criminal justice systems. Systemic racism is not an accident of today, but a **direct legacy of colonialism and enslavement**. Nor is it a manifestation of the misapplied commentary on ‘wokeness.’ It is through research, and disaggregated data shared by community members, city and state agencies, and scientists all recognizing that dismantling it through systemic transformation is not only a matter of justice, but an essential act of reparatory justice for centuries of historical violations. The Expert Mechanism stands ready provide technical assistance to authorities and others to implement all their recommendations, to advance racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement globally.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY BELGIUM AS CONCERNED COUNTRY

The delegation of **Belgium** expresses its gratitude to the Expert Mechanism for the quality of its report and for the excellent cooperation it demonstrated during its visit to Belgium. The visit has enabled Belgium to reaffirm its commitment to the work of the UNHRC and its mechanisms, and further provided an opportunity to highlight the Belgium’s efforts in the fight against racism. As outlined in the report, Belgium recognizes that significant challenges remain, while being convinced that the recommendations received will be useful in addressing them.

From the rigorous recording of complaints to the police, to the adoption of action plans against racism at all levels of government, to the teaching of colonial history in school curricula, Belgium is making concrete efforts to effectively combat all forms of racism. No one should be subjected to discrimination, violence or intimidation because of their origin or skin colour. Belgium has taken several **steps to address its past**, such as changing the names of streets and squares, contextualising works of art in public spaces and museums, and providing training on the colonial past. Belgium has also apologised to so-called mixed-race children for the injustices and suffering they have endured. Belgium will continue to engage constructively and fully on these issues.



Far from denying the existence of **racist incidents** within its law enforcement agencies, Belgium condemns them and takes all measures to ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable. In this regard, the role of the P Committee, an independent body that externally monitors the functioning of the police services, is fundamental. Upstream, community policing is an essential lever for prevention and for strengthening the bond of trust with the population. Belgium is pleased that these two good practices have been recognised by the Experts Mechanism, demonstrating its commitment to promoting a police force that respects fundamental rights.

Furthermore, the Mechanism highlighted the essential role of **data collection** in understanding a societal phenomenon and, where appropriate, effectively combating it. Belgium highlights the serious work carried out by independent national institutions in combating discrimination and promoting equality. The collection of police and judicial data continues in accordance with Directive COL13/2013, whose revision now allows for more accurate recording and better identification of discriminatory offenses, thus ensuring enhanced monitoring of the phenomenon in the country. In the fight against racism, Belgium fully shares the importance of a **meaningful partnerships with the communities** concerned, namely people of African descent. Though structural funding Belgium supports organizations active in this area. Consulting civil society in the development of new policies and action plans is a priority.

Belgium reaffirms its **unwavering commitment** to combating racism structurally and holistically, a commitment based on the essential principles of equality and non-discrimination in accordance with its Constitution and legal framework. At the **national level**, the federal government has committed to developing an ambitious inter-federal action plan against racism, discrimination, and intolerance. At the **international level**, Belgium will continue to support efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, including racism. It will also advocate for the streamlining of the mechanisms responsible for combating racism to ensure the effectiveness of the Human Rights Council. This fight deserves full attention. Lastly, Belgium is committed to ensuring that the recommendations addressed by the Expert Mechanism are relayed to all relevant national authorities, thereby stressing the importance of conveying the work of UN mechanisms beyond the diplomatic sphere and echoing it within ministries and experts responsible for their implementation.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Regional and Cross-Regional Groups

The **European Union** thanks the Expert Mechanism for its latest report on how to fight impunity. While understanding the difficulty of covering a wide diversity of criminal justice systems worldwide, the EU shares the belief that any justice system must respect the right to a fair trial of everyone without discrimination. It is alarming that this is still part of the experiences faced today by too many individuals, including Africans and people of African descent. The EU takes this issue very seriously. Trust in public officials, law enforcement, police and security forces and the criminal justice system is essential for a functioning society and is a precondition for social cohesion. The underreporting of hate crimes, racial and ethnic discrimination and other related incidents is partly related to a lack of trust in the responsible authorities. To help addressing the issue, the EU has adopted new rules to complement the Racial Equality Directive, requiring all



Member States to provide equality bodies with stronger powers to assist victims of discrimination. The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) has also been contributing to fighting racism and discrimination through trainings offered, which include a strong focus on police stops and searches and racial profiling. The EU remains committed to furthering this work, with all actions needed to work to eradicate discrimination from criminal justice systems.

Ghana on behalf of the African group thanks the High Commissioner for the enlightening report seeks to highlight the role of states and others in confronting legacies of enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism, including dismantling structures and systems that perpetuate systemic racism at all levels. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action acknowledges that Africans and people of African descent were victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, and continue to be victims of their consequences. Furthermore, this international framework recognises that slavery and the slave trade were a crime against humanity and should always have been so, especially the transatlantic slave trade. It is deplorable that, to date, no state has comprehensively accounted for the past or for the current impact of systemic and institutionalised racism. There has never been an acknowledgement of the responsibilities of states and others that had engaged in or profited from, and that continued to profit from the legacy of enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism. The African group is deeply concerned at the resurgent violent manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance precipitated by scientifically false, morally deplorable, socially unjust and dangerous ideologies, such as white supremacy, as well as by extremist nationalist and populist ideologies. The African group underlines, in this respect, that human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. For this reason, the African group continues to encourage states and other regions to engage with and support the initiatives of the African Union relating to reparatory justice for Africans and People of African Descent, with a view to identifying and fulfilling their responsibilities concerning reparations for slavery and colonialism in Africa and throughout the African diaspora.

Sweden on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries thanks the High Commissioner and the Expert Mechanism for their reports. The Nordic-Baltic countries' engagement in efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance remains resolute. Tackling these challenges is a shared priority moving forward. A human rights-based approach is key to confronting racism in all its forms. While we cannot undo the injustices of the past, we have a shared responsibility to address their negative legacies. We must ensure that these efforts are grounded in human rights, namely in the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment before the law, and respect for individual human rights. These principles all developed as antidotes to oppression, and upholding them is essential if we are to meaningfully address both historical injustices and ongoing human rights violations. The Nordic-Baltic countries recognize that women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ persons often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers, which must be addressed as part of broader efforts to combat racism. Agreeing that inclusion, representation and participation are essential, the Nordic-Baltic countries invite the High Commissioner and members of the Expert Mechanism to share some



best practices on how states can address the negative legacies of historic injustices, in an inclusive and transformative way.

State Delegations

Armenia thanks the Expert Mechanism for its continued work in advancing racial justice and equality in law enforcement. The protection of human rights and the fight against discrimination remains central to Armenia's national agenda. Under the 2023-2025 Action Plan of Armenia's National Strategy for Human Rights Protection, Armenia has launched comprehensive training programs for judges, investigators, prosecutors and police officers on non-discrimination and equality of rights. These trainings aim to strengthen institutional capacity and align practices with international legal standards. The Action Plan also mandates the development of investigative guidelines for cases involving discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes. Armenia believes that law enforcement must serve as a guardian of rights, not a source of fear. Armenia remains committed to fostering inclusive institutions and promoting equality through reform, dialogue and international cooperation.

Bolivia appreciates the reports' presentation, notably the report which highlights restorative justice as a fundamental tool for dismantling systemic racism. It emphasizes that slavery, transatlantic trafficking, and colonialism are crimes against humanity whose effects persist in the form of structural discrimination, social exclusion, and racial violence. Bolivia emphasizes the responsibility of states and other actors, and agrees that reparation not only benefits victims but also strengthens society as a whole. Bolivia further agrees that it must address broader structural dimensions such as environmental racism, foreign debt, underdevelopment, and economic exclusion, all of which are rooted in colonial hierarchies and ties to colonialism and slavery. In particular, Bolivia highlights the link it makes with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition when analysing the need to examine serious human rights violations committed during colonial periods. The preservation of historical memory through memorialization and educational measures as restorative tools are essential for reconciliation and the creation of societies based on justice, equality, and solidarity.

Brazil thanks the Expert Mechanism for his report and agrees that systemic racism against people of African descent in the criminal justice system is pervasive, deeply entrenched and reinforced at every stage. The Brazilian government is actively working to change this reality, which is rooted in the nation's history of colonialism and slavery. Brazil is addressing this issue through a multi-faceted approach. It has established the Secretariat of Access to Justice to implement racially-conscious policies within the justice system. The National Secretariat against Drugs is also confronting the disproportionate impact of the 'war on drugs' on Black communities. As mentioned in the report, the National Council of Justice, which monitors the work of courts and tribunals, has approved in 2024 a protocol on adjudication with a racial perspective. Furthermore, the Black Youth Alive Program takes a holistic approach to prevent at-risk Black youth from entering the criminal justice system, thereby reducing violence and incarceration rates. In closing, Brazil seeks the Expert Mechanism's guidance on how memory and justice can be used as tools to reform criminal justice system.

Cameroon welcomes the quality of the High Commissioner's report and that of the International Independent Expert Mechanism, which highlight the persistent manifestations of systemic



racism, particularly in the judicial and law enforcement systems, and propose avenues for truly egalitarian justice. Cameroon shares the conviction that the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance must be part of a comprehensive approach, based on international law, the recognition of historical injustices, and the implementation of remedial measures adapted to national contexts. At the national level, Cameroon continues its efforts to strengthen its legislative and institutional framework to combat discrimination, guarantee equality for all before the law, and promote inclusion and social cohesion. Cameroon is also working, in a spirit of international solidarity, to advance work and consultations aimed at developing a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent. Cameroon finally reaffirms the importance of frank and honest dialogue on this important subject, as well as the sharing of good practices to move towards effective racial justice, an essential condition for peace, development and human rights for all.

China takes note of the reports submitted by the High Commissioner and the Expert Mechanism. The Chinese delegation expresses deep sympathy and regret for the injustices suffered by ethnic minorities. China is seriously concerned by the systemic, structural racism and discrimination in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other countries. Minority groups of African descent, Asian descent, Muslims, and Indigenous peoples suffer a series of unfair treatment in law enforcement and judicial proceedings, including unreasonable searches, excessive sentencing, discrimination, and prison violence. Their rights to a fair trial, as well as their rights to health and life, are severely violated. Some countries, clinging to a colonial and hegemonic mentality, not only fail to acknowledge their own problems but also use human rights issues as an excuse to smear and slander others. Such practices run counter to the international community's efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and respect and protect human rights. China urges relevant countries to comprehensively review and revise their discriminatory laws, policies, and measures, especially to thoroughly reform their law enforcement and judicial systems, thoroughly investigate relevant cases of violence, hold those responsible for unfair law enforcement accountable, and provide compensation to victims.

Colombia strongly supports the Mechanism's work to promote transformative change in favour of racial justice and equality in the work of law enforcement worldwide. This change is particularly necessary in relation to the authorities' response to peaceful protests against racism and violations of international human rights law, as well as in the investigation of potential abuses perpetrated by them. Colombia has extended an invitation to the Mechanism to visit Colombia in 2026, and it trusts this visit will contribute to advancing the effective guarantee of rights and the promotion of racial justice for people of African descent. To contribute immediately to this goal, Colombia has a transitional justice tribunal, known as the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, which was created by the Peace Agreement signed in 2016. Eleven major cases involving crimes committed during the armed conflict that lasted more than 50 years in Colombia are being judicially investigated and prosecuted, among which *Macrocaso 09* on crimes committed against ethnic peoples and territories. The Expert Mechanism's observations and recommendations in this regard will be most welcome by national institutions and by the Colombian people, who are eager to achieve justice and peace based on respect for human rights.

Cuba welcomes the clear and objective reflection of this report on institutionalized racial discrimination, police brutality, and the repression of the judicial system against people of



African descent in the United States. For many years, Cuba has denounced this unfortunate reality in a country that presents itself as a paradigm of democracy and claims the right to constantly criticize others. As the report clearly mentions, in the United States, people of African descent are arrested, searched, and imprisoned at a higher rate than white citizens. Unfair targeted surveillance of Black communities hinders freedom of expression and association. People of African descent are six times more likely to be incarcerated for a serious crime. Juries hand down harsh sentences, including the death penalty, against defendants of African descent. People of African descent represent 33% of those arrested in the United States, despite constituting only 12.4% of the population. Prison sentences for children of African descent are longer than for white children. The United States is the only country that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This worrying situation is exacerbated by policies that criminalize poverty, including the imposition of fines or the detention of people forced to loiter or sleep in public spaces. These practices often target marginalized and racialized communities. They perpetuate discrimination, undermining human rights and social justice.

The **Gambia** thanks the Expert Mechanism for its report and constructive recommendations, and underscores that combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is essential to equal justice for all. The Gambia is concerned by evidence of systemic racism affecting Africans and people of African descent at every stage of the criminal justice chain before, during and after trial including racial profiling, unequal access to legal representation, wrongful convictions, and overrepresentation in detention. The Gambia further notes the cross cutting vulnerabilities particularly for women, children, migrants and persons with mental health conditions and the risks posed by biased use of emerging digital technologies. It welcomes the report's practical guidance, which calls for criminal justice systems that are accountable, inclusive, and rights-based. This means eliminating racial profiling, collecting reliable disaggregated data, ensuring independent oversight, and strengthening training and cultural competence across institutions. It also requires equal access to legal aid, full respect for the Nelson Mandela Rules, and the adoption of measures that are sensitive to both children and gender. Finally, the Gambia would welcome the Mechanism's views on the most practical entry points for states, where these problems are most prevalent, to begin implementing its 12 key elements sustainably.

Indonesia firmly rejects systemic racism in all its forms and stands in solidarity with Africans and people of African descent in their struggle for equality and justice. Indonesia is deeply concerned by the impact of racial discrimination on criminal justice system and on the treatment by authorities in states with the history of slavery, the transatlantic trade and colonialism. Such practices are not only bridges of individual rights but also structural barriers to equality and social cohesion. Indonesia affirms that all citizens are equal before the law and must be protected from racial and ethnic discrimination. Indonesia supports the High Commissioner's call for a new leadership and vision and comprehensive reparatory justice as a critical step in dismantling systemic racism. Without meaningful disruption of policies and practices, generation of Africans and people of African descent remain vulnerable to discrimination, violence and denial of their rights development. Finally, Indonesia reiterates that eliminating discrimination and its impact requires the full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.



Iran condemns all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and related intolerances. Iran remains committed to combating these challenges at the national and international levels. The Iranian delegation echoes the finding of the Expert Mechanism in its report which exposes systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in criminal justice systems worldwide. In this regard, Iran supports the call for the effective implementation of 12 key elements proposed by the mechanism to ensure a racism-free criminal justice system. Iran underscores the necessity of establishing comprehensive preparatory mechanism incorporating independent oversight, effective financial compensation, public apologies and systemic reforms to ensure just and adequate reparation for African-descendant victims and the heirs of slavery victims. In closing, Iran reaffirms that it has enacted and continues to rigorously implement its own anti-discrimination laws as part of its commitment to justice and equality.

Jamaica thanks the High Commissioner for his report and reaffirms its commitment to advancing racial justice and reparatory justice. The country welcomes the report's recognition of Jamaica's engagement, including the repatriation of the 107-year-old Jamaican giant galliwasps and the public apology issued by religious institutions and business enterprises. These actions reflect growing momentum for accountability and redress and should be emulated by other relevant actors. Jamaica supports efforts to decolonize curricula and promote historical truth, including through initiatives such as the reparatory justice Master's programme between the University of the West Indies and the University of Glasgow. Education and memorialization are central elements to reparatory justice – lest we forget. In closing, Jamaica calls on all stakeholders to move from acknowledgement to implementation. Reparatory justice must be pursued with urgency, purpose, and collective resolve.

Kuwait affirms its deep commitment to the principle of equality before the law as an essential part of its vision of justice and the protection of human rights, based on its Constitution, which enshrines the values of justice, freedom and equality. Kuwait believes that the fair and transparent enforcement of the law is the true guarantee of the stability of the state and the strengthening of citizens' confidence in its institutions. In this context, Kuwait has devoted great attention to developing its legislative and judicial systems by reviewing hundreds of laws and amending those that do not comply with international standards. The reforms have included the repeal of certain penal provisions, raising the age of marriage to 18, and enacting legislation to protect the family from violence, in addition to strengthening laws to combat corruption and safeguard public funds, thereby consolidating the principles of justice and accountability. Kuwait affirms that equality in the enforcement of the law must be a universal principle guiding relations between states, free from selectivity or double standards, in a manner that ensures respect for sovereignty and the protection of the rights of peoples. In conclusion, Kuwait renews its commitment to cooperate with the international community to promote the rule of law and achieve security, peace and sustainable development for all peoples.

Malawi thanks the High Commissioner for the report which timely examines the calls for reparatory justice towards transformative change for racial justice and equality and highlighting of the role of States, businesses, civil society and the academia in confronting legacies of enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and decolonization, including dismantling structures and systems that perpetuate systemic racism at all levels. Malawi believes that reparatory justice is an essential ingredient for dismantling obtaining systemic racism and for



transforming relationships of discrimination and inequity and for mutually committing to and investing in a stronger, more resilient future of dignity, equality. Malawi agrees that the process has to be grounded in international human rights law and coupled meaningful consultation with and the participation of people of African descent. Malawi supports the call for States and other actors to build support for reparatory justice by taking specific steps to show how it benefits all of society and is critical to discrimination for all.

The **Russian Federation** has carefully reviewed the report prepared by the Expert Mechanism. The cases of abuse by law enforcement and judicial officials against people of African descent cited therein are deeply concerning. The Russian Federation believes that racial profiling in the justice system is a symptom of a more serious and long-standing societal malaise. It is an ugly manifestation of systemic racism ingrained in government structures, particularly noticeable in certain countries with a colonial past. This situation is largely a consequence of persistent negative stereotypes and prejudices dating back to the slave-labour era. Achieving equality in justice and law enforcement is a systemic and multifaceted task. Its solution requires not only further improvement of the relevant legislative framework and reform of the law enforcement and judicial systems, but also systematic efforts to change public perceptions of people of African descent, which must be based on respect for human dignity, justice, and equality for all. Russia is convinced that achieving these goals requires a systemic approach based on the protection and provision of all rights of people of African descent.

Senegal states that the data provided by the Expert Mechanism's report are both relentless and worrying. In many parts of the world, racial discrimination against people of African descent is pervasive in the criminal justice system. Senegal condemns this shameful practice, which seriously undermines fundamental rights and freedoms, and underlines the need for collective mobilization to ensure substantive equality in the application of the law everywhere. Faced with the inhumane consequences of systemic racism, Senegal urges the international community to strengthen multilateral cooperation frameworks to ensure equality in the application of the law. This includes the full implementation of the Durban Declaration. In this regard, the Senegalese Constitution enshrines the equality of all citizens before the law, regardless of origin, race, religion, or social status. In accordance with its international commitments and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Senegal strives to ensure fair, accessible, and impartial justice. For Senegal firmly believes that impartial and fair justice is the foundation of the rule of law, democracy, and the sustainable development of human societies. In conclusion, Senegal reiterates its support for the Global Call to Action launched by the United Nations Secretary-General to dismantle systemic racism, promote racial justice, and strengthen the participation of people of descent at all levels of decision-making.

Sierra Leone thanks the High Commissioner all relevant stakeholders for ongoing efforts to address systemic and structural discrimination within the policing and law enforcement sector globally. As a post conflict country, Sierra Leone recognises the importance of fostering public trust in law enforcement institutions. Sierra Leone emphasises that equality, fairness and accountability in policing are vital for safeguarding human rights, preventing abuses and promoting social cohesion. The national decades-old Police Act 1964 (Cap. 150) is currently being reviewed with the aim of making the legislation more human rights-focused and aligning it with international best practice. Additionally, Sierra Leone is implementing routine training



programmes for police forces to enhance professionalism and accountability. Sierra Leone is deeply concerned about the ongoing prevalence of racial profiling, discriminatory practices and unequal treatment by law enforcement authorities worldwide, as these undermine the rule of law and the fundamental rights of marginalised communities. Meaningful reform requires comprehensive training, community engagement, robust oversight mechanisms and strengthened legal and institutional frameworks. Sierra Leone calls for sustained, collaborative and evidence-based efforts to eliminate discrimination, ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect under the law.

South Africa thanks the High Commissioner for the instructive report and supports the view that reparatory justice requires a multipronged approach that is context specific, intersectional, grounded in international human rights law and designed through meaningful consultation and with participation of people of African descent. In this regard, South Africa emphasizes the importance of a renewed sense of leadership and political will to develop effective and comprehensive reparatory justice responses to legacies of historic injustice. The delegation of South Africa will continue to support the efforts deployed by the UNHRC to keep the issue of reparations on its agenda by among others encouraging states to provide an enabling and safe environment by reaffirming their commitment to fighting racial injustice and protecting those working on combating systemic racism and reparatory justice. South Africa remains concerned by the fact that 60 years after adoption of the ICERD and almost 25 years since the adoption of the DDPA, convergence on the questions of reparations remains elusive.

Tunisia emphasizes the need for all countries to establish a fair criminal justice system free from racism and discrimination, taking into account the prohibition of racial profiling, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, and unfair convictions based on race or origin, while establishing accountability and oversight mechanisms. In this context, Tunisia reiterates its commitment to combating all forms of racism, racial discrimination, and hatred in accordance with its Constitution, which enshrines equality among citizens and protects rights and freedoms. It also reiterates its commitment to protecting all residents of its territory from racial discrimination within the framework of a state of law and institutions, and in accordance with its national laws and international obligations. As a reminder, in 2018, Tunisia adopted a basic law to eliminate racial discrimination, which holds perpetrators of this crime accountable and punishable. Tunisia calls for avoiding any racial profiling of Muslim communities in the countries to which they have immigrated, and for confronting all manifestations of Islamophobia, xenophobia, and racist attacks to which they may be exposed, in order to ensure peaceful coexistence and tolerance for all. Tunisia also calls on the international community to urgently intervene to stop the genocide perpetrated by the occupying entity against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, to end the occupation, to put an end to the racist colonial regime it practices against the Palestinians, and to enable the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and establish their independent, fully sovereign state on all Palestinian land, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Venezuela appreciates the presentation of the report, its conclusions and recommendations. Venezuela, within the framework of its constitutional and legal provisions, has consolidated an inclusive, productive, socialist, and humanist social model, implementing mechanisms to prevent, address, eradicate, and punish all forms of racial discrimination, guaranteeing all people the full enjoyment and exercise of their human rights under conditions of real and effective



equality. Thus, Article 5 of the Organic Law against Racial Discrimination stipulates that any person or group of people who have been racially discriminated against, marginalized, or have had one or more of their individual or collective rights violated is protected by this Law under equal conditions. The competent bodies of public power have the duty to assist them, and all actions are free and expeditious. Likewise, the Organic Law of the National Plan of the Seven Great Transformations mandates the State to guarantee equal conditions for all in access to justice. The impact of unilateral coercive measures currently violates the human rights of the peoples who suffer these illegal actions, including Afro-descendant populations. In this regard, Venezuela urges the Expert Mechanism to denounce the imposition of these illegal measures and joins the call for their eradication.

UN Entities

UNICEF welcomes the reports of the High Commissioner and the Expert Mechanism and echoes their call to dismantle systemic racism and advance reparatory justice through inclusive processes. Children of African descent continue to face grave violations of their rights, including racial profiling, excessive use of force by law enforcement, and unequal access to justice. These injustices, rooted in historic legacies of enslavement and colonialism, undermine children's rights and perpetuate systemic inequality. Reparatory justice offers a powerful opportunity to confront structural racism and advance shared progress, and States should ensure that these processes are guided by Africans and people of African descent through meaningful consultations, including with children. By taking inclusive action, including social behaviour change, States can demonstrate that reparatory justice dismantles systemic racism, strengthens societies, and secures futures where all children thrive. UNICEF emphasizes the importance of safe, inclusive child participation in reparatory justice processes to ensure that outcomes are effective, sustainable, and age-appropriate. UNICEF stands ready to support states in establishing child-sensitive justice systems with child-friendly procedures that promote children's rights, ensure access to justice, and protect child victims, with the best interests of the child at the core. This requires empowering children through access to legal representation and grievance mechanisms. UNICEF calls on states to fully implement their international human rights law obligations and ensure reparatory justice processes are child-sensitive, intersectional, and firmly grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the High Commissioner and fully supports the call for reparatory justice for the legacies of enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism. Amnesty agrees with the High Commissioner that reparatory justice is not only essential to repair past wrongs but is key to dismantling present systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent. Amnesty calls on all states that engaged in and profited from the enslavement and colonisation of Africans, people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples to redress these historic wrongs and their ongoing legacies, through appropriate reparatory justice measures. Amnesty urges states to ensure that affected communities are at the centre of any reparatory justice process and to guarantee their full participation at every stage, including the equal participation of women from affected communities. It is not possible to remedy past injustices in a truly restorative manner when those affected are not meaningfully included in the



process. As the High Commissioner's report recognises, '[r]endering them invisible can result in renewed victimization.' As the Mechanism notes in its report, systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent continue to permeate every stage of the criminal justice system. Amnesty calls on states to urgently implement the Mechanism's 12 key elements for a criminal justice system free from racial discrimination. Welcoming the Mechanism's recognition that the use of artificial intelligence, including predictive tools in policing and the criminal legal system, risks reinforcing systemic racism in policing, Amnesty reiterates its call to states to ban the use of artificial intelligence in predictive policing.

Elizka Relief Foundation notes the increasing suffering of Africans, whether descendants of Africans subjected to the slave trade and slavery or descendants of African migrants, from violations of discrimination, racism, and racial injustice. Statistics document that nearly 50% of people of African descent in the European Union suffer from racism and discrimination in their daily lives. The Foundation also confirms the prevalence of these violations among law enforcement agencies and their personnel, to the extent that it can be said that 50% of police stops of people of African descent were based on racism. This is evidenced by the reality of Africans in the United Kingdom, where people of dark skin are stopped at least six times more often than white people, including African migrants and people of African descent. Elizka recommends that the High Commissioner and the Expert Mechanism encourage, with the European Union and the United Kingdom, legal reforms that recognize Africans' right to protection from discrimination and racism and enhance their access to complaints and reporting mechanisms.

Geledés - Instituto da Mulher Negra (Black Woman Institute from Brazil) stresses that reparatory justice is impossible if bodies keep being killed, particularly Afro-descendant bodies. There is no development without life. The work of the Expert Mechanism shows that dismantling structural racism in law enforcement is central to any reparatory agenda. Geledés urges member states to implement the Mechanism's guidance on reparations in law-enforcement contexts. This is a democratic imperative: democracy must be real, not rhetorical. Geledés must stand against political projects that instrumentalize racism; where far-right securitarian agendas advance, lethal outcomes rise. In Brazil, while national indicators saw a modest decline, police lethality in São Paulo has more than doubled - a stark warning. Mainstreaming anti-racism safeguards both lives and institutions. Last but not least, Geledés call on States to fully implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as a form of reparation.

Human Rights Watch welcomes the OHCHR's timely report calling on governments and private institutions to urgently deliver comprehensive, rights-based and community-centered reparatory justice to address both historical and ongoing harms related to colonialism and enslavement. These measures are essential to dismantling persistent systemic racism. Human Rights Watch has documented the impacts of ongoing abuses and injustices linked to these legacies while seeking to amplify the voices of communities calling for reparations. Whether it is the Chagossian people who are still denied reparations after being forcibly displaced from their homeland by the UK and the US; Namibian communities who are still fighting for reparations from former colonial power, Germany to address its colonial legacy; or Black people in the US who are currently fighting against government attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion while still being denied reparations for the lasting impacts of the US' legacy of enslavement - communities' calls for



reparatory justice going unanswered. Human Rights Watch urges governments with legacies of enslavement and colonialism to implement the recommendations outlined in the report, especially the recognition of the right to reparations as applicable to addressing these legacies and to dismantling enduring systemic racism and inequalities. The report also emphasizes that affected communities must be meaningfully involved from the outset until the end of any reparatory process. Achieving reparatory justice is not a matter of charity but an obligation under international human rights law and standards.

The **International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)** thanks the Expert Mechanism for their work on this important issue and the UNHRC for their continued efforts in tackling the issue of racial discrimination. However, EAFORD remains concerned by the exponential rise in hate speech towards different racially marginalised groups that ultimately correlates to the rise in hate crime. Across different countries, people of African descent continue to be victims of racial injustices and the systems in place that should be aimed at protecting them, pose to be the very systems that subject them to these injustices. People of African descent continue to face injustices within the justice system at all stages of trial, this includes the stereotypes that will often lead to the mistreatments. Patrick Lyola, Sonya Massey and many other black people have been victims of excessive use of force and blatant discrimination because of their skin colour. We cannot afford to continue to have black lives, human beings, be statistics any longer. Human rights require for us all to be regarded as human and this includes persons of African descent. Therefore, EAFORD calls on the UNHRC and the international community further to push for the dissemination of information, addressing the root causes of prejudice against persons of African descent. Additionally, EAFORD urges states to address issues of discrimination at all stages of trial to ensure a just and fair trial for all persons regardless of their race and all other discriminatory factors. Finally, EAFORD urges all states to fully implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to further ensure that there are measures in place to ensure the safeguarding of rights to all people but also ensuring the protection of the rights of people of African descent.

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) and the UN Antiracism Coalition (UNARC) welcome the High Commissioner's and the Expert Mechanism's reports, particularly in relation to reparatory justice, recognizing that states have failed to comprehensively address the past or the ongoing impact of systemic racism. OHCHR report also highlights that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to reparatory justice; initiatives and processes should be grounded in the history and local context, and evolving demands of communities. A comprehensive approach with a wide range of measures should consider links between the past and the present at the individual and societal levels, by dismantling structures and systems designed and shaped by legacies of the past. The report highlights the wide-ranging and meaningful components of reparatory justice including formal apologies, truth-telling processes and reparations in various forms. However, apologies alone do not constitute reparations, guarantee accountability or provide multi-dimensional measures for restitution, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. ISHR and UNARC welcome several UN mechanisms' ongoing efforts to address reparations, such as Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the CERD Committee, EMLER, and the African Union's Year of Reparations. The organizations highlight the former UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism's powerful report on reparations (A/74/321),



which underlines the legal obligations related to the provision of reparations for which states are fully liable today (paragraph 10). An example of these enduring structural racism inequalities is the data received and documented in the OHRCH report on the violence and/or criminalization suffered by human rights defenders of African descent. Reparations for slavery and colonialism include not only justice and accountability for historical wrongs, but also the eradication of persistent structures of racial inequality that were built under slavery and colonialism to deprive non-white people of their fundamental human rights (A/74/321). In this context, ISHR and UNARC urge states to identify and fulfill their responsibilities concerning reparations for slavery and colonialism in Africa and throughout its diaspora. ISR and UNARC call on states to:

- Increase their efforts to fully implement the DDPA as a form of reparations;
- Implement migration policies centering human rights and non-discrimination;
- Follow all the recommendations published by United Nations (UN) special procedures, including EMLER, concerning reparations and justice in the context of law enforcement;
- implement effective measures to protect persons facing intersectional discrimination such as African and Afro descendants, who are higher risk of torture and ill-treatment when in contact with states officials;
- Take the necessary measures to guarantee Haiti and Haitians' right to global reparations, including the financial resources captured by former colonial powers, taking ownership of their territory, full control of their resources, and exercising their right to self-determination to enjoy their lives in their home.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

3 Regional and Cross-Regional Groups

19 State Delegations

1 UN Entity

6 Non-Governmental Organizations