



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

Item 73 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

### **Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The Secretariat has the honour to refer the General Assembly to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ([A/HRC/54/66](#)), submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [47/21](#). In that report, the High Commissioner places a spotlight on the right of people of African descent to participate in public affairs, recognizing that the implementation of that right is key to ensuring that decision-making is informed by their lived experiences and expertise and is a prerequisite for transformative change for racial justice and equality. The High Commissioner highlights challenges and barriers faced by people of African descent in relation to meaningful, inclusive and safe participation. In an annexed guidance note, the High Commissioner gives impetus for State action to develop tailored responses to guarantee the right to participate, notably in non-electoral contexts and integrating an intersectional approach. The High Commissioner calls upon States to show stronger political will by taking concrete and special measures to implement all components of the right.

2. Furthermore, the report provides an overview of broader developments and action taken by States and others since July 2022. The High Commissioner urges States to use landmark moments to accelerate action and unveil multipronged and comprehensive evidence-based approaches that encompass far-reaching legal, policy and institutional measures, including in law enforcement and the criminal justice system, to dismantle systemic racism in all areas of life. Those measures should be developed, implemented and monitored with the meaningful participation of people of African descent.

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\* [A/78/150](#).

