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

Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent

Report by the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [69/16](#) and [79/193](#), the present report provides an overview of ongoing and planned strategies and actions at the international, regional, national and local levels to accelerate the effective implementation of the programme of activities and to advance the human rights of people of African descent under the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034).

* [A/80/150](#).



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [69/16](#) and [79/193](#), in which the Second International Decade for People of African Descent was proclaimed. The report provides an update on developments since the issuance of the previous report,¹ as well as information on ongoing and planned strategies and actions at the international, regional, national and local levels to accelerate the effective implementation of the programme of activities and to advance the human rights of people of African descent under the Second International Decade.

2. The report draws on 28 submissions received from States and other stakeholders further to a call for inputs issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),² and on information and analysis from United Nations documentation.

II. Proclamation of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent

3. In its resolution [79/193](#), the General Assembly proclaimed the Second International Decade for People of African Descent, running from January 2025 to December 2034, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”. It also extended the programme of activities for the implementation of the first International Decade, adopted in its resolution [69/16](#). It further requested the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States and other relevant stakeholders regarding a possible update of the programme of activities, for consideration by the Assembly during its eightieth session, and to convene a midterm review and a final assessment. A request was also made for predictable funding for the effective and efficient implementation of the programme of activities and ongoing activities under the International Decade. Through the extension of the programme of activities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights remains the coordinator of the International Decade.

4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly recalled the commitments under the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including the recognition of the importance of enhancing national action and international cooperation and the calls for the participation of people of African descent in all political, civil, economic, social and cultural aspects of society. It also reaffirmed the paramount importance of universal adherence to and the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The proclamation of the Second International Decade reflects broad consensus and international recognition of the need to ensure “continuing efforts in promoting the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent”.³

5. Recognizing progress made during the first International Decade, while noting that much remained to be done, in his previous report, the Secretary-General encouraged States to proclaim a Second International Decade, informed by the lived experiences, knowledge and expertise of people of African descent in order to address

¹ [A/79/290](#).

² See www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-inputs-2025-report-united-nations-secretary-general-implementation.

³ General Assembly resolution [79/193](#), para. 2.

their expectations and needs.⁴ Similar calls have been made by the High Commissioner, United Nations human rights mechanisms and others.⁵

6. Since the proclamation of the Second International Decade, States, the United Nations and others have been preparing or conducting activities to launch and implement it. Chile noted that 2025 was expected to serve as a milestone for the launch of activities under the Second International Decade, preliminarily scheduled to coincide with the National Day of Chileans of African Descent in December.⁶ Colombia announced the creation of a multisectoral body comprising representatives of government entities and civil society, as well as human rights experts, to coordinate strategies for the Second International Decade.⁷ Ireland planned to mark the start of the Second International Decade through a celebration of Black history and community in October 2025. Ireland also indicated that it would review activities undertaken during the first International Decade and consult with relevant stakeholders, with a view to developing a comprehensive programme of activities to be implemented during the Second International Decade.⁸

7. Luxembourg officially launched the Second International Decade in March 2025 and noted that it would carry out various related promotional activities, including social media campaigns timed to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on 21 March, and Luxembourg Black History Month in October 2025 and October 2026.⁹ In its submission, Mexico reported that a key measure for launching the Second International Decade was the development of a national programme for inclusion and action for people of African descent, to be published in October 2025, the aim of which is to promote equity, social justice and inclusion, while recognizing the cultural diversity and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent.

8. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights welcomed the proclamation of the Second International Decade, stressing the need for continuity in international, regional and national cooperation efforts to ensure the enjoyment of the rights of people of African descent. It further noted efforts that were under way within the inter-American human rights system to adopt a future declaration to promote the human rights of persons and peoples of African descent.¹⁰ The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) welcomed the proclamation of the Second International Decade, noting that it reflected, among other things, the strides made during the first International Decade, including global recognition of the CARICOM 10-point plan for reparatory justice and the establishment of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.¹¹ In addition, the Secretary-General of CARICOM stressed that reparatory justice and efforts to address systemic inequality and racial discrimination must remain central priorities throughout the Second International Decade and be pursued through an intersectional lens.¹²

⁴ A/79/290, paras. 92 and 93.

⁵ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/11/turk-calls-proclamation-second-international-decade-people-african; and www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/08/time-decisive-action-against-racism-and-racial-discrimination-un.

⁶ Submission of Chile.

⁷ Submission of Colombia.

⁸ Submission of Ireland.

⁹ Submission of Luxembourg.

¹⁰ See www.oas.org/en/iachr/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2025/057.asp.

¹¹ See <https://caricom.org/caricom-welcomes-declaration-of-the-second-decade-for-people-of-african-descent/>.

¹² See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/racism/forum-people-african-descent/4th-session/h-e-dr-carla-natalie-barnett-sg-caricom.pdf.

9. Civil society actors reported undertaking activities within the framework of the Second International Decade focused on decolonization and the independence of small island nations; reparatory justice; the promotion of the human rights of women and girls of African descent; and the role of the Second International Decade in achieving racial justice and equality.¹³

III. Implementation of the programme of activities

10. The present section contains an outline of the measures taken by States, as highlighted in their submissions, to implement the programme of activities of the International Decade since the previous report.

A. Recognition

1. Right to equality and non-discrimination

11. In the programme of activities, States are urged to ensure equality and non-discrimination for people of African descent through wide-ranging legislative, institutional, policy and programmatic measures. Canada reported that it had joined in sponsoring the General Assembly resolution by which the Second International Decade was established and had adopted successive national strategies aimed at addressing systemic racism. In addition, following on from its anti-racism strategy for the period 2019–2022, under which the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat had been established, Canada had launched a renewed anti-racism strategy for the period 2024–2028.¹⁴

12. Some States adopted or amended national legal and policy frameworks. In its submission, Chile documented institutional modifications to raise awareness and recognize the existence of tribal peoples of African descent, including an amendment to the name of the new Unit for the Coordination of Indigenous and Afrodescendent Affairs of the Ministry of Social Development and Family. Luxembourg reported having amended its Criminal Code to introduce a general aggravating circumstance for offences motivated by race, origin or skin colour.¹⁵ Mexico indicated that a constitutional reform recognizing Afro-Mexican peoples and communities as subjects of public law had entered into force in September 2024.¹⁶

13. At the institutional level, Canada, Chile, Honduras, Ireland and Mexico established dedicated mechanisms to strengthen efforts to promote equality and combat discrimination. In its submission, Honduras highlighted the establishment of a national coordination mechanism with respect to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans to support the development of inclusive public policies aimed at peoples of African descent, among others. In 2024, Ireland appointed a Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism to monitor progress towards the achievement of the objectives of its national action plan against racism.¹⁷ In addition, one submission indicated that Denmark had adopted a national action plan against racism in February 2025, introducing concrete measures with a view to, for example, monitoring ethnic discrimination; revising the scope of the Ethnic Equal Treatment Act; addressing

¹³ Submissions of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the Baku Initiative Group.

¹⁴ Submission of Canada.

¹⁵ Submission of Luxembourg.

¹⁶ Submission of Mexico.

¹⁷ Submission of Ireland.

unequal access to education, housing and employment; and enhancing efforts to monitor and counter racism on major technology platforms.¹⁸

2. Education on equality and awareness-raising

14. In the programme of activities, States are called upon to take measures to raise awareness, promote greater knowledge and recognition, support education and training initiatives and ensure that textbooks and other educational materials reflect historical facts accurately as they relate to past tragedies and atrocities.

15. In their submissions, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Ireland, Luxembourg and Mexico referred to measures to celebrate and honour the cultures of people of African descent, including through official holidays, cultural festivals and the development of a sociocultural matrix to guide national awareness-raising strategies. In 2024, Argentina introduced a banknote featuring María Remedios del Valle, who was a national heroine of Afro-Argentine descent.¹⁹ In its submission, Canada noted that over 40 people, places and events of significance to Black Canadian history had been officially recognized as part of its heritage programming. Mauritius referred to the Akademi Kreol Repiblik Moris, established to monitor the development and use of the Creole language,²⁰ while Mexico noted that its system of Indigenous cultural radio broadcasters played a key role in promoting the rights of Afro-Mexicans, including women.²¹

16. In the programme of activities, States were also called upon to recognize victims and their descendants by establishing memorial sites linked to enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans, colonialism and past tragedies, and protecting related cultural sites. In October 2024, Africville – a historically Black settlement in Nova Scotia, Canada – was the first site in Canada to be added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Network of Places of History and Memory linked to Enslavement and the Slave Trade.²² In its submission, Mauritius reported on its continued investment in memorialization initiatives, including its Intercontinental Slavery Museum.

3. Information-gathering and data collection

17. In the programme of activities, emphasis is placed on the need for States to collect and publish disaggregated data in order to monitor the situation of people of African descent, identify inequalities and inform anti-discrimination policies. The Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and United Nations human rights mechanisms have called upon States to collect and disseminate data disaggregated by race or ethnic origin and other factors, in accordance with international human rights law, to document the situation of people of African descent and to analyse the impact of laws, policies and programmes.²³

18. Several States noted efforts to incorporate questions regarding identity among people of African descent into national population surveys and censuses. In their submissions, Argentina, Chile, El Salvador and Mexico referred to the inclusion of self-identification questions in their respective censuses, in order to improve the visibility and social inclusion of people of African descent. Canada reported the adoption of its Disaggregated Data Action Plan as part of a whole-of-government

¹⁸ Submission of the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

¹⁹ Submission of Argentina.

²⁰ Submission of Mauritius.

²¹ Submission of Mexico.

²² Submission of Canada.

²³ [A/65/295](#), paras. 100–103; [A/70/335](#), paras. 91 and 92; [A/HRC/42/59](#), para. 99; [A/HRC/47/53](#), para. 20; [A/HRC/54/66](#), para. 59; and [A/HRC/57/67](#), para. 66.

effort to address systemic racism and gender gaps.²⁴ El Salvador indicated that census data had guided policy design, informed the allocation of public resources and helped in the identification of districts and municipalities with significant populations of African descent, prompting further research into their cultural and socioeconomic conditions. In its submission, Mexico reported that the data it collected were published in a national catalogue documenting 444 Afro-Mexican communities across six states and providing a detailed territorial map to support targeted public policy interventions. These efforts notwithstanding, data disaggregation remains limited, hindering effective human rights monitoring and the development of targeted policies for people of African descent.²⁵

4. Participation and inclusion

19. Under the programme of activities, States should adopt measures to enable the full, equal and effective participation of people of African descent in public and political affairs without discrimination, in accordance with international human rights law. The High Commissioner has stated that meaningful, inclusive and safe participation, including of people of African descent, enables the advancement of all human rights.²⁶

20. Chile reported on consultations with Chilean tribal people of African descent, following their legal recognition, and the resulting adoption of a consultation protocol through its Decree No. 12 of 2024.²⁷ In its submission, Colombia reported that it had signed an agreement with an Afro-Colombian association in 2024 to disseminate its special harmonization programme for social and economic reintegration and reincorporation, which follows an ethnicity- and gender-sensitive approach. Under this programme, assemblies were held to engage with Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities. Ireland reported on the establishment of its Advisory Committee on Racism and Racial Equality, composed of the Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism and representatives of diverse sectors of society, to support the monitoring and implementation of the national action plan against racism.²⁸ Mexico noted that Afro-Mexicans were represented in the National Council of Indigenous Peoples, which had been established in 2024 to facilitate engagement with federal agencies, adding that Afro-Mexican communities had taken part in the national consultation on and drafting of a constitutional reform on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexicans.²⁹

21. The absence of financial or other support for taking part in consultative processes poses a challenge to meaningful and effective participation.³⁰ In its submission, Canada highlighted the launch of the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund in 2023 to support Black-led, Black-focused and Black-serving organizations in combating anti-Black racism and improving social and economic outcomes in Black communities. In addition, through the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, Canada had funded over 2,900 projects, strengthened intermediary institutions and established such advisory mechanisms as the External

²⁴ Submission of Canada.

²⁵ [A/79/290](#), para. 19.

²⁶ [A/HRC/54/66](#), para. 3.

²⁷ Submission of Chile.

²⁸ Submission of Ireland.

²⁹ Submission of Mexico.

³⁰ See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/racism/EN-2023_08-Guidance_Note_Public_Participation.pdf.

Reference Group. It also supported community-based legacy projects and events, such as the National Black Canadians Summit and the Power of Youth initiative.³¹

B. Justice

1. Access to justice

22. Pursuant to the programme of activities, States should ensure equal access to justice for people of African descent. Several States reported institutional efforts designed to improve access to justice. In its submission, Argentina reported that its specialized prosecutor's office in Buenos Aires was mandated to address cases of discrimination and equipped to receive complaints around the clock. Canada reported on the release, in February 2025, of the implementation plan for Canada's Black Justice Strategy, aimed at reducing the overrepresentation of Black people in the criminal justice system over a 10-year period.³² It was noted in another submission that, while that development was positive, efforts must extend beyond reducing overrepresentation to confronting the broader structural racism embedded within institutions, including judicial racial bias and the inadequacy of oversight mechanisms.³³ Honduras highlighted its national plan against racism and discrimination, by which it expanded the presence of the Public Prosecutor's Office in communities of African descent, as well as the development of new reporting mechanisms for discrimination.³⁴

23. Reparatory justice emerged as a central theme in numerous submissions. It was stressed in several submissions that meaningful access to justice for people of African descent meant addressing historical injustices through compensation, restitution, recognition and sustained institutional commitment.³⁵ Reparations and reparatory justice were also highlighted in multiple submissions as being essential to the pursuit of justice for Haiti,³⁶ particularly its public health system, which had been severely affected by the enduring consequences of historical injustices.³⁷

24. States reported on measures and processes undertaken to address historical injustices and promote accountability. Colombia reported that it had established a National Intersectoral Commission on Historical Reparations to overcome the effects of racism, racial discrimination and colonialism on people from specific ethnic groups. Colombia also indicated that its recognition of *viche* – a traditional home-brewed alcoholic drink made from sugar cane – as part of its national cultural heritage was a measure of historical reparation and economic development for Black and Afro-Colombian farming communities.³⁸ In its submission, Mauritius referred to its Truth and Justice Commission as a significant effort to confront the legacies of slavery and indentured labour. In another submission, it was noted that the effective

³¹ Submission of Canada.

³² Ibid.

³³ Submission of 613-819 Black Hub.

³⁴ Submission of Honduras.

³⁵ Submissions of Colombia, Bureau des avocats internationaux, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, Georgetown University Law Center Human Rights Institute, Business Innovation Research Dev., University of Miami and Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation, Inc.

³⁶ Submissions of the Permanent Forum, Bureau des avocats internationaux, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, Georgetown University Law Center Human Rights Institute and Business Innovation Research Dev.

³⁷ Submission of the University of Miami.

³⁸ Submission of Colombia.

implementation of the Commission's recommendations often fell short, limiting their potential to result in meaningful and systemic change.³⁹

2. Special measures

25. In the programme of activities, it is noted that the adoption of special measures, such as affirmative action, where appropriate, is essential to alleviating and remedying disparities, ensuring protection from discrimination and overcoming persistent or structural disparities and de facto inequalities resulting from historical circumstances. In its submission, Colombia noted the adoption by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of policies to integrate a differential ethnic approach into healthcare and the issuance of guidelines on the specific needs of Black, Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquero communities. Colombia further indicated that it was drafting a decree to establish minimum standards for the implementation of that model.

C. Development

1. Right to development and measures against poverty

26. In the programme of activities, States are urged to adopt measures aimed at guaranteeing the active, free and meaningful participation of people of African descent in development and decision-making, to adopt or strengthen poverty eradication programmes that address their specific needs, to foster cooperation and to implement actions to protect ancestral groups of people of African descent.

27. Programmes addressing food security and localized development for marginalized communities, including people of African descent, were highlighted in multiple submissions. Canada referred to the Local Food Infrastructure Fund, the aim of which is to increase access to culturally appropriate food for equity-deserving groups, including Black communities.⁴⁰ Chile highlighted the institutionalization of self-identification categories for people of African descent in key social policy registries, enabling better data disaggregation for development planning.⁴¹ In its submission, Mexico reported investments that had been channelled into ecotourism, climate adaptation and artisanal production initiatives benefiting Afro-Mexican communities under national Indigenous development programmes.

28. It was indicated in one submission that, in Colombia, development models often failed to reflect collective practices or the autonomous governance structures of people of African descent. Ongoing displacement due to extractive megaprojects and infrastructure, mining and armed conflict, coupled with a weak institutional presence and limited public investment, continued to undermine sustainable development.⁴²

2. Education

29. According to the programme of activities, States should take all necessary measures to give effect to the right of people of African descent, particularly children and young people, to free primary education and access to all levels and forms of quality public education without discrimination.

30. As noted above, special measures, such as affirmative action, are essential to remedying disparities and de facto inequalities resulting from historical

³⁹ Submission of Affirmative Action.

⁴⁰ Submission of Canada.

⁴¹ Submission of Chile.

⁴² Submission of ILEX Acción Jurídica.

circumstances. Several States noted scholarships and financial aid programmes targeting students and scholars of African descent that were designed to address historical underrepresentation in higher education. In their submissions, Argentina, Honduras and Mexico referred to the introduction or expansion of targeted scholarships, while El Salvador and Mexico linked education to broader empowerment initiatives, including support for women and young people in relation to entrepreneurship, financial literacy and intercultural education. In its submission, Canada reported investments to support Black scholars at all academic levels and new mechanisms to redress long-standing funding disparities in research and post-secondary education, including its Action Plan for Black Researchers. It was noted in another submission that, although reforms had been undertaken in Canada, considerable challenges remained, including the underrepresentation of Black teachers in schools and the absence of anti-racism training in curricula, which undermined the effectiveness of those efforts.⁴³

3. Employment

31. As stipulated in the programme of activities, States should take concrete measures to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the workplace, ensure equality before the law and eliminate barriers in access to employment. Canada reported the continued implementation of its Black Entrepreneurship Program.⁴⁴ Mauritius reported the launch of national employment programmes focused on young people and women, complemented by policy reforms.⁴⁵ In their submissions, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico highlighted employment opportunities, training initiatives and access to credit for entrepreneurs of African descent and businesses run by people of African descent. In its submission, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted that, under the equality (race and disability) bill, race-based pay gap reporting would be mandated and equal pay protections would be extended to ethnic minorities.

4. Health

32. Under the programme of activities, States are required to take measures to improve access to quality health services for people of African descent. In its submission, Canada referred to the Promoting Health Equity: Mental Health of Black Canadians Fund, which had financed community-led mental health initiatives and had been designed to build culturally relevant knowledge systems and services. Colombia reported on developments in the design of a differential health model for populations of African descent, rooted in cultural identity and developed in consultation with national Afro-Colombian representatives.⁴⁶ In their submissions, El Salvador, Iraq and Mexico noted efforts and measures to expand access to healthcare, including for people of African descent, while Mexico acknowledged the need to expand and strengthen the national public health system from an intercultural, community-based perspective that recognized traditional medical practices.

5. Housing

33. As indicated in the programme of activities, given the poor and insecure housing conditions in which many people of African descent live, States should develop and implement policies and projects aimed at, inter alia, ensuring that they gain and sustain a safe and secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity.

⁴³ Submission of Phylomène Zangio.

⁴⁴ Submission of Canada.

⁴⁵ Submission of Mauritius.

⁴⁶ Submission of Colombia.

Canada noted the National Housing Co-Investment Fund to support Black-led housing initiatives and improve access to housing for Black renters and first-time homeowners.⁴⁷ The need for housing policies that addressed patterns of exclusion based on race or ethnic background was pointed out in one submission, in which the persistence of discrimination in housing was highlighted as a major obstacle to the economic and social integration of Black Canadians. It was further noted that the private sector had a critical role to play in addressing those challenges by developing innovative solutions to deliver affordable housing.⁴⁸ As noted in another submission, access to quality and affordable housing in South Africa continued to be hindered by such persistent issues as land dispossession and the complex dynamics of supply across the various housing types, including informal settlements, Government-provided flats and formal housing.⁴⁹

D. Multiple or aggravated discrimination

34. Under the programme of activities, States should adopt and implement policies and programmes that provide effective protection for, and review and repeal all policies and laws that could discriminate against, people of African descent facing multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination. States are also encouraged to mainstream a gender perspective when designing and monitoring public policies. As noted by the High Commissioner, a holistic application of the intersectionality framework can facilitate the development of a multidimensional analysis of the interconnected nature of human rights concerns faced by people of African descent in all their diversity.⁵⁰

35. Submissions from Canada and Mauritius served to highlight targeted measures to promote inclusive governance structures and equitable access to services for people of African descent, with particular attention paid to women and children. Ireland referred to its national action plan against racism, which contained an acknowledgement of the intersectionality between racism and all other forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, socioeconomic circumstances, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, and religion or belief.⁵¹

36. A submission contained a call for the effective implementation of the programme of activities under the Second International Decade through an intersectional approach in which women of African descent were fully recognized as indispensable agents of change.⁵²

E. Developments at the regional and international levels

37. According to the programme of activities, the international community, international and regional organizations, international financial and development institutions and other international mechanisms, within their areas of competence, should give high priority to programmes and projects specifically tailored to combat racism and racial discrimination against people of African descent.

⁴⁷ Submission of Canada.

⁴⁸ Submission of Phylomène Zangio.

⁴⁹ Submission of Previn Vedan.

⁵⁰ [A/HRC/57/67](#), para. 65.

⁵¹ Submission of Ireland.

⁵² Submission of Red de Mujeres Afrolatinas Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora.

1. United Nations system

38. In August 2024, the General Assembly proclaimed 25 July as the International Day of Women and Girls of African Descent, in what was a key step in the global fight against racial and gender-based discrimination and violence targeting women and girls of African descent.⁵³ In November 2024, the General Assembly held a high-level plenary meeting to mark the closure of the first International Decade and to assess the progress that had been made, identify ongoing and new challenges to the human rights of people of African descent and propose further actions to enhance global protection and promotion of their rights.⁵⁴

39. The High Commissioner welcomed the proclamation of the Second International Decade, calling for strong leadership, political will and increased financial and human resources to deliver on its goals and emphasizing that a key objective was the elaboration and adoption of a draft United Nations declaration on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent.⁵⁵ OHCHR continued to work closely with diverse stakeholders to raise awareness about the programme of activities and the proclamation of the Second International Decade, including through regional launches.⁵⁶

40. Efforts continued to be made by OHCHR to strengthen the skills and knowledge of people of African descent and build the capacity of their organizations to promote and protect human rights. Through its fellowship programme for people of African descent, OHCHR provides training and practical tools to enable participants to advocate in favour of racial justice and equality worldwide. Since 2011, 160 people of African descent from 50 countries have participated in the fellowship programme, 72 per cent of whom were women.⁵⁷

41. The Office has intensified its advocacy and awareness-raising efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in and through sports. In July 2024, at a meeting of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR organized a panel discussion on promoting inclusivity in sport and amplifying calls for zero tolerance for racism and racial discrimination, including against refugees and persons with disabilities. Pursuant to Council resolution 60/69, OHCHR held regional consultations in 2025, in Europe and Latin America, to identify challenges, share good practices and enhance national and local efforts to fight racism through sport, including racism against people of African descent.

42. The Office continues to advocate the implementation of the recommendations contained in the agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality for Africans and people of African descent.⁵⁸ In 2024, the High Commissioner unpacked key elements of intersectionality as an essential framework to combat systemic racism and confront legacies of enslavement and colonialism, urging States to proclaim a Second International Decade that built on the gains made previously – and with a commitment to robustly and swiftly eliminate systemic racism and deliver

⁵³ General Assembly resolution 78/323, para. 1.

⁵⁴ See www.un.org/pga/79/high-level-meeting-on-international-decade-for-people-of-african-descent/.

⁵⁵ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/12/turk-welcomes-2nd-international-decade-people-african-descent-calls-bold; and www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2024/12/second-international-decade-people-african-descent-renews-call-recognition-justice.

⁵⁶ See <https://bangkok.ohchr.org/events/2025/regional-launch-second-international-decade-people-african-descent-asia-and-pacific>.

⁵⁷ See www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/fellowship-programmes/fellowship-programme-people-african-descent.

⁵⁸ See www.ohchr.org/en/racism/agenda-towards-transformative-change-racial-justice-and-equality.

reparatory justice.⁵⁹ In-person and virtual consultations were held with activists, primarily of African descent, from different regions, as well as with business enterprises, focused on initiatives and challenges relating to reparatory justice for Africans and people of African descent.⁶⁰

43. The Office strengthened its advocacy in connection with promoting the human rights of people of African descent as they relate to climate and environmental justice by supporting the efforts made at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁶¹ For the first time, Conference participants recognized the crucial role that efforts and actions by people of African descent played in conserving biodiversity and in the implementation of the Convention.⁶²

44. United Nations human rights mechanisms continued to contribute to advancing the human rights agenda of people of African descent, including the programme of activities, through country-specific recommendations⁶³ and thematic reports, notably on accountability for violations by law enforcement officers,⁶⁴ artificial intelligence,⁶⁵ special measures⁶⁶ and intersectionality.⁶⁷ Specific attention was paid to reparatory justice through several mechanisms, including the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.⁶⁸ Moreover, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination began to develop a general recommendation on reparations for the historical injustices stemming from the chattel enslavement of Africans, and the ensuing harm and crimes to people of African descent.⁶⁹ In its submission, the Permanent Forum noted its online consultation, held in November 2024, entitled “Towards a second international decade for people of African descent: perspectives, challenges and opportunities”.

45. In August 2024, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action presented a status report to the General Assembly on the elaboration of the draft United Nations declaration on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent. In the report, the Intergovernmental Working Group summarizes key issues, including the recognition of crimes of the past; intersecting forms of discrimination; sexual and gender-based violence; the term “Afrophobia”; the word “Africans”; and other slave routes besides the transatlantic slave trade. The

⁵⁹ A/HRC/57/67, para. 69; See www.ohchr.org/en/racism/agenda-towards-transformative-change-racial-justice-and-equality.

⁶⁰ See A/HRC/60/70.

⁶¹ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/10/cop16-all-efforts-address-biodiversity-loss-and-its-impact-should.

⁶² See decision 16/6, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting.

⁶³ CERD/C/ARM/CO/12-14, para. 3; CERD/C/GRC/CO/23-24, para. 34; CERD/C/KEN/CO/8-9, para. 37; CERD/C/SAU/CO/10-11, para. 54; CERD/C/BLR/CO/24-25, para. 39; CERD/C/UKR/CO/22-23, para. 35; CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27, para. 45; CERD/C/IRQ/CO/26-27, para. 45; CERD/C/PAK/CO/24-26, para. 39; CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26, para. 62; CERD/C/BIH/CO/14-15, para. 46; CERD/C/QAT/CO/22-23, para. 52; and CERD/C/MDA/CO/12-14, para. 36.

⁶⁴ See A/HRC/57/71.

⁶⁵ See A/HRC/56/68 and A/HRC/57/70.

⁶⁶ See A/79/316.

⁶⁷ See A/HRC/59/62.

⁶⁸ See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/racism/forum-people-african-descent/4th-session/preliminary-conclusions-recommendations-pfpad-4thsession.pdf; and www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/racism/wgeapd/session35/wgepad-35th-session-preliminary-report.pdf.

⁶⁹ See www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-inputs-cerd-general-recommendation-regarding-reparations-historical.

Intergovernmental Working Group had also discussed the scope and focus of the declaration; the recognition of collective rights of people of African descent; the right to reparations for crimes of the past; the rights to education, health and freedom of religion or belief; the need for data collection and analysis; and the principle of self-identification.⁷⁰

46. Specialized agencies of the United Nations system continued to support the International Decade by raising awareness and implementing targeted initiatives. UNESCO hosted the fourth Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination in December 2024, a masterclass series on racism and discrimination and a youth bootcamp. It also released a document entitled *Unmasking Racism: Guidelines for Educational Materials*, to support educators in addressing racial bias, and held an event to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the launch of its Routes of Enslaved Peoples Programme. At this event, the First Dialogue for Reparatory Justice was held, welcoming descendants of both enslaved peoples and enslavers to reflect on a framework for common understanding.⁷¹

47. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean published a joint report entitled *People of African Descent in Latin America and the Caribbean: An Exploration of Social and Territorial Realities in the Rural World*, in which they highlighted the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁷² Emphasis was placed on efforts by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean to promote policy dialogue on the strategic role of people of African descent in rural development, particularly through family farming and small-scale fisheries. An event to promote high-level regional dialogue, held in October 2024, served to address the challenges faced by these communities, including inequality and intersectional discrimination, particularly against rural women of African descent.⁷³

2. Regional organizations

48. In February 2025, the African Union decided that its theme for the year would be “Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations”⁷⁴ and held a symposium and a prelaunch event on the margins of its thirty-eighth session to introduce the theme and initiate related discussions.⁷⁵ The European Parliament co-hosted the fourth Anti-Racism and Diversity Week,⁷⁶ while the European Commission convened consultations in 2025 to inform the preparation of the anti-racism strategy of the European Union for the period 2026–2030.⁷⁷ The Organization of American States organized the Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas, on the theme “I Have a Dream: Recognition. Justice. Development.” Efforts were made to align it with the Second International Decade and emphasize the need to address systemic racism through national policy and education.⁷⁸

⁷⁰ See A/79/304.

⁷¹ Submission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

⁷² Submission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

⁷³ See www.fao.org/americas/events/event-detail/dialogo-afrodescendencia-ruralidad/en.

⁷⁴ African Union decision Assembly/AU/Dec.884(XXXVII); and <https://au.int/en/theme/2025>.

⁷⁵ See <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20250210/symposium-2025-african-union-theme-year>.

⁷⁶ See [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2025/769578/EPRS_BRI\(2025\)769578_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2025/769578/EPRS_BRI(2025)769578_EN.pdf).

⁷⁷ See https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14552-Anti-racism-Strategy_en.

⁷⁸ See www.oas.org/ext/en/main/calendar/event/id/727.

IV. Current trends observed in the enjoyment of the human rights of people of African descent

49. During the reporting period, the High Commissioner and United Nations human rights mechanisms continued to highlight the impact of systemic racism on the enjoyment of human rights by people of African descent.⁷⁹ For example, the lack of comprehensive and disaggregated data regarding people of African descent in various countries was highlighted in some of the submissions received, as well as in recent reports from human rights treaty bodies and regional human rights mechanism, among others.⁸⁰ In addition, submissions and reports by United Nations human rights mechanisms contained examples of racial discrimination against people of African descent in the context of interactions with law enforcement and access to justice, security, land, clean water, education, healthcare, housing and economic opportunities.⁸¹

50. It was reported in one submission that people of African descent and their organizations had been systematically excluded from public policymaking processes.⁸² The need to enhance the representation of Africans and people of African descent in leadership and decision-making positions was also reported.⁸³ Significant barriers to access to, and the lack of, temporary special measures to accelerate the participation of disadvantaged groups of women, including those of African descent, in political and public life have been highlighted by United Nations human rights mechanisms and others as a source of concern in several countries.⁸⁴

51. The devastating effects of the climate and ecological crises are disproportionately borne by those who face conditions of systemic inequality and racism.⁸⁵ There have also been reports highlighting concerns related to increasing evictions and the worsening of land dispossession experienced by people of African descent,⁸⁶ as well as concerns about intimidation, threats and criminalization faced by human rights defenders of African descent, particularly regarding land and

⁷⁹ [A/HRC/57/67](#), [A/HRC/57/68](#), [A/HRC/57/70](#) and [A/HRC/57/72](#).

⁸⁰ Submissions of Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos and ILEX Acción Jurídica; www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2023/IA2023_ENG.pdf; <https://acnudh.org/ecuador-oficina-se-reunio-con-sociedad-civil-para-dialogar-sobre-la-proteccion-de-los-derechos-del-pueblo-afrodescendiente/>; www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/2024/preliminary_observations_guatemala.pdf; [A/HRC/56/61/Add.2](#), para. 16; [A/HRC/57/67](#), paras. 53 and 63; [A/HRC/59/62/Add.1](#), para. 9; [CERD/C/IRQ/CO/26-27](#), paras. 4 and 5; [CERD/C/MUS/CO/24-25](#), paras. 6 and 7; [CERD/C/SAU/CO/10-11](#), paras. 5 and 6; [CERD/C/VEN/CO/22-24](#), para. 9; and [CERD/C/ALB/CO/13-14](#), para. 32.

⁸¹ Submissions of Affirmative Action, ILEX Acción Jurídica, Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos, Phylomène Zangio, Previn Vedan and 613-819 Black Hub; [A/HRC/57/46/Add.1](#), paras. 59–61; [CRC/C/HND/CO/6-7](#), para. 32; [CERD/C/SAU/CO/10-11](#), para. 33; [CERD/C/IRQ/CO/26-27](#), paras. 24, 25 and 28; [CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26](#), paras. 31, 43 and 45; [A/HRC/56/61/Add.2](#), para. 23; [E/C.12/PER/CO/5](#), para. 20; www.dezim-institut.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Demo_FIS/publikation_pdf/FA-6316.pdf; https://igualdadynodiscriminacion.igualdad.gob.es/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/El_impacto_del_racismo_en_Espana_Accesible.pdf; www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/Comunicado%20Lanzamiento%20RG.pdf; and www.oas.org/en/MESECVI/docs/MESECVI_Cevi_doc.294_24%20ENG.pdf.

⁸² Submission of ILEX Acción Jurídica.

⁸³ Ibid.; and https://bangkok.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/20241212_Report%20of%20Asia%20Pacific%20Consultation%20on%20PAD_FINAL_revised%20logos.pdf.

⁸⁴ Submission of Red de Mujeres Afrolatinas Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora; [A/HRC/59/62/CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/10](#), para. 17; [CEDAW/C/CHL/CO/8](#), para. 29; [CEDAW/C/BRA/CO/8-9](#), para. 26; [CEDAW/C/CUB/CO/9](#), para. 31; and [CEDAW/C/NIC/CO/7-10](#), para. 31.

⁸⁵ [A/77/549](#), para. 1.

⁸⁶ Submission of ILEX Acción Jurídica; [A/HRC/59/62/Add.1](#); and www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/07/un-human-rights-chief-volker-turk-concludes-official-visit-guatemala.

environmental rights, in several countries.⁸⁷ While human rights defenders, including those of African descent, continued to face restricted civic space and alleged impunity for attacks against them,⁸⁸ including targeted threats to their lives,⁸⁹ women of African descent were reported to experience disproportionate levels of harassment and violence.⁹⁰

52. According to submissions received and reports issued, notably by United Nations human rights mechanisms, women of African descent face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, negatively affecting their access to healthcare, including maternal healthcare, and sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights;⁹¹ their access to land and climate resilience efforts;⁹² and their participation in rural development programmes.⁹³ In addition, they experience disproportionate discrimination in relation to political participation and decision-making;⁹⁴ access to education;⁹⁵ access to justice;⁹⁶ poverty; and employment opportunities.⁹⁷ They also reportedly faced heightened risks of sex trafficking and trafficking in persons⁹⁸ and discrimination and coercive control in sports.⁹⁹

53. In their reports, United Nations human rights mechanisms raised further concerns related to systemic racism and racial discrimination against children of African descent, notably in relation to unequal access to basic services, including education, healthcare, child welfare services, water, sanitation and social protection, as well as gender-based discrimination and widespread poverty and social exclusion.¹⁰⁰

54. Discriminatory treatment and the disparate impact of policies on migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers from Africa or of African descent were also reported in several regions.¹⁰¹

55. Submissions and reports by United Nations human rights mechanisms, among others, were used to highlight concerns about the disproportionate impact on Africans and people of African descent of the use of force and racial profiling by law

⁸⁷ CAT/C/ECU/CO/8, para. 35; and CERD/C/VEN/CO/22-24, para. 38.

⁸⁸ A/HRC/56/56/Add.1, para. 30; CAT/C/HND/CO/3, para. 30; and CCPR/C/HND/CO/3, para. 41.

⁸⁹ CERD/C/VEN/CO/22-24, para. 38.

⁹⁰ A/HRC/58/24, para. 20; and CEDAW/C/BRA/CO/8-9, para. 28.

⁹¹ CERD/C/VEN/CO/22-24, para. 30; A/HRC/56/51, para. 41; [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/67cf1f2d1788822bd74ab601_Health%20Foundation_Runnymede%20Report_Final_single%20pages%20\(1\).pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/67cf1f2d1788822bd74ab601_Health%20Foundation_Runnymede%20Report_Final_single%20pages%20(1).pdf); and www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/structural-racism-ethnicity-and-health-inequalities/main-report.

⁹² Submission of FAO; www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/2025/informe_redesca_brasil_en.pdf; and CEDAW/C/BRA/CO/8-9, para. 50.

⁹³ Submission of FAO.

⁹⁴ A/HRC/56/50/Add.1, para. 85; A/HRC/57/20, para. 71; and submission of Red de Mujeres Afrolatinas Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora.

⁹⁵ E/C.12/HND/CO/3, para. 64.

⁹⁶ CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/5-9, para. 13.

⁹⁷ CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/10, para. 17; and www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/04/suriname-must-listen-and-act-upon-concerns-people-african-descent-say-un.

⁹⁸ A/79/161, para. 29; A/HRC/56/63, para. 70; and CEDAW/C/CUB/CO/9, para. 29.

⁹⁹ A/79/299, paras. 49 and 65; and A/79/325, para. 19.

¹⁰⁰ A/HRC/57/70/Add.1, paras. 24 and 25; A/HRC/59/62/Add.1, para. 38; CEDAW/C/LUX/CO/8, para. 49; CRC/C/ECU/CO/7, para. 16; CRC/C/HND/CO/6-7, paras. 25, 32 and 37; and CRC/C/GTM/CO/7, para. 46.

¹⁰¹ Submission of the Madhu Verma Migrant Justice Centre; A/HRC/57/71/Add.2; CEDAW/C/CHL/CO/8, para. 15; and <https://rm.coe.int/sixth-ecri-report-on-san-marino/1680b06621>.

enforcement.¹⁰² Concerns continued to be raised regarding the overrepresentation of people of African descent among those stopped and searched, as well as reports of systemic discrimination and violence by law enforcement against women and LGBTIQ+ persons, particularly Black transgender women, including frequent revictimization and a lack of access to justice.¹⁰³ Concerns were also raised regarding the disproportionate impact of drug policies on people of African descent,¹⁰⁴ and bias in algorithms based on artificial intelligence used in law enforcement, including in facial recognition software, which disproportionately affect people of African descent and reinforce stereotypes.¹⁰⁵

V. Second International Decade: a catalyst for change

56. The Second International Decade presents a renewed opportunity to ensure that the three pillars of the programme of activities – recognition, justice and development – are implemented in a way that reflects and effectively responds to the full spectrum of challenges facing people of African descent, in all their diversity. The existence of persistent and structural challenges to the realization of the human rights of people of African descent underscores the need for the Second International Decade to serve as a catalyst to enable meaningful and sustained change.

57. States have an obligation under international human rights law to implement bold, structural reforms that facilitate the dismantling of systemic racism in law, policy, economics and governance. These reforms must be grounded in and informed by the lived experiences, knowledge, expertise and priorities of people of African descent.¹⁰⁶ Their meaningful, inclusive and safe participation at all stages of decision-making processes is essential for effective policymaking.¹⁰⁷

58. The collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by race or ethnic origin, among other factors, with strict safeguards and in accordance with the human rights-based approach to data, are necessary to improve understanding of the challenges faced by people of African descent, ensure the design of sound policies and allow for objective monitoring of their effectiveness.¹⁰⁸ In this context, disaggregated and intersectional data collection and reporting based on race and ethnicity remain essential.

59. There is a need to advance issues that received lesser attention during the first International Decade, drawing on reports and recommendations issued by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and United Nations human rights mechanisms.

¹⁰² Submissions of INREDH and 613-819 Black Hub; communications [BRA 1/2024](#), [BRA 2/2024](#), [CHE 1/2024](#); and [CERD/C/MUS/CO/24-25](#), para. 34; [CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26](#), para. 31; [CEDAW/C/CUB/CO/9](#), para. 27; [CCPR/C/HND/CO/3](#), para. 45; [www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/sites/default/files/2025-03/ddd_eclairages_solliciter-les-forces-de-l-ordre_20250221.pdf](#); [www.defenseurdesdroits.fr/sites/default/files/2025-04/ddd_eclairages_amendes-evictions-controles_gestion-des-indesirables_20250327.pdf](#); and [https://rm.coe.int/sixth-ecri-report-on-italy/1680b205f5](#).

¹⁰³ See [https://rm.coe.int/sixth-report-on-the-united-kingdom/1680b20bdc](#); [http://www.npcc.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/our-work/race-action-plan/police-race-action-plan-progress-report.pdf](#); and submission of ILEX Acción Jurídica.

¹⁰⁴ [A/HRC/57/85](#), para. 30.

¹⁰⁵ [A/HRC/57/70](#), paras. 28 and 29; and [http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/racism/forum-people-african-descent/4th-session/preliminary-conclusions-recommendations-pfpad-4thsession.pdf](#).

¹⁰⁶ See [www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/11/turk-calls-proclamation-second-international-decade-people-african](#).

¹⁰⁷ [A/HRC/54/66](#), para. 6.

¹⁰⁸ [A/79/290](#), para. 79.

The affirmation of people of African descent as “peoples”, where appropriate, is necessary, with commensurate collective rights to culture, identity, participation, development and land ownership.¹⁰⁹

60. Given the growing calls for reparatory justice by people of African descent, the delivery of reparatory justice for the legacies of enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism will need to be at the centre of the implementation of the Second International Decade for it to be truly transformative.¹¹⁰ The Secretary-General and the High Commissioner have called for States to take a comprehensive approach, grounded in international human rights law, with a view to addressing the legacies of the past in order to build societies that are free from systemic racism and racial discrimination – with the meaningful participation of people of African descent, particularly women and young people.¹¹¹

61. Calls for the reform of the international financial and governance architecture, including those made by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, remain central to ongoing efforts to address global inequalities.¹¹² The inherited economic model and years of neglect in social and institutional investments during the colonial era created lasting challenges, shaping post-independence reality.¹¹³ These structural legacies continue to constrain the realization of human rights, including the right to development, and often obstruct progress towards greater equality and sustainable development.¹¹⁴ Economic justice is critical in order to comprehensively recognize and address the structural inequalities of the global economy and achieve sustainable development and global racial equality for people of African descent.¹¹⁵ A paradigm shift in economic policymaking is therefore essential – one that places human rights at the core of the international financial architecture¹¹⁶ and contributes to the enhancement of States’ capacities to invest sustainably in all human rights, including the right to development.¹¹⁷

62. Further emphasis has been placed on eliminating bias from artificial intelligence and ensuring that digital technologies and artificial intelligence serve to advance

¹⁰⁹ A/79/290, paras. 82 and 87; and A/HRC/54/68, para. 52.

¹¹⁰ See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/racism/forum-people-african-descent/4th-session/preliminary-conclusions-recommendations-pfpad-4thsession.pdf.

¹¹¹ See A/78/317; www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-04-14/secretary-generals-remarks-the-fourth-session-of-the-permanent-forum-people-of-african-descent-delivered; and www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-05-25/secretary-generals-message-the-occasion-of-africa-day-scroll-down-for-french-version.

¹¹² See A/HRC/60/70; <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sgsm22557.doc.htm>; www.un.org/osaa/sites/www.un.org/osaa/files/global_concept_note_final_15.05.25.pdf; www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-05-30/secretary-generals-remarks-the-africa-dialogue-series-high-level-policy-dialogue-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english-and-all-french; www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/01/integrating-human-rights-international-financial-architecture; and www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/05/urgent-transition-towards-human-rights-economy-needed-says-high.

¹¹³ See www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-05-30/secretary-generals-remarks-the-africa-dialogue-series-high-level-policy-dialogue-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english-and-all-french; and www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-06-19/secretary-generals-remarks-the-security-council-open-debate-the-maintenance-of-international-peace-and-security-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english.

¹¹⁴ See www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-02-24/secretary-generals-remarks-the-human-rights-council-delivered.

¹¹⁵ A/HRC/54/67; and A/HRC/57/68, para. 52.

¹¹⁶ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/01/integrating-human-rights-international-financial-architecture.

¹¹⁷ See A/74/308; www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Racism/WGEAPD/Guidelines_inclusion_2030_Agenda.pdf; and www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/01/integrating-human-rights-international-financial-architecture.

equality, inclusion and digital justice.¹¹⁸ Fast-paced developments and increasing reliance on these technologies require urgent action and an approach that is rooted in transparency, accountability and non-discrimination.

63. Additional efforts are also required to address the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental injustice on people and communities of African descent.¹¹⁹ There have been calls for reparatory measures, including climate finance, technology transfer and structural reforms, in response to these injustices.¹²⁰

64. The proclamation of the Second International Decade contributes to existing international momentum to promote and protect the human rights of people of African descent. In this regard, the elaboration and adoption of a robust United Nations declaration on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent would represent a significant achievement.¹²¹

65. In addition, the agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality¹²² – grounded in States' international obligations, particularly under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and their political commitments pursuant to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action – offers a practical and action-oriented framework for accelerating implementation of the programme of activities under the Second International Decade and for addressing long-standing and emerging forms of systemic racism. States should heed the calls set out in the agenda for whole-of-government and whole-of-society reforms and stronger national action plans to dismantle systemic racism; comprehensive justice reforms to end impunity and rebuild trust, particularly in law enforcement and the criminal justice system; the full and meaningful participation of people of African descent in decision-making processes, with protection for those who speak out against racism; and reparatory justice to confront historical legacies through formal acknowledgement and apologies, truth-telling processes and reparations in various forms.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

66. **The Second International Decade presents a vital opportunity for States and the international community to accelerate progress in the areas of recognition, justice and development for people of African descent, in line with the programme of activities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Building on the foundational work undertaken during the first International Decade, the Second International Decade should serve as an opportunity to prioritize concrete follow-up and effective and inclusive implementation of existing recommendations. Efforts should be made to ensure measurable progress, accountability and the realization of commitments already made.**

67. **It is critical that the Second International Decade be guided by the lived experiences, knowledge and expertise of people of African descent and that the**

¹¹⁸ See www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-04-14/secretary-generals-remarks-the-fourth-session-of-the-permanent-forum-people-of-african-descent-delivered.

¹¹⁹ A/79/290, para. 85.

¹²⁰ See A/77/549; and A/HRC/57/30.

¹²¹ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/11/turk-calls-proclamation-second-international-decade-people-african; and www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/01/integrating-human-rights-international-financial-architecture. See also A/79/290, para. 94.

¹²² See www.ohchr.org/en/racism/agenda-towards-transformative-change-racial-justice-and-equality.

implementation of its programme of activities meaningfully reflect and address their expectations and needs.

68. I call upon States to pay particular attention to the most pressing human rights concerns faced by people of African descent, drawing on recommendations by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and other relevant actors. Progress should be made on the full spectrum of concerns, including issues that received lesser attention during the first International Decade. These issues include the need to acknowledge and address multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination; the affirmation of people of African descent as “peoples”, where appropriate, with commensurate collective rights to culture, identity, participation, development, lands, territories and resources; data collection; the reform of the international financial and governance architecture to ensure equitable representation, debt justice and the dismantling of structural barriers that perpetuate racial and economic inequalities; the need to eliminate bias from artificial intelligence; and the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental injustice on people and communities of African descent.

69. I further call upon States and other actors to adopt a comprehensive approach to reparatory justice grounded in international human rights law and with the meaningful participation of people of African descent, particularly women, young people, LGBTIQ+ persons and persons with disabilities. Adopting such an approach is essential to building societies that are free from systemic racism and racial discrimination.

70. The elaboration and adoption of a United Nations declaration on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent should be a key priority of the international community. This process must be grounded in the meaningful, inclusive and safe participation of people of African descent. Considering the urgency of addressing long-standing and emerging challenges, I encourage States to actively and constructively engage in this process.

71. I encourage States and relevant actors to give high priority to developing and implementing targeted programmes aimed at combating racism and racial discrimination against people of African descent and to fully implement the programme of activities of the Second International Decade.

72. Transformative change in the lives of people of African descent requires adequate resources to be allocated to the full implementation of the programme of activities at the national, regional and international levels. To this end, Member States are encouraged to allocate predictable funding from the regular budget, while Member States and other donors are invited to provide extrabudgetary contributions for this purpose.

73. All relevant stakeholders, including States, are encouraged to mark the launch of the Second International Decade and to ensure the effective implementation of its programme of activities. States are further encouraged to increase their contribution to the reporting process on the implementation of the programme of activities. More broadly, all of society must be shown the importance and benefit of combating systemic racism. Anything less will risk failing individuals, communities and society.