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**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Written statement* submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[31 May 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Racial Inequality Has Been Exacerbated in the United States of America during the Pandemic of COVID-19

During the pandemic of COVID-19, the Ethnic minorities in the United States have been facing more difficult living predicament. Not only the infection rate and mortality rate of the COVID-19 are much higher than that of whites, but also the more serious threat of unemployment, the more severe discrimination they face in employment, law enforcement and judicial process, and more extensive inequality in economic, political and social fields. A poll conducted by the Government Research Institute of University of California at Berkeley shows that the overwhelming majority of voters in California believe that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated inequality in the United States. Many people pointed out that the crisis had the greatest impact on African Americans.

The mortality rate of people of color during the pandemic period is much higher than that of white people. African Americans and Hispanics are four times more likely to be hospitalized with the COVID-19 than whites, and African Americans are twice as likely to die from the virus, according to a report released by the National League of cities. Hispanic children are 8 times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than white children, and African American children are 5 times as likely to be hospitalized as white children, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and prevention. Barbara Ferrer, director of public health in Los Angeles, pointed out that the serious impact of COVID-19 on African and Hispanic residents is rooted in "the impact of racism and discrimination on the resources and opportunities needed for health".

During the pandemic of COVID-19, colored people are facing more serious threat of unemployment. According to the U.S. Department of labor, in September 2020, the unemployment rates of African American men and women were 12.6% and 11.1% respectively. In contrast, white men and women were 6.5% and 6.9%, respectively. Although the white unemployment rate reached an all-time high of 14.2% in April, the unemployment rates of African Americans and Hispanics soared to 16.7% and 18.9% respectively, a record high.

Law enforcement discrimination against ethnic minorities. African Americans are more likely to be shot to death by the police. African American George Floyd was killed on his knees by a white policeman during his arrest. Violent protests broke out in more than 30 cities in the United States. Kristen Clarke, chairman and executive director of the National Civil Rights Committee of lawyers, said: "African Americans in this country are in a desperate situation." "This, coupled with unrestrained police violence, will create a serious storm." From January 1 to August 31, 2020, the map of police violence and the Washington Post confirmed that 771 people were killed by the police, 164 of whom (about 21%) were African Americans.

Economic discrimination against minorities. CBS reported on July 17, 2020 that more than 150 million Americans received federal government "economic stimulus checks" to help them survive the historic economic collapse caused by the pandemic of COVID-19. But a study by the City Institute shows that by the end of May 2020, white families receive more checks than African American families, with three quarters of white adults receiving checks by the end of May, compared with 69 per cent of African adults and 63 per cent of Latino adults. Some African business owners say they have recently experienced a particularly difficult period because they were excluded from federal aid and their stores were damaged by looters in protests.

Social discrimination against minorities. The survey showed that white respondents believed that African Americans were often discriminated from 22% in February 2020 to 40% in July 2020, and that the probability of frequent discrimination among Hispanic Americans increased from 22% to 32%, and that Asian people were often discriminated from 7% to 20%. Some Americans blame the outbreak of COVID-19 on Asian Americans, abusing, naming, coughing, spitting, and even personal attacks on them. With the escalation of political rhetoric that accuses China of its responsibility to COVID-19, more and more

hate crimes, incidents of harassment and discrimination against Asian people are taking place.

The racial gap has widened. Human Rights Watch reported on March 19, 2020 that about 21% of African Americans and 18% of Hispanics live below the poverty line, while the poverty rate of white people is only 8%. The median wealth of white families is 41 times that of African American families and 22 times that of Hispanic families. Research from the University of Chicago and Notre Dame shows that from June to November 2020, the poverty rate in the United States rose by 2.4 percentage points, while that of African Americans rose by 3.1 percentage points. According to the Bureau of labor statistics, African Americans are almost twice as likely as whites to lack health insurance. In the first quarter of 2020, the national housing ownership rate of white families was 73.7%, while that of African American families was only 44%. A special survey conducted by the U.S. Census department in late April and early May 2020 shows that African Americans are living in a very difficult situation. More than a fifth of African American families say they often don't have enough food, three times more than white families. African American families are almost four times more likely than whites to miss mortgage payments during the crisis, which is dangerous for the already low housing ownership rate of black people.

These facts show that the policies and omission of US Government during the pandemic of COVID-19 have further worsened racial inequality. We call on the U.S. government to face up to this reality, show its political will to solve the problem, and take effective measures to eliminate racial inequality in all fields.
