



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 August 2023

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fourth session

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 9

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

Written statement* submitted by Geledés - Instituto da Mulher Negra, 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.

[9 August 2023]

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



Strategies to Address Global Racism

Firstly, Geledés - Instituto da Mulher Negra would like to acknowledge the commendable work and efforts made by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, and the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement.

Secondly, we wish to highlight that over the past two decades, the rise of authoritarian regimes across the world has brought to light the instrumentalization of racism as a tool of power that oppresses, marginalizes, and discriminates against people of African descent.

In this regard, the Council must urgently demand the following from the States:

1. Reparations should go beyond merely addressing poverty and implementing affirmative actions. Member States must develop public policies that promote equity and inclusion in positions of power and decision-making, enabling more black people to participate actively in politics.
 2. The United Nations should strengthen the Global Coalition against Systemic Racism and forge stronger alliances with society and the corporate sector to create "Spaces without Racism."
 3. Member States should devise specific public policies aimed at supporting women of African descent, who have historically faced multiple forms of discrimination, including physical and systemic violence, poverty, and discrimination. These women often encounter significant challenges in accessing education, employment, and political participation, contributing to poverty and vulnerability within society.
 4. Member States and the United Nations must recognize that combating racism requires multidisciplinary education, as racism influences the education system and imposes specific forms of knowledge. The academic sphere should also serve as a space for empowering people of African descent. UNESCO should actively encourage the establishment of structures within academia to combat global racism effectively.
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