



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fourth session

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## **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]

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



## **The Covid-19 Pandemic as an Instrument of Racism and Discrimination**

The covid-19 pandemic has increased social inequalities all around the world, condemning millions of people, mostly children and women of African descent and traditional peoples, to extreme poverty.

The rise of far-right governments and their political agendas of violations of fundamental rights in countries of the global south were instrumental in the disproportionate increase in morbidity and mortality of people belonging to the groups above mentioned.

Those groups compose social segments which are also the most exposed to precarious jobs and lower income, therefore unable to perform remote work as home office. These difficulties in carrying out social distancing and the absence of public policies that would guarantee them the basic conditions of survival generated a substantial increase in food insecurity and extreme poverty in these populations. As an example, Brazil returned to the hunger map during the pandemic, in 2020, because more than 50% of our population reports some level of food insecurity.

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

- amplifying the vaccination coverage rates until the percentage determined by regional and global health organizations throughout their social fabric, with special attention to children in early childhood and elderly people, taking into account ethnic-racial, gender, income and people cutouts in situations of exile and migration;
- adopting public policies in their health systems that combat anti-black racism and xenophobia, through training and education in human rights for their staff;
- Strengthening compulsory licensing policies for medicines, vaccines, inputs, medical-hospital equipment and other health promotion technologies in member countries, especially economically disadvantaged ones;
- Determining that there is equal sharing in the distribution of vaccines and medicines in health emergency events, whether regional or global, with programs for the donation of these medical supplies to economically disadvantaged countries;
- including civil society organizations in the spaces where discussions and decisions on disease control, investment applications and other policies of the body are held, including these representations in its sub-headquarters.

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