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**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.

[4 February 2024]

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



Addressing Climate Change

Geledés - Instituto da Mulher Negra, a Brazilian civil society organization that advocates for women and blacks, recognizing that these two social segments suffer from disadvantages and discrimination in access to social opportunities due to racism and sexism prevailing in Brazilian society, presents contributions on the situation of climate change in Brazil to be considered as a contribution to the report of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in its report on climate change (HRC res. 50/9).

As an organization within the Brazilian black movement, Geledés - Instituto da Mulher Negra has engaged in profound discussions, proposals, and struggles, both nationally and internationally, to gain recognition from authorities for the environmental racism present daily in the country.

The definition of the concept of environmental racism is based on the recognition of the “racial state” and deliberate institutional action that results in the disproportionate exposure of Afro-descendant and indigenous populations, keeping them permanently in vulnerable conditions. The Afro-descendant population is disproportionately concentrated in global sacrifice zones - regions that have become dangerous and even uninhabitable due to environmental degradation.

Recommendations:

The racially disparate impacts of environmental degradation and climate injustice require a fundamental reorientation of political institutions, economic systems, and legal principles to include racial justice and equality priorities. True racial justice involves ending environmental racism and also implies adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage structures that eliminate systemic racism embedded in the global economy, political hierarchies, and legal structures.

Reparations require addressing historical climate injustice and eradicating contemporary systemic racism, a legacy of historical injustice in the context of the global ecological crisis.

Climate migrants and refugees must receive necessary legal protections, especially in countries historically responsible for climate injustice. Racial equality and non-discrimination require taking all necessary measures to preserve and title quilombola territories, which contribute to reducing deforestation in biomes.

Institutionalize meaningful participation and decision-making by the Afro-descendant population in global and national climate governance, including women, people with gender and racial diversity.

Finally, when presenting statements, agreements, and documents related to the theme, it is essential to mention the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action. This presents a climate agenda and was historically built in consensus with the Afro-descendant civil society.
