

How to participate in the WGEPAD 27th session “The Urgency of Now: Systemic racism and the lessons of 2020”

You may take part in the virtual 27th session by registering as a speaker on one of the days of the meeting or by feeding into the discussion via comments and questions on social media while listening to the webcast or audio link of the session or by submitting a written statement. Unfortunately, due to the virtual platform, comments and questions can only be made via social media platforms or be sent to the mandate email Africandescent@ohchr.org. It will not be possible for those viewing or listening to the session to take the floor and speak. The Secretariat regrets these constraints, and participants are also invited to send written statements which will be placed on the WGEPAD 27th session webpage as received.

Option 1. Register as a speaker on the Interprefy platform

To register as a speaker at the 27th session and make an oral statement please send your statement to the following email address by 25 November 2020: africandescent@ohchr.org. The statement should not exceed 3 mins (4 mins for joint statements) and the email should indicate for which day of the session the intervention is intended.

Please note that the constraints of the virtual platform with interpretation means that speaking slots are extremely limited and not all that sign up for the speakers list may be able to speak. Given these constraints, the Working Group will follow the order of speakers of the Human Rights Council as follows, 1.) Member States (Members of the Human Rights Council), 2.) Member States (Observers), and 3.) Civil society. We would like to secure the widest possible participation and we welcome group statements. All speakers will receive confirmation of their presence on the speakers list and the modalities of the discussion prior to the 27th session. All Statements, whether from speakers or others, will be posted on the webpage as received.

Option 2. Remote participation via Webcast and live audio stream and social media platforms

To make the 27th session as accessible as possible, it will be webcast. Interested stakeholders are welcome to follow the meetings [live webcast](https://listen-live.unog.ch/) on UN Web TV and Twitter or via <https://listen-live.unog.ch/>. Participants may **send questions or comments during the meeting** via Twitter using the hashtags **#WGEPAD #Africandescent #Fightracism** or via the mandate email address: africandescent@ohchr.org These comments and questions will be immediately provided to the speakers and members of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent for discussions during the meeting.

Option 3. Send in a written submission

Participants are also invited to submit written statements. **Written statements should not exceed 1,200 words and should be submitted electronically** via email to africandescent@ohchr.org by **3 December 2020**. All written submissions received will be posted on the webpage for the 27th session: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Racism/WGAfricanDescent/Pages/Session27.aspx>