

Intervention – PFPAD

My name is Dauda Sesay, National Network Director at African Communities Together- (ACT) - ACT empowers African immigrants to integrate socially, empower economically and engage civically.

I congratulate the Madam chairperson on your team - You assume this position at a time at a time when global humanitarian crises are escalating, and we are also witnessing an upsurge in anti-Black racism in Global politics and society. We all witness the Lack of Equitable pathways to protection, where one race is given superiority over others. I will be blunt here to mention the Ukrainian Crisis when our black brothers and sisters were denied access to protection.

The history of U.S. immigration policy has been tainted by double standards and discrimination against Black migrants, who have often found that pathways for legal immigration open to other racial and ethnic groups are closed to them, and this pattern still plays out today in exclusion, immigration enforcement, and the prison-to-deportation pipeline. Against this profoundly challenging backdrop, Black immigrant organizations are building collective power, creating connections between different struggles for liberation, and fighting for systemic and structural change. This PFPAD event has featured the voices of exceptional Black leaders reflecting on history, current struggles, and the future of our community that, include the eradication of all forms of structural racism.

I closed with these simple recommendations -

1. Let's stop competing against each other and rather let cooperate and collaborate for collective wins. for too long, we have been competing
2. Unity - Organize- Organize and Organize collectively - There is strength in numbers, and that leads to power - the power to say enough to injustice - enough to racism -
3. Let's fix our internal structure - we have to mirror the change we want to see from the leaders down to the youth - Lead by exam and walk the talk