

Hi. My name

Is Samuel Bertholdsen. Chairperson at Afro Empowerment Center Denmark. On behalf of our organization, we congratulate the elected madam chairperson and forum members with their new positions. Afro Empowerment Center is A civil society organization located in Copenhagen Denmark. We are fighting for the rights of people of African descent living in Denmark. I have heard several fellow participants at this forum mention the necessity of data. This is one of the problems we have in Denmark. When it comes to collection of data, Denmark is still, to this day, categorizing its residents by whether they are of Danish descent, western nation immigrant or descendant or non-western immigrant or descendant. This is not based on the geographical position of a country, but rather an interpretation of the previous UN definition of developed a non-developed country.

People of African Descent are diverse, spanning all the categories. Some have been categorized as ethnic Danes due to having 1 Danish parent. Others are western nation immigrants and so on.

This categorization and little to none government sponsored People of African Descent research has made People of African Descent and their experiences in Denmark invisible.

We therefore urge the permanent forum for people of African descent to develop measures that ensure member states live up to their responsibilities in accordance with ICERD and CERD34 and hold member states accountable for the lack there off.”