

1<sup>st</sup> UN PFPAD Session  
Item 6: Equality for All Discussion  
Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
3PM Geneva Time  
Room XVIII  
Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland

**General greetings by AAN: 1 minute**

1. Good afternoon everyone. Happy to be with you today. My name is Alice A. Nkom, Vice Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. I am very pleased to be here.

**General remarks about equality for all: 8 minutes**

2. Thank you Huang.
3. I will share some initial reflections about the “*Thematic Discussion: Connecting the Past and the Future – Equality for All People of African Descent*”.
4. I begin with three questions: (1) What role does the United Nations have in enforcing international law? (2) What happens when United Nations Member States are not held to account? (3) What then becomes of the realisation as well as sustainability of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
5. I now turn to the Permanent Forum’s nine-point mandate, particularly, points a, c, and i.
  - **Point A:** To contribute to the full political, economic and social inclusion of people of African descent in the societies in which they live as equal citizens without discrimination of any kind and contribute to ensuring equal enjoyment of all human rights.
  - **Point C:** To consider the elaboration of a United Nations declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.
  - **Point I:** To offer advice and recommendations on matters concerning the protection, promotion and respect of all human rights of people of African descent, and to undertake any specific task as requested by the Human Rights Council or the General Assembly;
6. Esteemed Delegates and Forum Colleagues; indeed, People of African Descent includes LGBTQIA+ people. I share this point, primarily

because, if we continue to decline to mention and acknowledge LGBTQIA+ People of African Descent, and then later suggest, that it is assumed we know who we are talking about, we will miss many achievements together.

7. We know to mention women. We know to mention youth. We know to mention children, people with disabilities, migrants; and, of course, men.

It is pivotal, therefore, to mention LGBTQIA+ people and recognise LGBTQIA+ people in the same consideration that we do so for: women, youth, children, people with disabilities, migrants, and, of course, men.

We name ourselves and we remember ourselves.

This is essentially important; essentially African.

8. In closing, I offer one more reflection as an African Elder, who has seen many years on this Earth that we call home.

I emphasise that excluding someone based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, for instance, is most certainly not African.

9. Our commitment to an agenda of equality, justice and reparations, among others, is highly-feasible together (*especially in terms of addressing systemic racism and structural inequalities, more recently and adamantly in the areas of climate change and natural disasters, and in areas of youth unemployment, shrinking civic space, sexual harassment, gender-based violence, stigma and discrimination*).

10. I thank you.