

# Remarks on the 1st Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

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Thank you Chairman for this important opportunity to speak. I am Ailian ZHU, Chairman of the EurAsia Forum, based in Zurich, Switzerland. It is a great pleasure to participate in this live open discussions. This high-level panel discussion brings together inspiring and respected thought leaders, and it is a great honor for me to be a part of it.

When discussing People of African Descent and human rights, we should pay special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedom of Africans and people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers.

I think the most basic human right is the right for life. There is a growing chasm between people and law enforcement officers. The rise in social movements and protests is a clear sign of this crisis of trust .

The former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet was commenting on the guilty verdict for former Minneapolis Police Officer Dereck Chauvin for the killing of George Floyd.

Bachelet said “This is a momentous verdict. But for countless other victims of African descent and their families, in the United States and throughout the world, the fight for justice goes on. The battle to get cases of excessive force or killings by police before the courts is far from over.”

Bachelet said Floyd’s case of police brutality helped to reveal how much remains to be done to confront and dismantle the entrenched legacy of discriminatory policies and systems.

“The redesign of our future can only be through the full and equal participation of people of African descent, and in ways which transform

their interactions with law enforcement, and, more broadly, in all aspects of their lives.”

Your Excellencies,  
distinguished friends,

We are born free and equal.

At the UN 1st Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, we call all governments to fulfill their responsibilities, to put increased emphasis on the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedom of Africans and people of African descent against systemic racism and racial discrimination.

We believe that countries can do better in terms of human rights protection. Any country needs to continuously strengthen and improve its human rights work to adapt to the development of the new era and the needs of the people.

We look forward to working with you, thank you!