

European Union

Mr. Chair,

In October 2022, two months ago, the European Union decided to actively and constructively participate in the negotiations on a draft UN Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent during the 20th session of the IGWG on the DDPA. We are still in the process of analysing the Chairperson's draft, which by the way is not entirely the same as what was presented this morning by Mrs McDougall, but we did already put forward a few horizontal principles that matter to the EU and that are guiding our positioning, and that I would like to share with you today:

- Firstly, we emphasized that we are dearly attached to the principle of universality of human right. Any text adopted at the level of the UN should fully respect that principle.
- Secondly, we still regard the International Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) as the cornerstone of our fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It is important to ensure that we continue to promote universal adherence to the ICERD and to invest in its full and effective implementation.
- Thirdly, we stated that we believe processes like this one should be as inclusive as possible and expressed our intend to engage constructively and contribute to the best of our ability.

We also indicated that:

- the preamble could use some further strengthening in a sense that we would welcome additional language inter alia reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner.
- the formulation of the different rights in the operational paragraphs should not deviate from the existing core human rights treaties and international human rights law.

We look forward to continuing the discussions.

Thank you.