



Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva
Mission Permanente de la Finlande, Genève

Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

Statement by Finland

5 December 2022

Mme Chair, Excellencies,

Thank you for this timely discussion. Finland welcomes the convening of the 1st session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Finland is strongly committed in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in all their forms and in all sectors of society, both online and offline. Everyone should be able to live without fear of threat or harassment.

This commitment is reflected in the Government's Action Programme to Combat Racism and to Promote Good Relations between Population Groups, adopted in 2021. The plan is based on evidence gathered from research but also from different communities on their lived realities. One of the main objectives of the action plan is to tackle racism and discrimination in the societal structures. The action plan develops practical support for assessing and promoting equality for public authorities, educational providers and employers. The aim is to ensure that everyone regardless of their ethnicity or skin colour have equal opportunities to live and to work.

For example, the Action Plan commits to providing training for the police on the prohibition of ethnic profiling. The training on hate crimes and ethnic profiling is mandatory for all police officers and civil servants of police departments.

The Government has also developed data gathering and strengthened capabilities of different stakeholders to combat hate speech and hate crimes. A recent survey examined experiences of hate speech and harassment by different ethnic minority groups.

We listen with interest and learn from the experiences and examples of others at this Forum.

Thank you.