

Dear organizers,

My name is Maria Angélica da Costa and I have worked for the Secretariat of Policies for the Promotion of Racial Equality in Brazil since 2015, when it had the status of a Ministry. I don't hold a political position, I'm a street bureaucrat (a term I've learned in my master's degree in public policy evaluation and monitoring). I made a brief speech today, but my objective was to enable the participation of the National Secretary. As a bureaucrat, I serve exclusively the State and not the political parties, and I have experienced the ups and downs of inserting this agenda in the political agenda of the different governments that were at the head of the Brazilian executive branch. Although the Brazilian Federal Constitution repudiates racism and we have anti-racist laws, this practice is at the root of our society, for historical reasons, and needs a lot of political will to have an effective fight. However, we have a saying here that states that "hope is the last thing that dies" and this is what I cling to to get rid of the fear I have about the future and what might happen to my children if we don't manage to eliminate racism from the world. ! This forum represents yet another little piece of light entering the dark room. I thank the UN and the permanent members of the Forum for continuing to conduct this agenda, which is dear not only to me, but to the more than 100 million Brazilians who self-declare themselves as Afro-Brazilians.

Best,

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