



General Statement, Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, 5 December 2022

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Namibia aligns itself to the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and we join others in congratulating the Permanent Forum on its first session.

Namibia welcomes the establishment of this Permanent Forum whose mandate is important and timely to the promotion, protection, and respect for human rights of people of African descent. We make the following observations in our national capacity:

- Political will towards the elimination of systemic racism is currently lacking, the work of the Permanent Forum can correct narratives and perspectives which tend to ignore the reality of systemic racism and its blatant violation of equal human rights for all.
- Africans and People of African Descent are disproportionately affected by the devastating impacts of climate change and given the outcomes at the COP27, which among other things place human rights, including the right to healthy environment at the center of climate action, Namibia looks forward to hearing from the experts how climate justice can be achieved during this session. We note that accountability and climate financing for adaptation remain critical to achieving climate justice for Africans and People of African descent.
- The discussion on reparatory justice is of particular interest to Namibia, especially given the historical injustices of colonialism and slavery that continue to negatively impact the enjoyment of all human rights by Africans and People of African Descent. We hope that this discussion will shed light on the relevance and necessity of reparatory justice and its contribution to the promotion and protection of all human rights including the right to development. Namibia hopes that this results- and solution-oriented discussion will offer new perspective to those who deny the need for discussions on reparatory justice.

Madam Chair,

Namibia reaffirms its strong commitment to all efforts towards the elimination of racism and racial discrimination including through the enhanced implementation of the DDPA and will continue to participate in the elaboration of the United Nations Declaration on the promotion, protection, and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.

I thank you.