

## **First session of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent**

### **Statement delivered by Canada**

#### **The Fight Against Systemic Racism – Future Policymaking for People of African Descent**

The United Nation's International Decade for People of African Descent provides an important framework to address the most pressing issues affecting Black Communities around the world.

For over 400 years, Black communities in Canada have played an instrumental role in all sectors of society and helped shape us into a more diverse, inclusive, and compassionate country. But systemic racism has created social, cultural and economic inequities that persist today. This entrenched, systemic racism and discrimination must be dismantled. Equal participation in all aspects of society requires both the removal of restrictive barriers and the adoption of affirmative, corrective measures. That is why Canada has developed a Federal Anti-Racism Strategy, which is also reflected in our foreign policy.

In recognition of the Decade and Permanent Forum, and as part of Canada's commitment to addressing systemic racism, significant policy developments and investments have been made and aim at balancing this inequity and enabling better outcomes for Black Communities in Canada. This includes the establishment a Black-led Philanthropic Endowment fund and the development of Canada's first ever Black Justice Strategy.

In addition, Canada has listened to populations with lived experience of racism and is developing a new, more comprehensive Anti-Racism Strategy, as well as a first ever Canadian action plan on combatting hate.

All States have a positive obligation to review policies, laws and regulations, which perpetuate racial discrimination, to legally prohibit racial discrimination and to report on the realization of rights.

Canada welcomes and supports the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent as an opportunity to build on the spirit of the Decade to continue to tackle anti-Black racism and systemic barriers faced by Black Communities.

We stand ready to share our experiences and learn from others on how best to achieve these goals, including the challenges and opportunities that data collection and reporting on results offer to the fight against systemic racism.