

Nyanchama Okemwa
Hand in Hand Against Racism in Belgium

Madam chair, distinguished guests, my siblings from the West, East, South and North of the globe.

I congratulate you for convening this second session of people of African descent that facilitates us with a platform to see each other as one and collectively reflect upon our shared narratives.

The Permanent Forum emanates from and is embedded in the Durban Declaration programme of actions. One of actions is the International Decade for People of African Descent that focusses on the themes: justice, recognition and development.

I second the call for a second decade since the current one is coming to an end next year without yielding any strategic or durable impact. I would, however, suggest the theme to include
=>restorative justice,
=>intersectional decolonisation
=>and commemorative remembrance

This is a golden opportunity to unravel and thereby address the colonial mindset that is foundational to afriphobia. It is an honor to be a part of such an important global platform of people of African descent,

Hand in Hand Against Racism urges the Permanent Forum to adopt a decolonial and intersectional lens in devising strategies to tackle human rights issues like Afriphobia, anti-black racism, reparatory justice, generational trauma, climate racism, extraction of human and natural resources, inhumane migration policies and many, many more.

We believe that a decolonial and intersectional perspective is crucial if we aim to succeed in making structural and durable changes for the betterment of our collective whole as well as that of future generations — just as our ancestors before us did on our behalf.

Collectively, we dismantle the yoke of Eurocentrism that compromises our ability to build upon the rich heritage of our ancestors' Pan-African activism. We need to learn, unlearn and relearn the persistent colonial impediments to our efforts in devising durable and structural strategies that guarantee the safety, freedom, quality of life, and livelihoods of people of African descent in the continent and across the global diaspora.

● THIS IS OUR LEGACY AS PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT EMANATING FROM THE CONTINENT AS WELL AS THE DIASPORA ●

● Forward ever ● Backward never ● Ubuntu forever ●