

## UN Women Statement

### Second Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Friday June 2, 2023,  
UN HQ CR 4

*(This statement was submitted and not delivered in person as UN Women yielded its time to enable Civil Society Organizations to take the floor)*

Thank you for the floor, Madame Chair. UN Women has appreciated the opportunity to work closely with members of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent in the past months and to participate actively in the Forum. We pledge to actively continue to do so.

- UN Women encourages the Permanent Forum to place special attention on the lasting and harmful effects of enslavement on women and girls of African descent in all aspects of its work. In particular, such attention should be clearly included in calls for reparatory justice for People of African Descent.
- In accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit's report, [Review of measures and mechanisms for addressing racism and racial discrimination in United Nations system organizations: managing for achieving organizational effectiveness](#), UN Women asks the Permanent Forum to urge all UN system organizations to comprehensively examine the extent to which a racial justice lens is incorporated into all its programmes, which includes systemic and structural racism in the global international system, of which the UN system is a part.
- During the second Forum on People for African Descent, UN Women hosted three side events, all of which sharply focused on the critical role played by artists and artistic and creative expression in the struggle for racial justice and gender equality, which is often underrecognized and underutilized. UN Women would like to draw the Forum's attention to this important element in changing the harmful norms and stereotype that drive racial and gender inequality.
  - As a recommendation to the Permanent Forum, which is a direct demand of civil society participants at one of these side events,<sup>1</sup> we ask that the Permanent Forum takes note of the importance of using this tool strategically in the struggle for racial justice("artivism"); and to
  - Call on Member States, UN System agencies, funds and programmes, and other partners to support the targeted use of artistic interventions in achieving Recognition, Justice and Development in the context of Decade for People of African Descent, noting that the creative arts are the first place that cuts are made in funding.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Call made during "Artful Rebellion: The Transformative Power of Artivism for People of African Descent"

