

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA AT THE 2ND SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM
ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, NEW YORK, 30 MAY – 2 JUNE, 2023**

**Madam Chair
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,**

Let me at the outset, congratulate you and members of your bureau on your appointment as the Chair of the 2nd Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

2. I would like to thank the President for organizing this important meeting under the theme: “Realizing the Dream: A United Nations Declaration on the Promotion, Protection, and full respect of human rights of People of African descent”.

Madam Chair

3. Nigeria appreciates the positive impact of the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and members of the commission over the years. It also recognizes the invaluable contributions of the Bureau and Member States, as well as relevant bodies of the United Nations system, National Human Rights Institutions, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations including Civil Society Organizations, experts, Human Rights mandate holders and the Special Rapporteur on the Permanent Forum on People of African. They have engaged in discussions and produced reports and recommendations leading to a political Declaration explicitly underscoring the human rights of peoples of African Descent and measures to enhance the promotion and protection in their rights and dignity globally.

4. People of African Descent are proportionately impacted by the burden of poverty driven by transatlantic slave trade, slavery, and colonialism. These have led to structural and institutional discrimination including, many human rights denying-actions such as segregation, limited access to education, other social services, and employment.

Madam Chair, Excellencies

5. Nigeria is concerned about the alarming manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia and other related intolerance against people of African descent. The problem manifests locally, nationally, and globally. As such, each level has clear responsibilities for restitution.

6. We are convinced that the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/314, which institutionalized the Permanent Forum for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent as well as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, help to

protect human rights of African people. It is fully in tandem with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and reaffirms the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and this Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination. It is promotive of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

7. We need to have disaggregated data, so that we can have better clarity on systemic racism and its causes and consequences and to be better able to monitor the effectiveness of policy measures. In this regard, member states are encouraged to use appropriate disaggregated data to ensure that policies are better designed and monitored for their inclusivity.

Excellencies

8. Nigeria notes with concern that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance targeted at people of African Descent are further exacerbated by the prevalence of war and conflict in Africa and around the world which led to the rise in internally displaced persons, refugees including illegal migrants who are facing inequality, marginalization, and stigmatization and discrimination by their hosts and in transit countries to a safe place. We encourage Member States to redouble concrete efforts to correct this situation and protect the human rights of people of African descent by taking required actions at appropriate levels, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to put an end to the scourge of racial and other human rights abuses.

9. It is imperative to state that perpetrators of racism and racial discrimination must be held accountable. Beyond the law enforcement approach, however, dealing with the foundations of this socio-political economy of racial discrimination in a holistic manner is crucial to finding lasting solutions to the situation. In this regard, and as this is a matter of universal importance, multilateral cooperation in dealing with the threats posed by racial and related intolerance.

Madam Chair

10. To conclude, we call on UN member states to consider innovative ways of destroying the structural foundations which have proven to be obstacles to the enjoyment by people of African descent of their human rights. Collaboration of member states and the United Nations is vital. Nigeria stands ready to work with all in this regard.

I thank you.