

Prepared Remarks by Dr. Helen Bond of Howard University (389 words)

Dear All,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide brief conclusionary remarks.

I have five recommendations that I would like to share with you regarding evidence-based approaches to addressing systemic and structural racism and data collection for People of African Descent.

1. The first recommendation is that we need a more inclusive mindset about collecting data on race and racial discrimination. It is not divisive, it is not racism, and it is not done to simply embarrass nations. The mindset that we need is that inclusive data can help governments measure impact and achieve more sustainable outcomes.

2. Data should be disaggregated by race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and other relevant categories. This is the only effective mechanism to ensure social protection and full participation of People of African Descent.

3. We need to collect meaningful data; data that is useful and relevant to the outcomes that we seek. We should understand the types of data we need to dismantle racism and discrimination.

4. Colleges and universities make great data partners. Let's work together.

5. Let's use the great tools that we have in place. One of those tools is the *Operational Guidelines on Inclusion of People of African Descent in the 2030 agenda* developed by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. These guidelines are intended to assist all stakeholders in a human rights-based approach to implementation of the SDGs. The Special Rapporteur noted that the Guidelines are underutilized.

The Operational Guidelines are framed by these key principles:

- A. **Integration**, that is they are to be used in support of the implementation of other framing documents and agendas.
- B. **Meaningful participation** of People of African Descent is key.
- C. **Increase visibility through data.** Use quantitative, qualitative, cultural and indigenous approaches to data.
- D. **Intersectionality:** People of African Descent face multiple and compounding forms of discrimination. Including the needs of women and girls of African Descent are critical.
- E. **Monitoring and accountability** are needed for repair and remedy. The Special Rapporteur noted that States tended to focus on age, gender and sometimes

migration status in their reporting, while racial and ethnic inequality is rarely mentioned in their Voluntary National Reviews.

This is unacceptable. Racial equality and non-discrimination must be prioritized in the implementation framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. Thank you.