

Thank you, Madame Chair, distinguished members of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, delegates, and comrades. My name is Nana Gyamfi, and I am the Immigration Committee Co-Chair of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) and the Executive Director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, also known as BAJI.

NCBL is the legal arm of the Black Liberation Movement. BAJI fights for the rights of Black migrants and African Americans to improve the conditions of Black communities by advancing racial justice and migrant rights.

Anti-Blackness is the driving force for global internal and border migration policies. As a Black Diaspora, our lives are intrinsically tied to each other, both directly and indirectly. If systems of racialized overcriminalization are allowed to persist then our freedom as Black people will continue to be denied.

Asylum is not supposed to be difficult, and international law make it clear, anyone who seeks asylum must be allowed to make a claim for asylum. Asylum seekers should be allowed into the country of their choice without arrest and imprisonment, and released to their community during their asylum process. We condemn the dangerous and failed deterrence policies of the "West". But even more egregious is the continued investment in militarizing and surveillance of their border.

NCBL and BAJI again recommend that this Permanent Forum demand Member States lead with compassion and develop a robust asylum processing system that offers broad and immediate humanitarian relief to incoming asylum seekers of African descent, including those seeking refuge from Sudan.

Thank you!

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