

Thank you, Madam Chair, good afternoon, I am Carolina Almeida, I am a representative of the Brazilian NGO, Geledés - Black Women institute and we'd like to say here today that the people of African descent have suffered for the past centuries from multiple forms of discrimination and nowadays we are still facing systemic discrimination through: physical and other types of violence, poverty, significant challenges in accessing education, employment and political participation. In this sense, the Covid-19 pandemic has added yet another layer of discrimination that brings together gender, race, class and access to health. During the pandemic, one out of 10 people deceased due to covid 19 was a Brazilian person. Brazil was the second country in which more people died, we had 7 hundred thousand deaths, and we know that there was sub-notification, it is estimated that this number is at least 30% higher. And even more terrifying is the fact that 70% of people deceased due to covid 19 in Brazil was a person of African descent. Many of these deaths would have been preventable if there had been public policies capable of boosting prevention and vaccination . But in Brazil, there is this ongoing project of extermination of us, People of African descent: if not directly by assassination, then it happens indirectly through negligence. To achieve the transformation of these dynamics into a more just and equitable reality, **the States must allocate significant budget to provide public health and other types of policies that guarantee racial equality, full and equitable programmes of prevention, education on health and treatment of people of African descent.**