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Structural and systemic racism sits at the crux of government failure to provide public health that people of African descent have reason to value. Throughout this gathering, I have been reminded of the structural and systemic barriers to data collection on people of African descent that will make it possible to demand policy change in this direction; this is a global problem rooted in cultural misalignment with our current policy-making frameworks. I urge this body to shift towards a cultural determinants of health framework that centers the shared values that people of African descent have stated matter to their health and well-being. What this looks like in practice is that as we gather and disaggregate the numeric, quantitative data that can prove the ongoing harms to our communities, we also lift the qualitative, culturally-embedded research practices of our cultural leaders: the musicians who capture the resilience, pains, and pursuits of the people; the theater artists who tell our stories in ways that give context to the numbers; the visual artists and filmmakers who synthesize our shared values into a coherent picture. This multimodal, culturally-embedded data is crucial to situating the disparate statistics which are needed in a longer arc of policy change that our communities have steadily resisted when its caused damaged, celebrated when they have aligned with our own values rather than the so-called solutions projected onto our communities from outside, and that we continue to push for even if they have yet to be realized. Health, well-being and intergenerational trauma is deeply tied to the cultural norms that shape what communities have reason to value, a concept central to human development and flourishing. I recommend that this body invest in multimodal research practices that will allow people of African descent to define health and well-being on our own terms. Achieving values-based outcomes for the health of people of African descent necessitates:

1. PFPAD must be adequately resourced by the United Nations and member states well-above the minimum \$5 million budget allocation to ensure support of culturally-embedded research practices whereby
2. The PFPAD mechanism derives its legitimacy from robust civil society engagement and participation, therefore
3. Increased funding for scholarships will ensure much broader civil society participation

in the mechanism - particularly participation of youth and elders- who can use new skills for the translational work of research to policy that must occur.

Increased funding well-above the \$5million budget allocation will make real the commitments made to racial justice, equity, and addressing the challenge of systemic and structural racism around the world.