

Madame Chair
Fellow Members of the Permanent Forum
Distinguished delegates
Civil society representatives
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Ladies, Gentlemen and Non-binary comrades

This world needs a politics of human dignity. A politics whose sole purpose is to create social systems, institutions, and practices that center, honor, protect and promote the inherent dignity of all human beings without discrimination. A politics that moves us beyond a politics of cynicism according to which it is fine if the rest of the world is in tatters as long as I, my family, my friends and my group are fine. A politics that reigns in the current devastation of the global economy on our climate and natural world and affirms that we instead need forms of domestic and international organization that honors the human dignity of everyone in this generation, the generations of our children, our grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great great great grandchildren.

As Agenda 2030 recognizes, transforming our world towards social, economic and environmental sustainable development will require systemic and structural transformations at both the domestic and international levels, greater equity among as well as within countries, and an ethos of global citizenship and leaving no one behind. In the face of global inequities among so-called developed and developing countries; that have been deeply shaped by histories and legacies of colonialism, enslavement, racial discrimination; and that are yet to be redressed—this Permanent Forum of People of African descent is calling for Global Reparatory Justice. Whereas Africans and people of African descent are among the most profoundly affected by histories of colonialism and enslavement; people of African descent remain among the most discriminated against across Europe, here in North America, Latin America and other parts of the world; and most of the so-called least developed countries are in Africa—this Permanent Forum of People of African Descent is calling for a global Pan-Africanism for Dignity, Justice and Peace. Dr King’s dream at the March on Washington 60 years ago is yet to be realized. Let’s all do what we can to make the most of this space. Black Lives Matter. Thank you.