

Minister Khera
Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
Geneva, Switzerland - April 16-19, 2024

Opening Remarks

Your excellencies, colleagues, members of the Permanent Forum, representatives of civil society,

I am Kamal Khera, the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities of Canada. Please allow me to express, on behalf of Canada, our gratitude in being able to join you on the occasion of the third session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

Since endorsing the UN Decade in 2018, the Government of Canada has committed up to \$860 million to Black-focused initiatives – from racial justice to entrepreneurship to economic dignity. We are also developing our Anti-Racism Strategy and Canada's first Action Plan on Combatting Hate.

We also, in February 2024, announced Canada's extension of our efforts under the UN Decade until 2028, to ensure that we celebrate a full decade and continue making transformative investments in Black-focused initiatives.

However, we know that there is still work to be done. Canada's fight against anti-Black racism is not over. Canada will continue to advance on recommendations from the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, as well as recommendations from Black communities across Canada. We will remain committed to a whole-of-government approach to continue to advance positive change and address issues affecting Black communities in Canada and globally.

Madam Chair,

We are all gathered here today because we are invested in strengthening the well-being of people of African descent.

J'espère que ces discussions seront la base d'un changement positif pour amplifier la voix des communautés noires et apporter la justice, l'équité et l'espoir pour les personnes d'ascendance africaine.

Merci. Thank you.