

RE: STATEMENTS TO THE PERMANENT FORUM

By: The Global Centre for Pluralism

4 – Adoption of the preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the 3rd session (Friday 19 April)

My name is Nicole Ciza and I have the pleasure to represent the Global Centre for Pluralism. We are an international non-profit organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, dedicated to dedicated to collaboratively fostering recognition and belonging for all through direct participation of marginalized communities around the world.

It is important to note the significance and value of the contributions that been made over the last several days through the Permanent Forum. Spaces such as these, established through a reputable international body such as the United Nations, create opportunities for co-learning and co-sharing that can turn the tide of inequality and injustice against people of African descent around the world. Only by working together as one on these troubling issues can we build rather than burn bridges to social, economic, and political equality for all.

Despite challenges and obstacles related to the first *International Decade for people of African Descent*, it is important to note that change is difficult and disruptive; as such, we must build on lessons learned and continue to leverage the progress made by government bodies, research communities, local communities, and UN agencies to reimagine diverse societies in a more equitable and pluralistic fashion.

We call on all Member States to adopt the preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the third session, and to ensure their commitment and accountability to building societies that are safe, just, and participative for people of African descent.

As such, we firmly urge the UN General Assembly to proclaim 2025-2035 as the *Second International Decade for people of African Descent* so that Member States and other stakeholders may continue to dedicate resources to the advancement of pluralism through the promotion of the human rights of people of African descent and be held accountable if they do not.