**UNODC’s inputs to the SG report on the “Implementation of the Programme of Activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent”**

*5. Please provide information on any new laws, regulations, policies and other relevant measures, including practices and initiatives, which have been undertaken to implement the programme of activities of the Decade at local, national, regional and international levels in 2022 and 2023.*

In 2022, UNODC, as a member of the United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, substantively contributed to the development of the “Guidance Note on Intersectionality, Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities”, supporting UN efforts to end discrimination, inequality and exclusion. The note encourages an intersectionality perspective in the context of policy development, programming and project implementation to strengthen UN system’s efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and strengthen the protection of minorities.

Furthermore, following the publication of [*Treatment and Care for People with drug use disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment*](https://www.unodc.org/documents/UNODC_WHO_Alternatives_to_conviction_or_punishment_ENG.pdf) in 2019, UNODC initiated a process of organizing informal consultations with Member States, researchers, international and regional organizations and civil society organizations for the identification of principles for non-custodial alternatives to conviction or punishment at each one of the different stages of the criminal justice process. The consultations were held in March 2021 on pre-arrest stage, in October 2021 on pre-trial stage, in May 2022 on non-custodial Measures at trial stage and in September 2022 on the identification of principles for non-custodial alternatives to conviction or punishment at post-trial stage. This process will culminate in a technical consultation in 2023 that aims to provide guidelines and/or tools for the collaboration of justice and health authorities on alternative measures to conviction or punishment, including for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature. This initiative is particularly valuable to promote and protect the rights of minorities, including people of African descent, as often drug conviction and punishment policies disproportionately affect these groups.