**Canada’s Input to OHCHR Questionnaire on for the preparation of the 2023 report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent (pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 69/16, para. 29(b))**

1. Please provide information on measures that have been undertaken at local, national, regional and international levels to address past legacies, including enslavement, the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans, colonialism, apartheid and genocide, with a view to achieving reparatory justice for people of African descent.

Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and the promotion of them is an integral part of Canada's history, policies and constructive engagement in the world. Canada is strongly committed to doing more on human rights, both at home and abroad, and in this spirit, has undertaken several measures to address past legacies in order to advance the rights of People of African Descent.

For example, the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island (PEI) has been at the forefront of addressing past legacies and systemic racism. This year (2023), PEI’s Executive Council Office will release its first Anti-Racism Action Plan. The plan highlights the role that the Government of Prince Edward Island plays in addressing systemic racism and provides concrete measures to address direct and systemic racism. This plan also includes measures to encourage non-governmental organizations and the community to take steps to reduce incidents of racism and was developed using equity-centered, intersectional engagement to prioritize people from historically marginalized groups and communities.

Last year, on 6 May 2022, the *Emancipation Day Proclamation Act* came into force in PEI, making the first day of August every year throughout the province known as “Emancipation Day”, with the legislation officially recognizing and acknowledging the history and legacy of slavery in PEI. In previous years, such as June 2020, a petition was tabled in the Legislative Assembly of PEI, initiated by the Black Cultural Society (BCSPEI), seeking an extensive review of all legislation and policies, applying an inclusive and racially-focused lens, with the immediate focus was on education, healthcare, well-being, and job security. This led to the creation of the province’s first-ever Anti-Racism Policy Advisor position and Anti-Racism Table, an external advisory board to Government, in 2021. The Anti-Racism Policy Advisor created the Anti-Racism Impact Assessment tool (ARIA) to review policies and legislation through an Anti-Racism lens. To date, the tool has been used to review the *Residential Tenancy Act*, *the Mental Health Act*, and other programs to ensure that the impacts on racialized and Indigenous communities are highlighted and addressed. Finally, PEI’s Executive Council Office will distribute a one-time grant of $100,000 to support successful applicants with anti-racism activities that benefit and impact racialized, Indigenous, and intersections within equity-deserving communities in PEI.

At the international level, Canada recognized the UN International Decade for People of African Descent in 2018 and welcomed the establishment of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent in 2022, where the Canadian Minister for Housing and Diversity and Inclusion delivered a pre-recorded statement highlighting that the Permanent Forum offers an opportunity to build on the spirit of the Decade to continue to tackle anti-Black racism and systemic barriers faced by Black Communities. Canada will continue to closely follow the Forum’s activities, with a view to identifying further actions that can be taken internationally in support of the rights of People of African Descent.

1. Please provide information on the effective participation of people of African descent and their communities in the design, implementation and evaluation of the above-mentioned measures.

For the measures undertaken by PEI, as outlined above, the effective participation of people of African descent and their communities was and is encouraged in the various stages and work of the initiatives.

* The Executive Council Office conducted public engagement sessions to inform the Anti-Racism Action Plan to ensure that a community-generated vision and strategy informed the development of this Action Plan and to ensure that it is in touch with the current priorities, needs, interests and experiences of people and communities who have been historically, and who continue to be, marginalized across society.
* The Anti-Racism Policy Advisor, in collaboration with the Interministerial Women’s Secretariat, Indigenous Relations Secretariat, Climate Change, and Information Management and Information Technology Considerations, developed a policy lens presentation currently being presented to policy and leadership staff in all government departments to illustrate the benefits of using an equity lens, including anti-racism and Indigenous policy lenses, when developing policies. This training will be included in the Public Service Commission training calendar for individuals and departments to access in the future.
* PEI’s Anti-Racism Table includes members who are of African descent and engages and provides feedback and recommendations based on updates and input from the community regarding racism or discriminatory practices when advising the Government.
1. Please provide information on integration of an intersectional approach in the design, implementation and evaluation of the above-mentioned measures.

Kindly refer to answers in question 2, which overlap with this question.

1. Please indicate any lessons learnt and challenges in relation to efforts towards achieving reparatory justice for people of African descent.

While PEI is making significant progress in addressing systemic racism at the provincial level through the development of tools and resources, additional steps are required to enforce the aforementioned initiatives and direct anti-racism policies and legislation, as well as ongoing capacity building, are required to effectively carry out the Action Plan's work. At the same time, it necessary to provide more training – especially to those in leadership positions – on the foundations of anti-racism and the benefits of incorporating an anti-racism lens into policy and legislation development.

1. 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.

PEI is not alone at the provincial level in its efforts to implement initiatives in the spirit of the International Decade for People of African Descent. In the Canadian province of New Brunswick, in an unprecedented move and as a signal of concerted effort to discuss systemic racism, a Systemic Racism Commissioner was appointed in 2021 with a one-year mandate to examine the extent and scope of systemic racism in the province. The Commissioner’s final report, including recommendations to address systemic racism, was submitted to the government at the end of 2022. In 2022, the provincial Government of Manitoba also passed acts or proclamations that address the programme of activities of the Decade: On 1 December 2022, the *Black History Month Act* was passed, which recognizes the significant contributions made by people of African descent to the development and prosperity of the province in areas such as education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development, politics and human rights. In July 2022, the month of July was proclaimed as Caribbean Heritage Month.

In addition, there are several government-supported community-led initiatives in Manitoba that implement the programme of activities of the Decade. Through the Ethnocultural Community Support Program and the Arts, Sport and Culture and Community Fund, 23 grants were issued to 16 community organizations in support of projects led by African and Black communities. These projects included anti-racism educational programming in Francophone public schools, cultural and heritage celebrations, facility upgrades, and cultural programming for community youth. Through operational support to Sport Manitoba, allowing for staff participation in the Advisory Committee, and with a one-time grant of $24,470, the province contributed to the Anti-Racism in Sport Campaign led by Immigration Partnership Winnipeg. The campaign seeks to disrupt all levels of racism, from micro-aggressions to systemic racism, through a multifaceted approach that includes: a research project, junior high school presentations, training for sport stakeholders, a public awareness campaign, and an Anti-Racism in Sport Accord. Through the Arts, Sport and Culture in Community Fund, the National Screen Institute of Canada was granted funding support for a skills-training program for newcomers.

Finally, in the province of Nova Scotia, the Province released an Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, titled *Count Us In*, in 2019. It outlined specific actions and priorities intended to support the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of African Nova Scotians. The Action Plan provides a framework for government to address the issues and concerns facing African Nova Scotians, advance human rights, and create partnerships and opportunities with African Nova Scotians, the community and government to address the inequalities in all facets of our society. Community input was sought on various elements of the Action Plan, including through community consultation sessions that the government conducted in collaboration with the African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition and the Association of Black Social Workers, as part of developing an African Nova Scotian Justice Plan. Recent initiatives under the Action Plan include a provincial ceremony commemorating Emancipation Day, and a government investment of $4.1 million in the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute.