**Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

**Contribution to the 2024 report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent**

* GIEE contribution to the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade:

Following the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and the adoption of its programme of activities, the Group of Independent Eminent Experts welcomed the greater attention given to the rights of people of African descent. They also reiterated, on a number of occasions, that the implementation of the International Decade and its programme of activities was an integral part of the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, noting that a great majority of its paragraphs were devoted to issues of concern to people of African descent.

Throughout the years, the Group of Independent Eminent Experts has ensured to invite experts of African descent, including former fellows of OHCHR’s fellowship programme for people of African descent, to participate in the thematic discussions held during its annual sessions. In doing so, the Group guaranteed that the specific experiences and perspectives of people of African descent would be reflected and addressed in its discussions.

Finally, the Group of Independent Eminent Experts participated in a consultation on the establishment of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and sent recommendations to the co-facilitators of the resolution about the format and modalities of the Forum.

* Concrete recommendations for the continued protection and promotion of the rights of people of African descent after the conclusion of the Decade:

To reaffirm the importance of the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which, among other, explicitly recognizes that people of African descent were victims of colonialism and continue to be victims of its consequences and that they have for centuries been victims of racism, racial discrimination and enslavement and of the denial by history of many of their rights;

To ensure that the follow-up mechanisms of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as other UN anti-racism mechanisms and human rights mechanisms, specifically address the situation of and issues faced by people of African in line with their mandates;

To ensure the effective participation of people of African descent, including experts, in the sessions of and other events organized by the UN anti-racism and human rights mechanisms; and

To ensure the inclusion of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the agenda of the United Nations and its programmes, including special events and conferences such as the Summit for the Future, and ensure that the experiences and perspectives of people of African descent are reflected, including by inviting people of African descent to participate in the discussions.