

**Thematic Discussion on the Impact of the Global Economic and Financial Architecture and Mechanisms on People of African Descent with the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America
May 3, 2023**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Since this is my first time taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you and wish you all the best in your new position.

I have been following with interest the dialogue on economic empowerment. The United States shares your concern regarding the nexus between race and economic empowerment and its implications for the full enjoyment of human rights by people of African descent. We call for renewed efforts to address these issues. I would like to highlight a few things that the United States Government is doing to advance economic empowerment for people of African descent.

The Biden Administration continues to advance an ambitious, whole-of-government approach to racial equity and support for underserved communities. In collaboration with civil society, the private sector, and state and local governments, we have acted to counter discrimination and to advance equal opportunity by investing in rural and urban communities in ways that mitigate economic displacement, expand access to capital, preserve housing and neighborhood affordability, root out discrimination in the housing market, build community wealth, and advance equity in health.

The United States also promotes equity and economic empowerment throughout the world, including for people of African descent and other marginalized communities, through our foreign policy, foreign assistance, and bilateral financing. As an example, the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is helping One Acre Fund support smallholder farmers in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania, many of whom live in difficult-to-reach remote areas.

One Acre employs more than 8,000 local workers to provide seed and fertilizer on credit, as well as training on best practices for growing and storing food. This results in higher yields for farmers, helping them become financially independent. DFC also supported One Acre Fund in helping farmers increase their resilience to climate change.

This effort is one of many as part of the Biden Administration's commitment to [embedding equity into the fabric of federal policymaking](#).

I thank you.