

Thank you, Madame Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning, everyone. Many thanks to the Members of the Permanent Forum for allowing me to share my recommendations with you in this session.

My recommendations concern 4 articles as found in the Chairperson's Preparatory Document for the Draft UN Declaration on the Promotion and Full Respect of the Human Rights of People of African Descent, as they relate to the lack of mention of enforcement. The articles in question are 1, 5, 15 and 26.

In Article 1 the word indigenous needs to be urgently added to the definition of People of African Descent in so doing, clarifying the centrality of Continental Africans to the forum and its remit but also allowing the borrowing of article 37 from the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that calls for enforcement of treaties

Article 5 needs to become Article 2 so that recognition of said rights are prioritised in the Declaration.

We also need a new article 4 that outlines how those rights will be protected and enforced since the Forum is supposed to be a step towards a legally binding instrument on the promotion of our human rights.

Article 15 about reparations currently has no legal foundations without an explanatory article 4 setting out the enforcements of our rights. Any calls for states to build systems of redress to racial inequalities are marred by the "lack of legal and other institutional support mechanisms" that should be introduced in this new article 4

Finally, Article 26 needs to be an elaboration of a new article 4 because it currently reads as an insurance policy against change instead of adding the necessary detail about how our rights should be protected and enforced by a future legally binding instrument.