

## **African Group Statement**

### **Second Session of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, 30 May- 2 June 2023**

**Distinguished Delegates,  
Excellencies,  
Mr President**

1. Allow me, on behalf of the African Group, to thank you for convening the second session of the Permanent Forum on the People of African Descent.
2. The Group congratulates you and other members of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent for your continued commitment in pursuing the mandate of this forum.

**Mr. President,**

3. Colonialism and enslavement of Africans and people of African descent have had a negative political and socio-economic impact on communities and countries around the world. Building a future of justice requires mending an unjust past. The African Union recognizes the African Diaspora, which includes people of African descent as its sixth region.
4. The African Group reiterates that this permanent forum should fully and firmly align with the pillars of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) and to the relevant AU Instruments. We believe that

these, provide robust frameworks for addressing past injustices of racism, slavery, apartheid and colonialism.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

5. We all have a responsibility to engage in solidarity, show strong political will, take concrete actions and include voices of people of African descent in accelerating actions for racial justice and equality.
6. The African Group is pleased with those countries that took legislative measures to effectively combat racism. More importantly, we thank all that continue to respect and appreciate the knowledge of people of African descent including by recognizing and promoting their culture, heritage and their developmental contributions in their economies and in humanity.

**Mr President, Excellencies,**

7. The African Group reiterates its commitment to the elaboration of the political declaration on people of African descent due to mark the ending of the international decade of people of African descent.

**Mr President**

8. I will conclude that: that “Throughout history, it has always been the inaction of those who could have acted”,... “the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most”, It is the view of the African Group that we should work together to implement the international decade of the people of African descent and the provisions within the DDPA in improving the lives and well-being of Africans and people of African descent.

I thank you all for your attention!