



**General Statement by H.E. Ms Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of South Africa at the Second Session of the Permanent Forum on  
People of African Descent  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**30 May – 02 June 2023**

**Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

South Africa congratulates the Chairperson for convening the Second Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and welcomes it for the first time, in New York. My delegation further wishes to align itself with the statement of the African Group.

It is no coincidence that this Second Session takes place during Africa Month and only a few days after Africa Day during which we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the African Union, which recognises the African Diaspora as its sixth region.

Chairperson,

The overarching theme of the Second Session, *“Realizing the dream: A United Nations Declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent”* is apt and reminiscent of another important declaration - the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) established in 2001.

Allow me to recall that the General Assembly in its resolution 76/226 of December 2021, mandated the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the Effective Implementation

of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) to draft the United Nations Declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of People of African Descent.

Chairperson,

This testifies to centrality of the DDPA to the creation of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. Consequently, it is our duty to fiercely guard against the detractors of Durban who attempt to weaken the collective cause and plight of people of African Descent by dissociating this Forum from the DDPA and other follow-up mechanisms.

As we deliberate this week on the on five thematic panels on global reparatory justice, Pan-Africanism, transnational migration, data-collection for recognising and addressing systemic and structural racism, and health, well-being and intergenerational trauma, let us recall that we have the privilege of doing so during the International Decade of People of African Descent.

My Delegation wishes you fruitful deliberations with impactful outcomes. As in the inaugural session in Geneva, we are honoured and remain committed to contribute to and advance the importance of People of African Descent.

I thank you.