

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**VIDEO MESSAGE TO THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PERMANENT
FORUM OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT**

Geneva, 16 April 2024

Excellencies, Distinguished guests,

This third session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, human rights defenders and more at a critical moment for equality and racial justice.

We celebrate the invaluable achievements and contributions of people of African descent across the range of human endeavour, from political and civil rights struggles around the world, to science, technology, industry, literature, music and all the arts, and more.

At the same time, racial discrimination and inequality continue – based on centuries of enslavement and colonialism.

By establishing this Permanent Forum, the international community demonstrated its commitment to addressing these injustices.

Now we must build on that momentum to drive meaningful change – by ensuring that people of African descent enjoy the full and equal realization of their human rights;

By stepping up efforts to eliminate racism and discrimination – including through reparations;

And by taking steps towards the full inclusion of people of African descent in society as equal citizens.

Together, let's use this Permanent Forum to continue building a future of human rights, dignity, equality, and justice for all people of African descent.

Thank you.
