



Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva  
Mission Permanente de la Finlande, Genève

**3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent**

**16-19 April 2024**

**General Debate**

**Statement by Finland**

Chairperson,

Finland aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. We welcome the convening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

Finland is firmly committed to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in all their forms and in all sectors of society, both online and offline. Our commitment to the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination is unwavering. Everyone has the right to enjoy all human rights and a life in dignity.

Fighting racism requires constant work both internationally and nationally. Also in Finland, we still have a way to go. Studies show that persons belonging to ethnic minorities experience discrimination in education and working life.

The Government of Finland issued in August a statement to Parliament on promoting equality, gender equality and non-discrimination in Finnish society. The statement contains a variety of measures aiming to promote equality and combat racism. The Government has set up a project to oversee the implementation of the measures. A knowledge base on discrimination and racism is also being compiled to support the implementation.

In March, the Prime Minister chaired a roundtable discussion with a focus on strengthening equality in working life. The Government will start a campaign to fight racism in late summer and calls on all sectors of the society to work for equality and ending racism.

We work towards that every child and every adult in Finland is able to trust that they will be treated fairly and have equal opportunities to study and work, take part in society and pursue success regardless of their background.

In this regard, we will follow with interest and learn from the discussions of this important forum.

Thank you.