



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY GHANA DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE ON
THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN
DESCENT, GENEVA, 16 - 19 APRIL 2024**

Madam Chairperson,

Excellencies, Representatives of Governments, Academic Institutions, Private Sector, Civil Society, distinguished ladies, and gentlemen.

Like others, we also welcome the convening of this important meeting. We commend the remarkable work done by the Permanent Forum, which has helped to place issues affecting people of African descent at the front and centre of global discussions.

On behalf on the Government and people of Ghana, I affirm our strong support and solidarity with the members of the Forum and the legitimate objectives it seeks to promote.

We are particularly pleased that this meeting is happening at a time of growing momentum spearheaded by ordinary citizens, social movements, and governments across the globe to correct the historical injustices done against Africa and people of African descent.

Coming less than 6 months after the recent Accra Reparations Conference, held from 14 to 17 November 2023, we are hopeful and remain confident that the conversations that would take place here over the next few days, and the concrete outcomes that we envisage, would serve as yet another veritable tool to advance our collective and long-standing efforts to address the inequities in the international economic and political order.

Distinguished Members of the Forum,

We stand at a critical crossroad in our quest for restorative justice and our valid demand for the payment of reparations. As we keenly look forward to commencing the Second International Decade for People of African Descent, which correctly focuses our attention on addressing the vestiges of racism, xenophobia and discrimination, we would need to pursue strategic activities that would help to mobilize our collective energies and capacities. In this context, we must continue to stand in unity, work to strengthen partnerships and foster inclusive participation by all segments of our population, especially women and the youth.

While we recognize that some commendable progress has been recorded, we are also mindful that simply acknowledging the wrongs of the colonial era in Africa and returning stolen African treasures and artefacts is not enough. As stated in the Accra Proclamation on Reparations, Ghana reiterates ‘that the fulfilment of reparations is a moral as well as a legal imperative rooted in principles of justice, human rights and human dignity, and that the claim for reparations represents a concrete step towards remedying historical wrongs and fostering healing among the people of Africa and people of African descent’.



Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, let me assure this meeting of Ghana's unwavering commitment to supporting all initiatives in pursuit of realizing the objectives of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which represents an important compass for us on this journey. We will continue to contribute meaningfully to the work of the United Nations, the African Union, CARICOM, Latin American States, and the African diaspora and all other regions in the world in sustaining the momentum of protecting the dignity of all human beings.

I thank you.