

Honorable members of the Permanent Forum, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I stand before you as the Executive Director of Black Buildup, not only to echo the voices of those who have been marginalized but to amplify them with pride and resilience. It is our collective honor to represent our vibrant community, a community proud of its rich heritage and unwavering spirit.

As we convene here today, let us remind ourselves of the Forum's core mission—to not only provide a consultative mechanism but to be a catalyst for real change in the lives of people of African descent. Since its inception, the resolutions and recommendations from this esteemed body have aimed to address the critical issues of inequality and injustice. However, while these resolutions carry the weight of our collective aspirations, they must evolve beyond mere recommendations. They must become actionable commitments by all stakeholders involved.

Our history, marked by slavery, colonialism, and ongoing exploitation, has not deterred our spirit; rather, it has fortified it. We stand unbroken, driven by the legacy of our ancestors and the unwavering strength of our communities. We are African descendants navigating a world that must acknowledge not just our past struggles but also our potential and our undeniable contributions to global culture and economies.

In this decade, recognized internationally as the Decade for People of African Descent, we must move from recognition to realization. We must see the enforcement of policies that protect our rights and promote our welfare, ensuring that no recommendation fades into oblivion.

Therefore, let it be known—I am Black, I am African, I am proud, and I am unbreakable. Together, let's build a future where these words resonate through the actions and commitments of all members of the global community.

Thank you.