

Third Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum for People of African Descent; 16 – 19

April 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

Comments for Main Session: Education: Overcoming Systemic Racism and Historic Harm

Good day.

I am Hashim Gibrill, a Pan Africa elder. I bring expressions of solidarity to the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent from Clark Atlanta University, a proud Historically Black College and University in Atlanta, Georgia, USA where I serve as the Global Policy Coordinator for the W.E.B. Du Bois Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy, and teach in the Dr. Mack Henry Jones Department of Political Science. I am joined in these expressions by my University President George T. French, University Provost Charlene Gilbert, Department Chair Kurt Young, and Policy Center colleagues Joseph Jones, Nykia Greene-Young, and Carla Robinson. These academic leaders and colleagues have facilitated my presence with you in Geneva. I also bring solidarity from the Walter Rodney Foundation established in Atlanta under the leadership of Dr. Patricia Rodney. The scholarship and activism of Du Bois and Rodney make clear how data driven, purposeful research, teaching, public policy advocacy, and political activism can come together to enlighten, inspire, and drive our efforts towards historical understanding and the pursuit for reparative justice. Currently our Du Bois Policy Center pursues this agenda through research, Pan-African and South-South policy partnerships, student exchanges, resource generation and sharing, and liberatory public policy evaluation and advocacy.

We live in an era of the historical denial of the ravages, rape, and social and psychological harm of the human trafficking and enslavement of African peoples and the imperialist despoilation of the African continent; an era of the rise and support of openly racist political movements and

parties; an era of the steady overturning and elimination of laws and public policies intended to redress and address past and current racial inequities; and an era of political and ideological attacks on academics and activists who dare to speak truth to power. At Clark Atlanta University we will continue to add our voice as scholars, educators, and activists to the efforts of the Permanent Forum to confront the historical distortion and present the Truth to our students, who must and will take up the burden and triumphs of the generational struggles of African peoples.

Recommendations:

- 1. The next session of the Permanent Forum should take place on the continent of Africa where too many of our people flee – if they are able – the devastations of predatory governance, endless conflicts, rape and pillage, genocide, and ecocide.**
- 2. We must continue to build a global community of scholars and activists who will pursue data driven research to understand and document both the diverse and common experiences of African peoples wherever we reside and on this basis shape public policy frameworks. This is in the spirit of the history and legacies of the Pan African conferences and congresses of the past.**
- 3. We should be certain to include Black Europe in our discussions and educational curricula regarding the African Diaspora.**
- 4. We support the call for designated youth representation on the deliberative and decision-making bodies of the Permanent Forum of People of African descent.**

Much remains to be done in the pursuit of documenting the historical harm and confronting current day racism experienced by People of African Descent. *A luta continua.* Thank you for this opportunity to briefly address the Permanent Forum.