

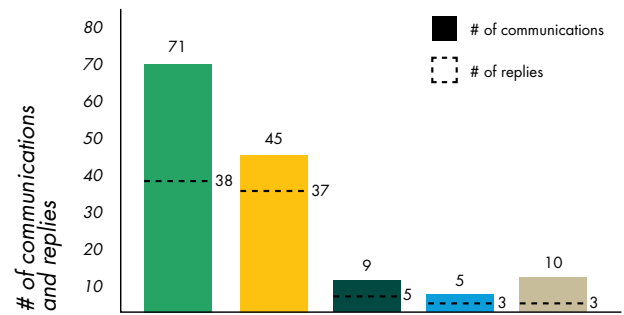
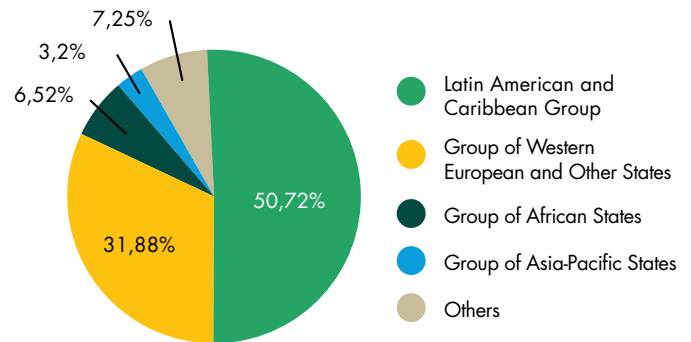
The [United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent](#) was established in 2002 by the Commission on Human Rights as part of a strategy for the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to study the racial discrimination faced by people of African descent. Twenty years have passed since the establishment of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.

The Working Group has offered important leadership and analyses globally in the fight to combat racism since its inception. In its report to the Human Rights Council at its 54th session ([A/HRC/54/71](#)) the Working Group encapsulates some of the most important work of the mandate and makes recommendations to stakeholders towards a more adequate support to continue their task including in the context of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Communications [\(Link\)](#)

From 1 January 2013 until 30 June 2023, the Working Group sent over 100 communications, often jointly with other special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Of those communications, 50.72 per cent were sent to States in the Latin American and Caribbean Group, 31.88 per cent to the Group of Western European and Other States, 6.52 per cent to the Group of African States and 3.2 per cent to the Group of Asia-Pacific States. The remaining 7.25 per cent were sent to other stakeholders, including private businesses. The communications, concerning approximately 901,206 alleged victims, are available to the public online. Governments have replied to 63 per cent of the Working Group's communications. The replies are also available online.

Communications sent

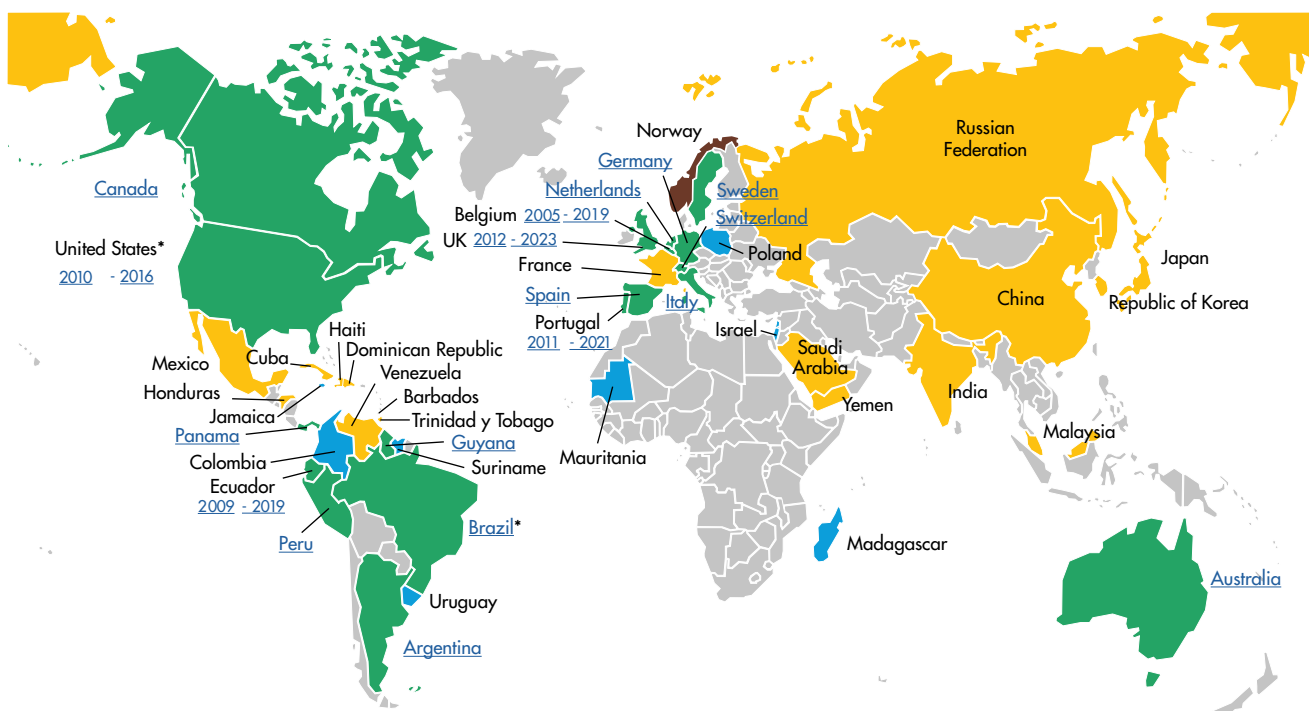


Country visits [\(Link\)](#)

Since 2002, the Working Group has conducted 23 country visits, including 5 follow up visits, at the invitation of Governments and under the terms of reference of the special procedures. The Working Group has visited Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, Guyana, Italy, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Panama, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States.



(*) Follow-up visit requested



Thematic reports [\(Link\)](#)

Year	Document symbol
2023	A/HRC/54/67 Economic empowerment of people of African descent
2022	A/77/232 Consolidated with A/HRC/51/54
2022	A/HRC/51/54 Children of African descent
2021	A/HRC/48/78 Environmental justice, the climate crisis and people of African descent
2021	A/76/302 The Urgency of Now: Systemic Racism and the opportunities of 2021 Annex
2020	A/75/275 Consolidated with A/HRC/45/44
2020	A/HRC/45/44 COVID-19, systemic racism and global protests
2019	A/74/274 Role of negative racial stereotypes and the stereotyping of people of African descent in perpetuating racially biased decision-making, racial disparities and racial injustice
2019	A/HRC/42/59 Data for racial justice
2018	A/73/228 Consolidated with A/HRC/39/69
2018	A/HRC/39/69 Framework for a declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent
2017	A/72/319 Consolidated with A/HRC/36/60
2017	A/HRC/36/60 Leaving no one behind: people of African descent and the Sustainable Development Goals
2016	A/71/297 Annual report of activities
2016	A/HRC/33/61 Interlinkages between recognition, justice and development
2015	A/70/309 Annual report of activities

Year	Document symbol
2015	A/HRC/30/56 Development and people of African descent
2014	A/69/318 Annual report of activities
2014	A/HRC/27/68 People of African descent: access to justice
2013	A/HRC/24/52 Recognition through Education, Cultural Rights and Data Collection
2012	A/HRC/21/60 draft Programme of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent (2013-2022)
2011	A/HRC/18/45 The situation of people of African descent in the context of the International Year for People of African Descent 2011
2010	A/HRC/14/18 Structural discrimination against people of African descent
2009	A/HRC/10/66 The situation of children of African descent
2008	A/HRC/7/36 Contributions to the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference
2007	A/HRC/4/39 Racial profiling
2006	E/CN.4/2006/19 Mainstreaming the situation of people of African descent in plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals; the empowerment of women of African descent; the role of political parties in the integration of people of African descent into political life and decision-making processes
2005	E/CN.4/2005/21 Racism and employment, racism and health, and racism and housing
2004	E/CN.4/2004/21 Administration of justice, the media, and the topics of access to education and information technology
2003	E/CN.4/2003/21

Data generated from the Universal Human Rights Index database shows that, over the course of the Universal Periodic Review cycles completed thus far, a total of 236 recommendations relevant to the work of the Working Group were addressed to the 33 States under review.

Among the recommendations were a focus on the overall themes of racial discrimination (21.6 per cent) and equality and non-discrimination (21.4 per cent), with significant linkages to legal and institutional reform (10.3 per cent) and the administration of justice and fair trials (8.2 per cent), with somewhat less attention to the constitutional and legislative framework (5.3 per cent). Recommendations on the right to education are represented in 3.7 per cent of the recommendations, access to justice and remedy also in 3.7 per cent and the right to physical and moral integrity in 3.2 per cent. The majority of recommendations referring to persons of African descent were linked to Sustainable Development Goal 10, on reducing inequality within and among countries (44.2 per cent), and to Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (39.3 per cent), with a greater range of related Goals in smaller percentages, including Goal 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (5.8 per cent), indicating some attention to intersectionality.

All recommendations are available from the Universal Human Rights Index database at <https://uhri.ohchr.org/en/search-human-rights-recommendations>.

Membership

The Working Group consists of five independent experts appointed on the basis of equitable geographical representation. Since its establishment, members have hailed from Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, India, Jamaica, North Macedonia, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, the United States of America and Zambia.

Since 2002, 12 women and 11 men have been appointed to the Working Group.

UPR Recommendations -
People of African Descent

