United Nations Human Rights
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PERMANENT FORUM ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Report of the regional consultation for Spanish-speaking Latin America on the draft United Nations declaration on the on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent

Bogota, Colombia

19 September 2025

I. Executive summary

The Permanent Forum held its second regional consultation with civil society from Spanish speaking Latin American countries to gather inputs to feed the draft Declaration. Discussions centred on systemic and structural racism; reparatory justice; collective rights; sustainable development; and emerging human rights concerns for people of African descent in the region.

Participants underscored that **systemic and structural racism** remains the central factor shaping the lived realities of people of African descent, resulting in persistent inequalities in access to education, health care, housing, employment, land, justice, political participation, environmental protection, and public services. They recommended that the draft Declaration: (i) explicitly recognize systemic, and structural, and racism, as well as intersecting forms of discrimination; (ii) affirm States' obligations to prevent, sanction, and remedy racism; (iii) ensure data disaggregated by race or ethnic origin; (iv) prohibit racial profiling and discriminatory law enforcement practices; (v) ensure the effective participation of people of African descent in decision-making; and (vi) recognize and address environmental racism.

On **reparatory justice**, participants stressed that the enduring legacies of enslavement and colonialism require comprehensive and multidimensional responses. Key recommendations included: (i) recognition of the right to comprehensive reparations for people and communities of African descent; (ii) preservation and restitution of historical memory and cultural heritage; (iii) inclusion of land and territorial restitution as central components of reparations; (iv) the establishment of national reparation mechanisms and funds; and (v) incorporation of gender responsive and intersectional approaches.

Regarding **collective rights,** participants affirmed that people of African descent constitute Peoples with collective identities, territorial ties, and distinct cultural systems that warrant recognition under international human rights law. They recommended (i) explicit recognition of people of African descent as Peoples and collective rights holders; (ii) affirmation of the right to self-determination; (iii) recognition of collective rights to land, marine and coastal territories, and natural resources; (iv) guarantees of free, prior, and informed consent; (v) protection of Afro-descendant governance and justice systems; and (vi) safeguards for cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, languages, and collective intellectual property.

On **sustainable development,** participants highlighted that racism produces and perpetuates economic inequalities. They called for (i) the integration of ethnic-racial and gender perspectives into national development plans and budgets; (iii) adequate budgetary allocations for public policies targeting communities of African descent; (iv) elimination of discriminatory labour practices and protection of workers against exploitation; (v) support for food sovereignty, traditional production systems, and sustainable livelihoods; (vi) establishing differentiated indicators to monitor Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress in the territories of people of African descent; and (vii) guaranteeing equitable access to international development and climate financing.

Finally, participants raised concerns about **emerging and pressing human rights concerns**, including racialized policing, discriminatory justice systems and migration regimes; bias in AI; harmful media representation; and the disproportionate impact of climate change on the territories of people of African descent. Recommendations included: (i) prohibiting racial profiling, excessive use of force, and militarization; (ii) ensuring independent oversight mechanisms for law enforcement bodies; (iii) protecting migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees of African descent from discriminatory practices; (iv) recognizing the right to algorithmic justice and regulating AI to avoid racial bias; (v) supporting the cultural expressions and community media of people of African descent; and (vi) ensuring meaningful participation in climate governance and access to climate finance.

II. Background

As outlined in General Assembly resolution 75/314 of August 2021, the Permanent Forum was tasked with giving consideration to the elaboration of a draft United Nations Declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent. Subsequently, General Assembly resolution 76/226 of December 2021 invited the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent to contribute to the elaboration of such declaration.

Drawing on its mandate to serve as "a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders" and "a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent," the Permanent Forum convened its second regional consultation for Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America to gather input, feedback, and insights from people of African descent on the forthcoming UN declaration on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent. This consultation built on the first regional consultation, held for the CARICOM region in Bridgetown, Barbados, on 12 December 2024.

The consultation aimed to ensure that the voices and experiences of people of African descent in Latin America, including women, LGBTQI+ persons, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, and others, are reach States negotiating the text of the Declaration. States are encouraged to heed their calls and craft an instrument that truly represents their aspirations and respond to their needs.

III. Introduction

On 19 September 2025, the Permanent Forum held a one-day consultation with 70 civil society participants from 16 Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America,[1] with a view to solicit contributions to the draft Declaration on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent. Discussions focused on five key areas in which contributions were sought, including: addressing systemic and structural racism; reparatory justice for histories and legacies of colonialism, enslavement, apartheid and genocide; collective rights for peoples of African descent; sustainable development and increasing equality within and among countries; and pressing and emerging human rights concerns, such as artificial intelligence, climate change and environmental injustice and the reform of the international economic order.

This report outlines the conclusions and key recommendations drawn from both the written contributions of participants and the discussions held during the consultation day.

IV. Key takeaways

1. Recognizing and addressing systemic and structural racism

Participants stressed that systemic and structural racism shapes the lives of people of African descent in Latin America. Racism is not limited to individual prejudice or isolated

[1] Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

discriminatory acts; it is embedded in institutions, laws, public policies, economic systems, cultural narratives, and social practices that reproduce racial hierarchies and exclusion across generations.

In the region, systemic and structural racism manifests through persistent inequalities in access to education, health, housing, employment, land, justice, political participation, and public services. These inequalities are reinforced by colonial legacies that normalized the dehumanization of people of African descent and relegated them to positions of social, economic, and political marginality. The continued denial by many States of the existence of structural racism further entrenches these inequalities and obstructs meaningful reform.

Statistical invisibility was highlighted as one of the most pervasive expressions of structural racism in Latin America. Despite some advances in specific countries, participants shared that the absence, inconsistency, or inadequacy of self-identification of people of African descent in censuses, surveys, and administrative records prevents the accurate measurement of disparities and obstructs evidence-based public policy. Some participants described this invisibility as a form of *ethnocide*, as it erases the presence, needs, and contributions of people of African descent from official recognition. Where data exists, it is often underutilized or disconnected from policy design and budgetary allocation.

Participants highlighted that structural racism operates in an intersectional manner. Women, children, youth, older persons, migrants, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ persons of African descent experience compounded forms of discrimination that exacerbate vulnerability and exclusion. Gendered racism manifests in labour exploitation, wage gaps, informal work, domestic labour, obstetric violence, and heightened exposure to sexual and gender-based violence. Youth of African descent are disproportionately subjected to criminalization, school exclusion, and police violence, while older persons face neglect and invisibility in social protection systems.

Participants added that the justice and security sectors are central sites of structural racism in Latin America. In some countries, people of African descent are disproportionately subjected to racial profiling, arbitrary detention, excessive use of force, militarization of their neighbourhoods, and punitive drug policies. Impunity for acts of police violence and the absence of effective accountability mechanisms reinforce distrust in institutions and perpetuate cycles of violence.

Labor markets reproduce racial stratification through exclusion from formal employment, concentration in precarious and informal sectors, discriminatory hiring practices, outsourcing, modern forms of servitude, and barriers to union participation.

Participants stressed that health systems reflect and reproduce racism through unequal access to services, discriminatory treatment, neglect of mental health, and disregard for traditional and ancestral medicine and practices of people of African descent. Racism operates as a social determinant of health, contributing to higher rates of chronic illness, maternal mortality, psychological trauma, depression, and suicide. The intergenerational transmission of trauma linked to enslavement, colonial violence, and contemporary discrimination remains largely unaddressed in the region.

Participants stressed that cultural and symbolic racism remains pervasive. They noted that media representations frequently reproduce harmful stereotypes that associate people of

African descent with violence, criminality, hypersexualization, or inferiority, while erasing their intellectual, cultural and political contributions. Education systems continue to privilege Eurocentric narratives, marginalizing the histories and epistemologies of people of African descent.

Finally, participants highlighted that the territories inhabited by people and communities of African descent are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation, extractive industries, toxic exposure, and climate change impacts. These patterns reflect historical processes of territorial marginalization and exclusion from decision-making over land and natural resources.

Considering the above, participants recommended that States should take into consideration the following recommendations:

- **Explicit recognition of the existence and persistence of systemic and structural racism affecting people of African descent, rooted in colonialism, enslavement, and racial hierarchy.**
- **Criminalize racism and racial discrimination against people of African descent in accordance with international human rights standards, including effective remedies and reparations for victims.**
- **Clear definitions of systemic and structural racism, and of intersecting forms of discrimination.[2]**
- **Recognition of racism and racial discrimination as a multidimensional phenomenon affecting civil, political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and digital rights.**
- **Inclusion of a self-identification variable in all population censuses, household surveys, and administrative records, using participatory, culturally appropriate, and self-identification methodologies.**
- **Affirmation of the State's obligation to collect, analyse, and publicly disseminate data disaggregated by race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin and additionally by other factors, including age; sex; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity; gender expression; sex characteristics; socioeconomic status; migration status; disability; minority status; Indigenous origin; health status; political or other opinion; religion or belief; or other status. Furthermore, state that such data inform public policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and budgetary allocation.**
- **Adoption of binding protocols and legislation to prevent, investigate, sanction, and repair acts of systemic and structural racism in justice, security, education, health, labour, housing, and public administration.**
- **Prohibition of racial profiling and law enforcement practices with discriminatory outcomes, including in drug control, migration, and public security policies.**
- **Mandatory training of public officials, including judges, prosecutors, police, health professionals, and educators, on systemic and structural racism, the rights of people of African descent, and decolonial approaches.**
- **Recognition of the right of people of African descent to effective participation and representation in public institutions and decision-making processes at all levels.**

[2] See A/HRC/47/53, para. 9

- **Integration of gender-responsive, intersectional, and Afro-centred approaches in all public policies and programs.**
- **Recognition of racism as a determinant of health and a factor requiring targeted public health responses, including mental health services and respect for ancestral medicine.**
- **Elimination of obstetric violence and discriminatory practices in health care affecting women of African descent.**
- **Provision of culturally appropriate mental health services addressing intergenerational trauma and collective harm.**
- **Recognition of environmental racism and the disproportionate impact of environmental harm and climate change on communities and people of African descent.**

2. Reparatory justice for histories and legacies of colonialism, enslavement, apartheid and genocide

Participants noted that the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans, enslavement, colonialism, and subsequent systems of racial segregation constitute crimes against humanity whose consequences remain fully operative in Latin America. These historical processes established racial hierarchies that continue to structure economic exploitation, political exclusion, territorial dispossession, social marginalization, and cultural devaluation of people of African descent.

They stated that the region's contemporary inequalities cannot be understood or addressed without recognizing the continuity between past atrocities and present conditions. Intergenerational poverty, restricted access to education and employment, lack of secure land tenure, environmental vulnerability, criminalization, and over-exposure to violence are not accidental outcomes, but direct consequences of these historical injustices and of States' failure to implement adequate reparatory measures. Reparatory justice must therefore be understood as a comprehensive, collective, and ongoing process. It is not limited to financial compensation, nor can it be reduced to symbolic recognition alone. Reparations must encompass material, moral, spiritual, cultural, territorial, and political dimensions, addressing both individual and collective harm. They must be designed and implemented with the effective participation of people of African descent and grounded in their historical experiences, and demands.

Participants stressed that recognition itself constitutes a fundamental form of reparation. The persistent denial of people of African descent as *Peoples*, the erasure of their histories, and the marginalization of their epistemologies have inflicted profound symbolic and psychological harm. The absence of official acknowledgment of enslavement and colonialism as crimes and of their enduring effects perpetuates injustice and obstructs reconciliation. Moreover, education systems in the region continue to reproduce colonial narratives that minimize or distort the history of enslavement, resistance and contributions of people of African descent.

Participants stressed that women, children, youth, older persons, migrants, persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ persons of African descent experience differentiated and compounded harms resulting from the intersection of racism with patriarchy, heteronormativity,

ableism, and xenophobia. Reparatory measures must therefore be gender-responsive, intersectional, and inclusive, addressing specific forms of violence such as sexual exploitation, obstetric violence, labour abuse, family separation, and the arbitrary deprivation of nationality.

Participants indicated that territorial dispossession constitutes one of the most enduring legacies of colonialism and enslavement in Latin America. They stressed that communities of African descent have been systematically displaced from ancestral lands, urban neighbourhoods, coastal zones, riverine areas, and marine and coastal territories often through extractive projects, infrastructure development, armed conflict, or gentrification. Loss of territory undermines cultural continuity, food sovereignty, spiritual practices, and collective autonomy, and must be addressed as a central component of reparatory justice.

Participants noted that, despite increasing international recognition of the need for reparations, States in the region have generally failed to establish comprehensive reparatory frameworks. Where measures exist, they are often fragmented, underfunded, or symbolic, lacking legal enforceability and long-term commitment. This failure perpetuates structural injustices and deepens mistrust between people of African descent and State institutions.

In light of the above, participants recommended that States should take into consideration the following recommendations:

- **Recognition of the right of people of African descent to comprehensive reparations, encompassing material, symbolic, collective, moral, spiritual, cultural, territorial, and political dimensions.**
- **Affirmation of States' obligations regarding truth, justice, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition, in accordance with international human rights law.**
- **Recognition of the need for truth-telling, including the duty to investigate, document, and publicly acknowledge the history and impacts of enslavement and colonialism.**
- **The need for preservation, protection, and promotion of people of African descent historical memory, including through monuments, memorials, museums, archives, and sites of conscience.**
- **Restitution of the cultural heritage of people of African descent, including artifacts, human remains, archives, and intellectual property illicitly appropriated during colonial and post-colonial periods.**
- **Explicit reference to the CARICOM Ten-Point Plan as a framework for reparatory justice, without prejudice to other regional or national initiatives.**
- **Recognition of land and territorial restitution as a core component of reparatory justice, including rural lands, urban territories, riverine areas, marine and coastal territories, and other ancestral spaces.**
- **Provisions encouraging the establishment of national reparations commissions or mechanisms with effective participation of people of African descent, mandates, and resources.**
- **Provisions regarding the creation of national and international reparations and development funds for people of African descent, financed through public budgets and international cooperation.**

- **Provisions calling for the transformation of education systems through Afro-centred curricula, inclusion of people of African descent histories and epistemologies, and recognition of resistance movements.**
- **Provision of scholarships, affirmative action measures, and targeted investment in education and research for communities of African descent.**
- **Adoption of gender-responsive and intersectional reparatory measures addressing the specific harms suffered by women, children, migrants, older persons, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ persons of African descent.**

3. Collective rights for Peoples of African descent

Participants emphasized that people of African descent in Latin America constitute Peoples with collective identities, historical continuity, cultural systems, and territorial ties that predate the formation of modern nation-states. Participants emphasized that their presence in the region is not the result of voluntary migration but of forced displacement through enslavement, followed by centuries of resistance, survival, and collective organization. Despite this reality, people of African descent have been systematically denied recognition as collective subjects of rights under international law.

Participants said that the predominant legal treatment of people of African descent as isolated individuals, rather than as peoples or collectivities has obscured the collective dimensions of racial injustice and has limited access to effective remedies. While some national constitutions and the jurisprudence of the Inter-American human rights system have recognized collective rights of people of African descent, this recognition remains uneven, fragile, and largely absent at the global level.

Participants highlighted that land and territory are central to the collective existence of people of African descent. They noted that this is not limited to land ownership, but encompasses a multidimensional space that includes rural and urban territories, rivers, forests, maritories, coastal zones, wetlands, mountains, cemeteries, sacred sites, and contemporary digital spaces. Participants further noted that the territory is inseparable from cultural identity, spirituality, modes of production, food systems, knowledge transmission, and community governance. For people of African descent, the land and the territory constitute a living space and, in many cases, a subject of rights.

Participants noted that across the 205 million hectares historically inhabited by people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean, lie ecosystems of critical importance. Yet, only about 8 million hectares of communal lands have been formally titled, representing a mere 5 per cent of the territories that people of African descent have traditionally occupied.[3]

Participants indicated that historical and ongoing processes of territorial and land dispossession have profoundly undermined the autonomy and collective life of people of African descent.

[3] See https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/RRG-8217-Afro-Descendent-COP28-Brochure_Final_EditedBackground_Digital.pdf and https://www.fao.org/americas/news/news-detail/dialogo-regional-afrodescendencia/en

These processes are frequently accompanied by violence, forced displacement, environmental degradation, and the criminalization of territorial defence.

Participants stated that people of African descent maintain distinct systems of social organization, governance, conflict resolution, and justice that reflect their histories and worldviews. However, State legal systems often fail to recognize these systems, imposing external models of governance and development that undermine collective autonomy and self-determination.

Participants further noted that the lack of recognition of collective rights also affects cultural survival. The languages, spiritual practices, traditional knowledge, oral histories, artistic expressions, and epistemologies of people of African descent continue to be marginalized, appropriated, or commodified without consent or benefit-sharing. This cultural erosion is inseparable from land and territorial loss and political exclusion, they emphasized.

Participants stressed that recognizing people of African descent as Peoples with collective rights is therefore essential to addressing systemic ad structural racism, achieving reparatory justice, and ensuring sustainable development grounded in dignity, autonomy, and historical truth. They also noted that such recognition does not threaten the territorial integrity of States; rather, it strengthens democratic pluralism and social cohesion by acknowledging the region's multicultural and plurinational reality.

In this regard, participants recommended that States should take into consideration the following recommendations:

- **Explicit recognition of people of African descent as Peoples, communities, and collective subjects of international human rights law.**
- **Recognition that Peoples of African descent possess collective identities, histories, and rights that predate the formation of modern States in the Americas.**
- **Affirmation of the right of Peoples of African descent to self-determination, understood as the right to freely pursue their economic, social, cultural, and political development within States.**
- **Recognition of the right to collective autonomy and self-governance, including the right to define internal governance structures, development priorities, and cultural institutions.**
- **Recognition and protection of systems of justice, conflict resolution, and community governance of Peoples of African descent.**
- **Recognition of collective rights to territory, land, maritories, natural resources, and ancestral spaces.**
- **Recognition of territory as a living, cultural, spiritual, and political space, and, where appropriate, as a subject of rights.**
- **Provisions stating States' obligation to recognize, demarcate, title, and protect Peoples of African descent collective territories, where appropriate, in consultation with the affected communities.**
- **Requirement of free, prior, and informed consent for any legislative, administrative, or development measure affecting Peoples of African descent or their territories.**

- **Protection of the cultural heritage, languages, spiritual practices, traditional knowledge, and collective intellectual property of Peoples of African descent, including safeguards against misappropriation and commodification.**
- **Guarantee of the right to Afro-centred education, ethno-education, and intercultural education that reflects the histories and epistemologies of Peoples of African descent.**
- **Recognition of Peoples of African descent as collective environmental rights holders and guardians of biodiversity.**
- **Protection of the territories of Peoples of African descent from extractive industries, environmental degradation, forced displacement, and gentrification without consent.**
- **Recognition of environmental racism and the obligation to prevent, remedy, and sanction environmental harm disproportionately affecting communities of African descent.**

4. Sustainable development and equality within and among States

Participants observed that people of African descent in Latin America experience structural inequalities that are both internal to States and embedded in global economic systems shaped by colonialism and racial hierarchy. They noted that development models in the region have historically relied on the exploitation of the labour and territories of people of African descent while excluding them from the benefits of growth.

Participants exposed that racism operates as an economic system that structures access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power, producing and reproducing racialized inequalities. People of African descent are overrepresented in informal, low-paid, and precarious employment, including domestic work, agricultural labour, extractive industries, and outsourced services. Discriminatory hiring practices, wage gaps, lack of social protection, barriers to unionization, and racialized occupational segregation remain widespread. Modern forms of servitude forced labour, and labour exploitation disproportionately affect women, migrants, and youth of African descent.

Participants pointed out that public policies aimed at development and poverty reduction have generally failed to incorporate an ethnic-racial perspective. Consequently, national development plans, macroeconomic policies, and budgetary frameworks reproduce racial inequalities rather than correcting them. Territories of people of African descent often receive lower levels of public investment in infrastructure, education, health, water, sanitation, and connectivity, reinforcing cycles of exclusion.

Participants noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has not adequately captured the realities of people of African descent. The universal framing of the SDGs obscures structural racial disparities and fails to account for the historical and territorial dimensions of inequality. Without reparatory justice and targeted measures, the SDGs risk reinforcing existing gaps rather than closing them.

Participants highlighted that extractivist and neoliberal development models have had particularly harmful effects on territories of people of African descent. Mining, agribusiness, tourism, energy, and infrastructure projects are frequently imposed without meaningful consultation and accompanied by multiple human rights violations.

Participants emphasized that people of African descent possess traditional knowledge systems and sustainable practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation, food sovereignty, and climate resilience. However, these contributions remain undervalued, unprotected, and excluded from official development and environmental policies.

Finally, participants underscored that, international economic structures, including debt regimes, trade policies, and development financing mechanisms, continue to reproduce global racial inequalities. People of African descent and their territories remain marginalized in international cooperation frameworks, and resources intended to reduce inequality rarely reach affected communities directly.

Building on the previous considerations, participants recommended that States should take into consideration the following recommendations:

- **Recognition of racism as a structural economic system that produces and reproduces inequality at national, regional, and global levels.**
- **The obligation of States to adopt development policies explicitly aimed at eliminating racial economic disparities affecting people of African descent.**
- **Integration of an ethnic-racial, gender-responsive, and intersectional approaches into all national development plans, macroeconomic policies, and budgetary frameworks.**
- **A requirement to allocate sufficient, transparent, and sustained public resources to policies and institutions addressing the human rights concerns of people of African descent, including through budgetary equity targets.**
- **The adoption of measures to eliminate racial discrimination in labour markets, including discriminatory hiring practices, outsourcing, and barriers to union participation; as well as the protection of workers of African descent from modern forms of servitude, forced labour, trafficking, and exploitation.**
- **Reaffirmation of the right of people of African descent to adequate food, and the importance of food sovereignty, traditional production systems, and sustainable livelihoods.**
- **Establishment of differentiated indicators to measure SDG progress in territories inhabited by people of African descent.**
- **Guarantee of direct and equitable access for communities of African descent to international development and climate financing.**
- **Provisions encouraging States to strengthen regional and international cooperation to address historical and structural inequalities affecting people of African descent, including through debt relief, technology transfer, and capacity-building.**

5. Pressing issues and emerging human rights concerns

Participants noted that people of African descent in Latin America face a convergence of longstanding and emerging human rights challenges that intensify structural racism and deepen inequality. They reported that these challenges intersect across multiple domains, including criminal justice, public security, migration, health, digital governance, media representation, youth inclusion, and climate change, producing cumulative and often irreversible harm.

Participants strongly emphasized that racialized policing and punitive criminal justice policies constitute one of the most acute and visible manifestations of systemic and structural racism in the region. People of African descent are disproportionately subjected to racial profiling, arbitrary detention, excessive use of force, extrajudicial killings, and militarization of their communities. Drug control policies and "wars on drugs" have been implemented through racialized logics that criminalize people of African descent, notably youth, and their territories, normalize state violence, and generate mass incarceration, displacement, and family separation. Moreover, accountability mechanisms remain weak, and impunity for acts of violence by State agents persists.

Participants noted that digital transformation and the expansion of artificial intelligence present risks for people of African descent. Algorithmic systems used in policing, migration control, employment, credit, social protection, and content moderation frequently reproduce racial bias, opacity, and exclusion. People of African descent face digital exclusion, surveillance, data extraction, and discriminatory automated decision-making, while lacking access to digital infrastructure, digital literacy, and governance spaces.

Participants noted that media, cultural industries, and sports remain key sites of both exclusion and resistance. They stated that youth, artists, athletes, and communicators of African descent play a central role in challenging dominant narratives, preserving memory, and constructing alternative imaginaries, often without institutional support or protection.

Finally, participants indicated that climate change and environmental degradation exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Coastal, island, riverine, and urban communities of African descent are disproportionately affected by flooding, erosion, heatwaves, and loss of livelihoods. They further said that climate-induced displacement and environmental conflict threaten cultural survival and territorial continuity. Despite their situations of vulnerability and contributions to environmental stewardship, people of African descent remain marginalized in climate governance and financing.

In view of these pressing and emerging issues, participants recommended that States should take into consideration the following recommendations:

- **Recognition of the disproportionate impact of racialized policing, punitive criminal justice systems, and drug control policies on people of African descent.**
- **Prohibition of racial profiling and excessive use of force against of people of African descent and militarization of their territories.**

- **Establishment of independent, effective accountability and oversight mechanisms for law enforcement and security forces, with the participation of people of African descent.**
- **Adoption of non-punitive, public health–based and human rights-centred drug policies, with specific attention to racial justice.**
- **Protection of the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees, and displaced persons of African descent, including safeguards against the arbitrary deprivation of nationality and statelessness.**
- **Recognition that every individual has the right to algorithmic justice as an essential extension of the principle of equality and non-discrimination.**
- **The commitment of States to prevent and sanction all forms of racial discrimination in digital environments, including digital racism, algorithmic bias, and technological apartheid, through:**
    - **(a) Binding regulatory frameworks requiring public and private entities to identify, prevent, and eliminate racial, gender, and socio-economic biases in artificial intelligence systems, and establishing legal responsibility for resulting harm.**
    - **(b) Mandatory transparency and auditability of algorithms to detect and correct discriminatory biases.**
    - **(c) Effective digital inclusion, ensuring equitable access to information and communication technologies, with particular attention to women, girls, youth, and LGBTQI+ persons of African descent.**
    - **(d) Production of official statistics disaggregated by ethno-racial variables to inform public policy and combat stereotypes and religious racism.**
- **Measures to eliminate racist stereotypes in media and education, including the promotion of Afro-descendant community media, communication networks, and youth leadership initiatives.**
- **Protection of cultural expression, sport, and artistic production of people of African descent from exploitation and discrimination.**
- **Guarantee of direct access to climate finance, adaptation resources, and participation in climate governance.**
- **Incorporating a specific right to economic autonomy that recognizes racism as an economic problem requiring active public policies.**