

## Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination



### LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES



#### Combating discrimination in all its forms

**680** participants from 50 countries in the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the **Forum on Minority Issues** (held in hybrid format for the first time, with a focus on conflict prevention and the protection of the human rights of minorities)



#### Acting upon complaints:

##### Women

**151** communications (sent by the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls)

##### People of African descent

**21** communications (sent by the Working Group of experts on people of African Descent)

### CIVIL SOCIETY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



#### Preparation of the High Commissioner's Agenda Towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality

**23** consultations held online with over **340** persons (over 65% women, mostly people of African descent)

#### Follow-up to the Agenda:

**7** consultations with over **110** people (mostly people of African descent)

### CAPACITY-BUILDING



#### Fellowship Programmes: Training provided to

**18** people of African descent (12 women and 6 men, from 12 countries)

**25** indigenous persons (13 women and 12 men, from 17 countries)

**21** persons from minority groups (11 women and 10 men, from 14 countries)



### CALL FOR EQUALITY AND TOLERANCE

#### Public campaigns: Disability #WeThe15

(as part of a consortium of 20 international organizations)

**2.5** billion impressions on Twitter

Over **225** landmarks turned purple on 19 August (opening of Paralympics)

**9.5** million interactions on Instagram and Facebook

**878** million views on TikTok

#### 'I stand for Gender Equality' or 'I stand up to racism'

**2,800** people from 133 countries (shared photos on social media in support)

#### Women's Day (8 March)

**5** videos of women human rights leaders and video interview with the High Commissioner (80,000 views)

Instagram 'grid' of **9** illustrations on social justice, SGBV, participation, economy, health care and environment (over 20k likes)

#### #FightRacism Day (21 March)

#FightRacism posts across platforms (2.4 million views and 98k engagements)

#### Albinism Day (13 June)

Albinism Day posts (123k views and 3.8k engagements)

#### International Migrants Day (18 December)

Stories, photo essay, video message and podcast (over 25,000 views)

## Upholding the rights of every child, including children with disabilities (Moldova)

“I want every child, including children with disabilities, to be happy and active members of our society, with all of their rights respected, protected and fulfilled. I also want to know that every parent that has a child with a disability is supported, has accepted the disability of their child as soon as possible and does not encounter discrimination.”

Ludmila Adamciuc is the mother of a four-year-old girl with Down syndrome, and a vlogger and advocate for children with disabilities. She is the founder of an NGO, Prietenamea, that raises awareness and promotes the acceptance of persons with disabilities. She has built an impressive community of followers on social media (57,500 on Instagram, 5,000 friends on her personal Facebook page and 13,000 friends on the Prietenamea page).

Ludmila began advocating for the acceptance of children with disabilities in 2018, when her daughter was born. She was initially depressed and found limited information about the development of children with Down syndrome, supporting her child and accessing available services. Through research and with the support of her family, she accepted her daughter’s disability and was inspired to offer similar support to other parents of children with disabilities. She dedicated herself to raising awareness and advocating for the social acceptance of children with disabilities and their families.

Ludmila began by posting pictures and videos on Facebook and Instagram that promoted acceptance and diversity. She then created a blog (<https://prietenamea.com/>) where she shared stories and lessons

learned. She also led a campaign that invited people to wear blue and yellow clothes and socks of different colours as symbols of acceptance of Down syndrome.

In June 2019, UN Human Rights invited Ludmila to join the Network of Parents of Children and Youth with Disabilities. Through the Network, Ludmila and 14 other parents are benefiting from UN Human Rights’ support, which includes access to a psychological empowerment and training programme on human rights, which promotes a human rights-based approach to disability and advocacy.

Encouraged by these activities and UN Human Rights’ mentoring, Ludmila decided to apply her knowledge and advocacy skills and formally registered “Prietenamea” in early 2021.

UN Human Rights immediately partnered with Ludmila’s NGO in the context of World Down Syndrome Day to organize a campaign, #WeAreAllDifferent, that ran from 21 March to 21 April. The campaign promoted the equality of rights and acceptance of children and persons with Down syndrome and other disabilities. Videos and articles on equality and non-discrimination of persons with Down syndrome were featured and awareness-raising activities were delivered to all levels of educational institutions. Furthermore, from October to December, OHCHR offered guidance to Ludmila and Prietenamea to implement a “Friendship and acceptance month” campaign, which included awareness-raising stories for children and information sessions on equality and non-discrimination, access to education and psychological



Ludmila Adamciuc and her family.  
© Ludmila Adamciuc



Awareness-raising campaign promoting acceptance and diversity. © Ludmila Adamciuc

empowerment for parents. Both campaigns had a wide reach that included the participation of 528 children and youth from 20 educational institutions and resulted in more than 513,076 visualizations of videos, 1,904 shares, 19,770 likes, 15,000 read articles and the attendance of 3,100 participants in online sessions.

“I’m very thankful to UN Human Rights for the support provided since 2019. I feel empowered and I believe this will enable me to empower other parents.”

# Highlights of pillar results

## Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and non-discrimination for all is at the core of international human rights law. With a call to Leave No One Behind, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development created an ‘equality’ momentum. Taking advantage of this opportunity, UN Human Rights

seeks to remove the structural barriers that exacerbate and perpetuate discrimination, exclusion and inequalities. The Office supports efforts aimed at strengthening laws, policies, institutions, practices and attitudes conducive to equality and non-discrimination. It strives to increase

public support for diverse and inclusive societies and enhance coherent and rights-based UN responses to exclusion and discrimination. The SDGs provide a common reference for this work, including through linkages with economic, social and cultural rights.

### PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

#### ND1 – NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS to combat DISCRIMINATION

Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms and responsible authorities actively work to Leave No One Behind, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.



### RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS



Through its active role in promoting equality, following up on Human Rights Council resolution 43/1 and combating discrimination against Roma people in the EU, UN Human Rights supported the implementation of multi-year strategies and action plans that were adopted in 2020 on a wide range of non-discrimination issues. In March, the **Council of the European Union adopted a recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation**, which takes UN Human Rights’ advocacy into account and urges EU member states to adopt Roma National Strategies by the end of the year. By end of 2021, 11 countries had presented or adopted their plans. The recommendation also includes indicators that are modelled on UN Human Rights’ anti-discrimination indicators. In 2022, the European Commission and CSOs will jointly assess progress made in implementation at the national level. Finally, the EU **appointed the first EU Anti-Racism Coordinator in 2021** and the Commission **issued its first draft guidelines on National Action Plans against Racism (NAPARs)** for EU member states.

In May, UN Human Rights organized a **Middle East and North Africa** regional virtual symposium on the **compliance of national legislation with CRPD**. The symposium discussed the compliance with CRPD of national legislation in Arab countries, highlighted the current situation of persons with disabilities and provided recommendations and good practices for the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities in the region. The symposium was attended by 128 activists, experts, academics, government officials, members of NHRIs and individuals, including 60 women, from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

## ND2 – JUSTICE SYSTEMS investigate DISCRIMINATION

Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.




In July, the High Commissioner presented her report and a conference room paper to the Human Rights Council in which she outlines a **four-point agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality**. The report builds on decades of work undertaken by international and other human rights mechanisms, as well as a wide consultation process that focused on the lived experiences of people of African descent. Throughout the process, UN Human Rights strengthened advocacy to: address systemic racism and ensure the accountability of law enforcement officials for human rights violations against Africans and people of African descent; take action to ensure that the voices of people of African descent are heard and that their concerns are acted upon; and confront past legacies and deliver reparatory justice. The launch of the report was accompanied by a series of media and communications products to enhance the visibility of its findings. Subsequently, the Council **established an international independent expert mechanism to advance racial justice and equality in law enforcement** and requested that UN Human Rights enhance and broaden its monitoring in order to report on these issues and promote global action to bring about transformative change for racial justice and equality.

Following two years of collaboration and consultations, UN Human Rights and the Equal Rights Trust prepared a publication entitled **Protecting minority rights: A practical guide to developing comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation**. After its publication in 2022, the publication will serve as the leading guidance on anti-discrimination legislation and the right to equality.


## ND3 – WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION and PROTECTION

Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote the autonomy and choices of women and girls and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.



 In **North Macedonia**, the **Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GBV Law)** was adopted after more than two years of preparatory work. The adoption of this legislation serves as an important milestone in promoting the autonomy of women and girls and safeguarding their right to a dignified life that is free from fear and violence. UN Human Rights provided the drafting working group with expert advice to ensure the Law's compliance with international human rights standards and the integration of all aspects related to prevention, protection and the reintegration of victims. The Law is aligned with the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention, CEDAW's general recommendations and other international human rights standards.

 In **Somalia**, UN Human Rights continued providing technical support to Somali counterparts to establish measures for equal opportunities and protection, secure redress for violations and build the capacities of formal justice institutions to **address sexual violence cases**. On 10 January, the UNSOM Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG) convened a meeting, in Somaliland, with the Somaliland National Human Rights Commission (SLNHRC), as part of joint advocacy efforts against the Rape, Fornication and Other Related Offences Bill, which is contradictory to international and regional human rights standards. The Commission engaged with Somaliland ministries to jointly advocate for a common position on recommendations that were proposed by different stakeholders. Subsequently, a member of the Special Taskforce, which is headed by the SLNHRC, reported that assurances had been secured from the Somaliland Minister of Religion and Endowment and the Somaliland Upper House of Parliament (Guurti) that the Bill would be opposed and replaced with the Sexual Offences Bill of 2018.

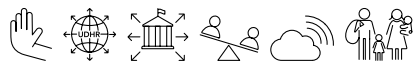
 In the **State of Palestine**, UN Human Rights increased its monitoring of women's rights in priority areas, including the **gendered impacts of the occupation** in terms of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, women human rights defenders (VHRDs), women in detention and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UN Human Rights continued to gather **disaggregated data on women in Israeli and Palestinian detention**. It carried out four visits to women in detention in Gaza and the West Bank and to a shelter in the West Bank. UN Human Rights engaged

with Palestinian security agencies and authorities in Gaza and the West Bank to follow up on cases of concern and identify wider patterns of discrimination against women, including discriminatory movement restrictions in Gaza. OHCHR also delivered trainings on a human rights-based approach for staff of gender units based in Palestinian ministries.

As part of its technical support to address **GBV in the Southern Africa region**, UN Human Rights strengthened its partnership with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum on the development of the **SADC Model Law on GBV**. The Model Law is a critical tool for triggering policy reform and the development or revision of substantive laws in the SADC Member States and SADC Parliamentary Forum-affiliated parliaments. It will also serve as a tool to inform, guide, improve and strengthen the implementation of national legislation and policies on GBV. As a member of the technical working group, the Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) supported the consultation process on the Model Law with various stakeholders, including women’s rights organizations, law enforcement, GBV survivors, faith-based organizations, NHRIs, judicial actors, lawyers, youth organizations and UN agencies. The Model Law was adopted at the fiftieth Plenary Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, on 11 December.

#### ND4 – ERADICATING HARMFUL NORMS

Judicial institutions, media and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.



UN Human Rights furthered the debate on ways to **promote and protect the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations** through the presentation of a report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/48/32, mandated by resolution A/HRC/RES/45/28) and an interactive dialogue between the High Commissioner and the Human Rights Council.

#### ND5 – DIGITAL SPACE

Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.



UN Human Rights continued to innovate its methodology and implement technology tools for **monitoring hate speech and incitement**, including in relation to online attacks against HRDs. After applying network, account and content analyses, UN Human Rights was better situated to identify online incidents and trends and apply the Rabat Plan of Action threshold test. This strengthened its evidence base and informed its work on protection cases and engagement with social media platforms and other stakeholders on freedom of expression and content moderation. For example, following its monitoring and advocacy with Twitter, the company removed content related to online attacks against an NGO that was providing support to migrant children in Israel.

UN Human Rights undertook advocacy with different **social media platforms** and encouraged them to increase their efforts to meet their human rights responsibilities under the UNGPs and apply the Rabat Plan of Action threshold test. In 2021, UN Human Rights collaborated with Facebook, Google, YouTube and Twitter, with a view to better **protecting minorities and human rights defenders** and responding to content that could constitute incitement to hostility, discrimination or violence. As a result, the Facebook Oversight Board applied the Rabat Plan of Action threshold test in several decisions.

## ND6 – MIGRATION

The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.



In **Central America**, the monitoring of migrant human rights violations developed and evolved due to the efforts of UN Human Rights to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs and CSOs to confront the migration crisis. It also highlighted the actions that States need to undertake to meet their international obligations, particularly in relation to demographic groups with pre-existing vulnerabilities. UN Human Rights encouraged the integration of key standards into regional migration policies and programmes. It monitored and analysed regional migratory trends throughout 2021, which were published in an informative bulletin. The bulletin provided a **regional analysis of trends and human rights violations against migrants**. It also outlined a series of recommendations to inform decision makers and promoted the mainstreaming of human rights into public policies and governance of migration. In addition, evidence-based technical assistance was provided to authorities in the subregion.

The European Union Pact on Asylum and Migration, which was proposed by the European Commission in 2020, continued to be negotiated by the European Parliament and EU member states. Despite limited progress in negotiations, the EC took advantage of opportunities to move forward on various initiatives proposed in the Pact, such as the **EU Strategy on Voluntary Return and Reintegration and the EU Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling 2021-2025**. UN Human Rights advocated for the establishment of independent monitoring mechanisms in EU member states. Meanwhile, Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, continued to fulfil its responsibilities outlined in its 2019 Regulation, including the operationalization of the Standing Corps and the creation of **policies and procedures to safeguard human rights** in Frontex activities. As a member of the Frontex Consultation Forum on Fundamental Rights, UN Human Rights provided expertise in this regard. For instance, it participated in the recruitment of an independent fundamental rights officer, the training of newly recruited fundamental rights monitors, the development of a procedure to report alleged human rights violations and the adoption of a Frontex Fundamental Rights Strategy and Action Plan.

In **West Africa**, a joint project of OHCHR and UNODC, known as PROMIS, aimed to strengthen the capacities of West African States to develop a human rights-based response to the smuggling of migrants. OHCHR contributed to updating legal frameworks and increased protection capacities in the West African region to ensure the efficient **promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants** in their countries of origin and during their migratory movements. More specifically, PROMIS supported the elaboration and validation of laws related to the smuggling of migrants in the Gambia, in alignment with international human rights standards, and assisted the Ministry of Justice of Niger with the revision of Law No. 2015-36 on the smuggling of migrants. Furthermore, six grantees completed their projects after receiving financial and technical support over 18 months, which led to improved access to justice for 3,688 migrants in Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Niger and Senegal.


UN Human Rights actively supported the **Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration**, in March, and ensured that the discussions were founded on a human rights-based framework. OHCHR took a leadership role in engaging regional stakeholders in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). To this end, it co-hosted a region-wide consultation for more than 100 stakeholders. It briefed CSOs and other partners on the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and sought their views on future engagement with the regional network. The consultation was preceded by 12 small-group consultations that were composed of various stakeholders' groups, including NHRIs, the media, academia and parliamentarians.




## ND7 – PUBLIC MOBILIZATION for INCLUSION

Public support increases for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination.



 In the **State of Palestine**, UN Human Rights increased its work on the rights of persons with disabilities by providing technical assistance to government institutions, strengthening civil society engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and increasing **awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns on disability rights**. In February, UN Human Rights launched an awareness-raising campaign to disseminate COVID-19-related information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities and their families, including information on psychological and social support services that are provided by the Government and CSOs. The campaign was developed and implemented in cooperation with OPDs, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health. The campaign registered more than 230,000 views on the social media channels of OHCHR, Palestinian Television, the Government and CSOs. On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), OHCHR partnered with the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) to produce a video featuring the experiences of Ms. Rabab Nofal, an activist from Gaza, who speaks about the daily challenges, stigma and discrimination she faces as a woman living with a disability and the lack of available services in Gaza. The video has amassed more than 200,000 views.

In **Guatemala**, as a follow-up to the capacity-building process carried out by UN Human Rights in 2020, 12 new workshops were held for communications officers working for indigenous organizations (15 women, 11 men). The workshops focused on international human rights law, the design of communications campaigns, international human rights protection mechanisms, the preparation of press releases and access to information. In addition, UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to organizations of indigenous peoples to enable them to update their communications strategies and effectively implement specific **communications campaigns highlighting indigenous rights**, particularly regarding the implementation of judicial sentences related to the rights of indigenous peoples.

 Since early 2020, UN Human Rights has worked with the mediation process of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of Christian and Muslim leaders to address a long-standing dispute between Christian schools and Muslim communities in the **South of Malawi** wherein girls were denied access to education if they wore a hijab. Following these efforts, the PAC members concluded a Memorandum of Understanding that permits all Muslim girls attending Christian schools to wear a hijab in accordance with their personal choice. The MoU includes a specific commitment to **respecting the rights of students to education and freedom of religion, with a particular emphasis on the rights of the girl child**. The PAC members also made recommendations to the Ministry of Education to ensure that Muslim girls are not subject to discrimination on the basis of their religion. UN Human Rights used the international human rights framework to guide the dialogue and conflict resolution between the Christian and Muslim communities. The process received a high level of public attention, including through the media, and was closely followed by the President of Malawi.

## ND8 – UN response to INEQUALITY and DISCRIMINATION

The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.



UN Human Rights actively supported the co-facilitators of the consultation process on the operationalization of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, namely, Chad and Costa Rica, in hosting a series of intergovernmental discussions and engagements with civil society constituencies. This consultation process led to the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 75/314, in August, which formally **operationalizes the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent**. The Permanent Forum will serve as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders, as well as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, in line with the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent. In December, five of the 10 members of the mechanism were elected by the General Assembly and the remaining five were appointed by the President of the HRC in the first quarter of 2022. UN Human Rights has been working towards the creation of a Permanent Forum since 2014, when it was mandated to do so by General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/16.

As part of the UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, UN Human Rights supported the development of the **UN Checklist to strengthen UN work at country level to combat racial discrimination and advance minority rights**, which was launched in March. It also contributed to the development and delivery of the first online training on addressing racial discrimination and strengthening the protection of minorities in UN programming processes. A total of 41 staff members from 13 UNCTs received the training over a four-week period.



## “The blood we sacrificed was worth it” (South Africa)

Selinah Mnguni was 23 years old and three months pregnant when she was injured during the Sharpeville massacre on 21 March 1960. Selinah and thousands of other young people were attending a protest in peaceful defiance of the apartheid regime and the pass laws that were adopted to restrict and control the movement and employment of millions of Black South Africans.

Selinah was shot in her leg but survived. Many others were not so lucky. A total of 69 unarmed and non-violent protesters were gunned down by the South African police and nearly 200 more were injured. Protestors as young as 12 and 13 years of age were killed.



Selinah Mnguni, a Sharpeville massacre survivor.  
© OHCHR

The Sharpeville massacre sparked mass protests by Black South Africans across the country, many of which were ruthlessly and violently crushed by the military and South African police. The moral outrage of the international community led the United Nations General Assembly to pronounce 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The massacre was among a series of events around the world that inspired the development of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which entered into force on 4 January 1969. The Convention reaffirms the dignity and equality of all human beings and obliges States Parties to ensure that all appropriate measures are undertaken, including in policy and practice, to eliminate racial discrimination.

This year, the UN and UN Human Rights joined South Africans to mark the sixty-first anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre. “Youth standing up against racism” was the theme, aiming to foster a global culture of tolerance, equality and non-discrimination that calls on everyone to stand up against racial prejudice and intolerant attitudes. The campaign #FightRacism was launched to promote awareness about these critical issues.

The UN Human Rights Regional Office for Southern Africa produced a series of digital stories on the Sharpeville massacre and young people’s concerns about their human rights. It also contributed to the

headline story at the Anti-Racism Live Global Digital Experience, held on 21 March, which featured acclaimed artists, actors and prominent speakers from South Africa, including Thuli Madonsela, Zulaikha Patel and Zwai Bala.

Abigail Noko, the UN Human Rights Regional Representative, used the opportunity to call on decision makers to invite youth to participate in discussions on human rights and eliminating racial discrimination. “We need the voices of young people to break through the silence that locks in discrimination and oppression. We must listen to them, learn from them and work with them to build a better future,” she said.

Perseverance and determination are also needed to build on the lessons learned from the Sharpeville tragedy and to repair the injustices of the past. A robust human rights framework is the only way to provide a remedy for those injustices and to combat inequality and the underlying structural differences that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At 84 years of age, Selinah is proud of her efforts to end apartheid. “I know that the democracy we have today was achieved in part because of our actions. The blood we sacrificed was worth it,” she says.

## A strengthened UN anti-racism human rights architecture for people of African descent

In 2021, significant international developments took place in the long-standing fight to end racism against people of African descent. Following the Council's June 2020 adoption of a resolution in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, the High Commissioner presented a comprehensive report on systemic racism, human rights violations committed by law enforcement agencies against people of African descent and government responses to peaceful anti-racism protests.

Building on decades of work undertaken by the UN and other human rights mechanisms, written submissions and broad consultations centring on the experiences of people of African descent, the High Commissioner's report seeks to contribute to accountability and redress for victims and outlines an agenda to facilitate transformative change for racial justice and equality. The agenda is based on four interconnected pillars:

- “STEP UP:” Stop denying and take steps to dismantle systemic racism.
- “PURSUE JUSTICE:” End impunity and foster trust.
- “LISTEN UP:” Ensure that people of African descent and those who stand up against racism are protected and heard and that their concerns are acted upon.
- “REDRESS:” Confront past legacies, undertake special measures and deliver reparatory justice.

The High Commissioner urged Member States to “show stronger political will to accelerate action for racial justice, redress and equality through specific, time-bound

commitments to achieve results.” The report underlines the need for “a transformative approach that tackles the interconnected areas that drive racism, and lead to repeated, wholly avoidable, tragedies like the death of George Floyd.”

The Human Rights Council and the General Assembly acknowledged the report with appreciation. CSOs and impacted family members welcomed the report and the American Civil Liberties Union and Mothers against Police Brutality described it as “historic.”

In July, the Council adopted a follow-up resolution, by consensus, to establish an international independent expert mechanism to advance racial justice and equality in law enforcement. The mechanism will have a three-year mandate. Its three members were appointed in December and their work is scheduled to begin in 2022. The resolution also calls on OHCHR to enhance and broaden monitoring to report on these issues and promote global action to promote racial justice and equality.

In August, the General Assembly adopted a resolution, also by consensus, operationalizing the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, representing a milestone in the implementation of the Programme of Activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent. The Forum will serve as: a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders; a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent; and an advisory body to the Human Rights Council. In addition, the Forum is mandated “to consider the elaboration of a United Nations declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.” This stand-alone, 10-member expert body will begin its work in 2022.

Together, these actions mark a renewed opportunity to place racial equality and justice for people of African descent at the centre of international, regional and national processes and agendas.



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