

REFERENCE:CERD/Chairperson/2021/MJA/ks

22 July 2021

Re: Your report to the Human Rights Council

Dear Madam High Commissioner,

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would like to congratulate you and to express its appreciation for your report entitled "*Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers*", that you recently released and presented at the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council held from 21 June to 13 July 2021, pursuant to the Council's resolution 43/1 of June 2020.

The Committee applauds your firm commitment and the engagement of your Office in the fight against racial discrimination and racism that prevents many people of different backgrounds to enjoy their rights fully and in dignity. The Committee also expresses its warmest thanks for associating it in the consultations that resulted in the elaboration of your report.

The Committee is convinced that, by highlighting the compounding inequalities that Africans and people of African descent still face in all areas of life, and by proposing measures for an agenda towards the transformative change for racial justice and equality to end systemic racism and to address racial discrimination and violations by law enforcement, your report is more than timely and a very useful tool, that the Committee encourages States to take ownership of, in order to advance equality and justice for all, irrespective of race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin.

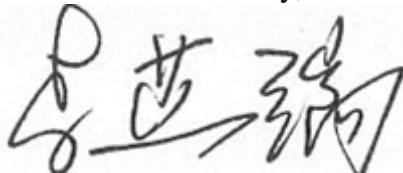
Ms. Michelle Bachelet,
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,
52 Rue des Pâquis,
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland
Email : bacheletm@ohchr.org

Many aspects of the Committee's jurisprudence and practice intersect with the issues outlined in your report, as exemplified by the Committee's recently adopted General recommendation 36 on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials. Several recommendations outlined in your report reflect the recommendations that the Committee has regularly been making to States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The Committee would like to assure you that it will do its utmost to support the transformative change envisioned in your report. It will carefully assess its content and explore how to integrate its key elements in its work, including during dialogue with States parties and in its engagement with other stakeholders.

The Committee notes with appreciation the Human Rights Council's resolution adopted on 13 July 2021, in response to your report and the international independent expert mechanism it establishes to examine systemic racism faced by Africans and people of African descent in law enforcement and in the criminal justice system. The Committee looks to further steps forward for collaboration with this mechanism and your Office, to help translate your report's agenda into action plans and concrete measures that could positively impact the lives of millions of people.

Yours sincerely,



Li Yanduan
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

cc: Mahamane Cisse-Gouro, Director, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division (CTMD)
Ibrahim Salama, Chief, Human Rights Treaties Branch (HRTB)
Simon Walker, Chief, Civil, Political, Economic Social and Cultural Rights Section (CPESCRS)
Marie Joseph Ayissi, Secretary, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)