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| **Midterm Review of the International Decade for People of African Descent, 22 July 2021****Opening Segment – Keynote Speaker** |
| **AY Young, Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (USA)**AY Young is a producer, singer, songwriter, entertainer, and entrepreneur. He first began writing poetry at 14, a reaction to the great disparity in Kansas City known as “the Troost divide”. Troost Avenue has historically served as a dividing line of racist segregation and disinvestment in Kansas City, with more white residents living west of Troost and more black residents living to the east. While touring the USA, AY learned that over 1 billion people lack access to electricity. So AY began powering concerts using renewable energy, raising awareness about sustainability, and fundraising to bring people electricity. Thus, the Battery Tour was born and has plugged in 17 countries to date. AY Musik’s Battery Tour is a fresh, imaginative approach uniting musical experience, community development, sustainability education, humanitarian aid, and international cooperation. These innovatively interactive engagements revolutionize musical performance by introducing audience-artist collaborative solutions to address the global energy poverty issue, minimizing carbon footprints by powering events with renewable energy. AY landed on The X Factor TV show in 2012 and received four YES’. Inspired, AY hit the streets performing his original music, garnering a grassroots following, and opening for artists Wiz Khalifa, SHAGGY, T-Pain, Flo-rida, Aaron Carter and others. |
| **Panel I: Recognition**  |
| **Moderator** |
| **Victoria Ibiwoye, Youth Representative to the SDG Education2030 Steering Committee (Nigeria)**Victoria IbiwoyeVictoria Ibiwoye is the Director of OneAfricanChild Foundation for Creative Learning, a youth-led NGO addressing the inequality in education through experiential workshops focused on global citizenship education for low-income community children in Nigeria.Victoria has spoken at the United Nations and at several high-level consultations to prioritize the need for quality and inclusive education for all. She is also the current Youth Representative to the SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee, the global multi-stakeholder mechanism coordinating efforts to achieve the education 2030 agenda. She is also a youth ambassador of the Global Education Monitoring report on “Accountability in Education” calling on governments to and enforce the right to education in national laws. In 2017 and 2018, Victoria was named as 100 Most Influential Young Africans by the African Youth Awards. She is also a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow and a recipient of the Princess Diana Legacy Awards for her contribution to education and youth development. |
| **Panelists** |
| **Dr. Michael McEachrane, Co-founder and Consultative Member of the European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD) (Sweden/ Trinidad and Tobago)****Dr Michael McEachrane** is a visiting researcher at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. He is a seasoned advocate for the human rights of people of African descent, Co-founder and Consultative Member of the European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD). Among his many publications are “Afro-Nordic Landscapes: Equality and Race in Northern Europe” (Routledge 2014), an article for the Human Rights Review, "Universal Human Rights and the Coloniality of Race in Sweden" (2018), a book chapter in the Routledge Handbook of Pan-Africanism, "Pan-Africanism and the African Diaspora in Europe" (2020), a forthcoming chapter, "Situating Afro-/African Swedish Studies" in the book Black European Studies and a forthcoming journal article, "On Conceptualizing African Diasporas in Europe." Michael McEachrane is a regular commentator on issues of race for international as well as Swedish media. |
| A person smiling for the camera  Description automatically generated with low confidence**Dr. Shola Mos-Shogbamimu - Activist, Political Commentator (UK)**[Shola Mos-Shogbamimu](https://twitter.com/SholaMos1)  is a British-born Nigerian activist, political commentator, author and lawyer. She is a regular speaker on women's rights, law, politics, diversity, equality, and inclusion. She was one of the co-organizers of the [London’s Women’s March in 2017](https://www.stylist.co.uk/visible-women/times-up-march-organizer-shola-mos-shogbamimu-empowering/185105). She is also founder of the *Women in Leadership* publication. In June 2020 [*Vogue*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vogue_%28magazine%29) magazine named her among "8 Educational Black Voices to Listen and Learn from Now". Mos-Shogbamimu appears regularly on television as a commentator on issues related to race and diversity. She has been particularly outspoken about the negative media treatment of women of colour in public roles  In 2019 Mos-Shogbamimu delivered a galvanizing TEDx Talk entitled "This is why I resist", in which she made clear why she refuses to be defined by the colour of her skin, her gender or religion, engaging her audience with bold views on feminism and politics, and encouragement to join her "conscious revolution".  Her first book, *This Is Why I Resist: Don’t Define My Black Identity*, was published in January 2021 and tackles the nuances and intricacies of the "race, racism and race inclusion" conversations.  |
| A person smiling in front of a bookshelf  Description automatically generated with medium confidence **Dominique Day, Chairperson, Working Group of Experts People of African Descent (USA)**Ms. Day is a human rights attorney and the executive director of DAYLIGHT, an access to justice platform focused on strengthening methods of grassroots and community engagement as a means of building strong legal and community-based institutions. Internationally, her litigation, public policy, research, teaching, and capacity-building work over the past two decades has focused heavily on racial justice, non-discrimination, and human rights advocacy. She has extensive experience in criminal and civil litigation on behalf of individuals and communities within the Black diaspora, in addition to working on rule of law and access to justice issues in post-conflict and transitional States. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and a juris doctor from Stanford Law School. |
| **Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO (Mexico)**Gabriela Ramos is the Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, where she oversees the contributions of the institution to build inclusive and peaceful societies. Her agenda includes the achievement of social inclusion and gender equality, advancing youth development; promotion of values through sports; anti-racism and antidiscriminatory agenda and ethics of artificial intelligence. Her appointment at UNESCO allows her to continue supporting an agenda of inclusive growth, and the respect of human rights and human dignity.Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, Gabriela Ramos' agenda includes the achievement of social inclusion and gender equality, advancing youth development; promotion of values through sports; anti-racism and antidiscriminatory agenda and ethics of artificial intelligence. Prior to this position, Ms. Ramos served as the Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20/G7/APEC in the OECD, contributing to the global agenda as well as leading the OECD's New Approaches to Economic Challenges, Inclusive Growth Initiative, Gender Strategy and the work on well-being and children. In 2019, she launched the Business for Inclusive Growth (B4IG) platform, bringing together 40 major multinational companies committed to reducing inequalities. Previously, she was Director of the OECD Office in Mexico and Latin America and a member of the Mexican foreign service. |

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| **Panel II: Justice**

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| **Moderator** |
| **A person smiling for the camera  Description automatically generated with medium confidenceDorothy Davis, Congressional Black Caucus Representative to the ECOSOC**Dorothy M. Davis is President of Dorothy M. Davis Consulting, an international development communications consulting and project management firm that strategically and innovatively organizes complex issues into manageable and sustainable solutions. She currently serves as the founding ECOSOC Representative for the Congressional Black Caucus Institute (CBCI) responsible for shaping its ECOSOC Consultative status at the United Nations. Ms. Davis’ unique career path thrives at the nexus of private, public and non-profit sectors.  She is widely recognized for her trailblazing professional accomplishments and humanitarian leadership. She shapes global narratives, troubleshoots and provides strategic thinking for and in collaboration with the United Nations system, Heads of State and government, civil society organizations and the private sector globally.    Her clients include  Africa America Institute, Shared Interest, UN Office of South-South Cooperation, UN-Office of the High Representative for the Least developed Countries and small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), International fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), the World Health Organization, (WHO), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN Women, UNDP, African Union, African Women's Development Fund and Femmes Africa Solidarite; Project partners have included, the UN Secretariat, UNESCO, ILO, FAO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP, and the African Development Bank (ADB).  |
| **Panelists** |
| University of the West Indies' Professor Verene Shepherd - CARICOM**Verene A. Sheperd, Vice-chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**Professor Verene Shepherd is a Social Historian and current Director of the Centre for Reparation Research at The University of the West Indies. She holds the BA and MPhil degrees in History from the University of the West Indies and the PhD from the University of Cambridge. She researches Jamaican Economic History, Slavery, Reparation and Gender discourses in Caribbean history. Prof Shepherd is host of “Talking History” on Nationwide 90 FM; a member of the National Council on Reparation (Jamaica), Vice Chair of the CARICOM Reparation Commission and Vice-Chair of the UN’s Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. |
| **Opal Tometi, Human Rights Advocate & Social Entrepreneur, Co-creator of #BlackLivesMatter (USA/Nigeria)**Opal Tometi is one of the most influential human rights leaders of the century according to TIME magazine. As one of the three women co-founders of Black Lives Matter digital platform and chapter-based network, her name is etched in history. Hailed as a feminist freedom fighter, Tometi is respected for her track record of uniting communities, and for her thought leadership on race, immigration, and gender. In early 2019 she completed nearly a decade of service as the Executive Director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), the first immigrant rights organization for people of African descent in the United States. Opal is a trusted advisor and serves on the board of Atlantic Fellows for Racial Equity and the International Living Futures Institute. She has graced the cover of magazines because of her achievements and received numerous recognitions including an honorary PhD, being named most influential women of the century by USA Today, TIME Magazine, and Most Influential People by Forbes, Marie Claire, Glamour and Cosmopolitan magazines. Tometi was also honored by the City University of New York (CUNY) with a scholarship in her name to support immigrant students pursuing law degrees. In 2019 she also received the Coretta Scott King Center Award and Douglass 200 Award, and is currently featured in a video installation at the Smithsonian’s National Museum for African History and Culture for her contributions in thought-leadership for the betterment of the diaspora. As the daughter of Nigerian immigrants, Opal has set her movement sights on an even bigger struggle: uplifting Black lives worldwide. In 2020 she founded Diaspora Rising, a new media and advocacy hub dedicated to strengthening the bonds amongst members of the global Black family. Additionally, she's focused on other social enterprises. With nearly two decades as a human rights champion, she still feels her work has only just begun. |
| A person playing a video game  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Mr. Ahmed Reid, Member, Working Group of Expert People of African Descent (Jamaica)**Mr. Reid is Associate Professor of Caribbean History the City University of New York. He received his Ph.D. in Social and Economic History from the University of Hull, England. Dr. Reid's research interests include Caribbean Economic and Social History, Comparative Slavery, the Transatlantic Trade in Africans and Reparation. He is the author and co-author of several articles and is the recipient of several prestigious research fellowships, including from Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition and the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University. |
| A close-up of a person  Description automatically generated**Ms. Peggy Hicks, Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development, OHCHR**Peggy Hicks has served as director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) since January 2016. She provides strategic direction to the UN Human Rights Office’s work on a broad range of pressing human rights issues, including human rights in the digital age and expanding civic space. From 2005 to 2015, she was global advocacy director at Human Rights Watch, where she was responsible for managing Human Rights Watch’s advocacy team and providing direction to its advocacy worldwide. Ms. Hicks previously served as the director of the Office of Returns and Communities in the UN mission in Kosovo and as Deputy High Representative for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has also worked as the Director of Programs for the International Human Rights Law Group, and as clinical professor of human rights and refugee law at the University of Minnesota Law School. Ms. Hicks is a graduate of Columbia Law School and the University of Michigan. |

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**Panel III: Development**

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| **Moderator** |
| A picture containing person, person, suit, posing  Description automatically generated**Mr. Bonny Ibhawo, Member, Un Expert Mechanism on the right to Development**Bonny Ibhawoh is Professor and Senator William McMaster Chair in Global Human Rights at McMaster University, Canada. He is a legal historian who has taught in universities in Africa, Europe and North America. Previously, he was a Human Rights Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs, New York, and Research Fellow at the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen. His research expertise includes global human rights history, peace/conflict studies and transitional/restorative justice studies. Dr. Ibhawoh has held several university academic and administrative positions including: Director of the Centre for Peace Studies, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, and Acting Associate Vice-President (Research) at McMaster University. He has authored several books on human rights, including Imperial Justice (Oxford University Press) and Human Rights in Africa (Cambridge University Press). Dr. Ibhawoh is a member of the College of Scholars of the Royal Society of Canada. |
| **Panelists** |
| **A person smiling for the camera  Description automatically generated with low confidenceDiene Keita, Deputy Executive Director, Programme, United Nations Population Fund**Ms. Keita started her United Nations career in 1990 with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York as Programme Officer, and from this point held various successful programmatic leadership positions at country level, serving as UNDP Deputy Representative and Acting Representative for several years.Ms. Keita joined UNFPA in 2006 as Representative in Mauritania, and thereafter served in representative positions in Benin, as well as in DRC and Nigeria (two of UNFPA’s largest programmes globally) before joining the Guinean Government as a cabinet minister in 2018.  During this time, Ms. Keita successfully led large and complex public health programmes, expanded strategic partnerships and mobilized critical resources to support delivery.  While serving with UNFPA, Ms. Keita also acted as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mauritania, Benin and DRC where she oversaw the United Nations system at the national level.  All throughout her career, Ms. Keita has worked extensively on the empowerment of women and youth, inclusive growth, demographic issues, sustainable human development, addressing sexual and reproductive health, as well as gender-based violence in humanitarian settings. Ms. Keita, who is a fluent in French and Italian, holds a doctorate in Law, a DEA in International Economics and Development Law and a DESS in International Relations from the University of Paris 1 Sorbonne.  |
| **A person standing in front of a window  Description automatically generated with medium confidenceAna Barreto, Program Director at Afro-Resistance, (Brazil)**Ms. Barreto is an Afro-Brazilian woman from Jardim Angela, a low-income neighborhood in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She is a United Nations Fellow for People of African Descent. She has been a leader in her community in addressing education and health issues and has spent the past 15 years working to strengthen the connections between the lived-experiences and voices of people of African descent and international decision-making spaces. She is a co-founder of Project 111 (projeto 111), formed in 2015 to investigate media reports on killings of Afro-Brazilians. The project works to promote justice and to humanize victims of police brutality in Brazil. She currently works on transformative projects that address the realities and challenges faced by women and girls of African descent. As Program Director at Afro-Resistance, Ana works towards addressing the multiple barriers faced by women and girls of African descent to the enjoyment of their human rights in the Americas. She is also one of the founders of Kilomba, the first collective of Black Brazilians in the United States whose goal is to promote Afro-Brazilian perspectives in the discussion of Brazilian issues in international spaces.  |
| **A person with curly hair  Description automatically generated with medium confidenceNanjala Nyabola, Political Analyst, Activist**Ms Nyabola is a writer, political analyst, and activist based in [Nairobi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nairobi), [Kenya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya). She writes extensively about African society and politics, technology, international law, and feminism for academic and non-academic publications. Her first book Digital Democracy, Analogy Politics (Zed Books, 2018) was described as “a must read for all researchers and journalists writing about Kenya today”. Nyabola held a [Rhodes Scholarship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodes_Scholarship) at [Harris Manchester College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harris_Manchester_College), [University of Oxford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Oxford) in 2009, was part of the 2017 inaugural cohort of [Foreign Policy Interrupted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_Policy_Interrupted) Fellows, and was a 2017 Logan Nonfiction Program Fellow at the [Carey Institute for Global Good](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carey_Institute_for_Global_Good). She is  on the board of Amnesty International Kenya. In addition to her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, Nyabola holds a BA in African Studies and Political Science from [University of Birmingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Birmingham) and two masters degrees (MSc in Forced Migration, MSc in African Studies) from the University of Oxford. |

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