

Statements from Brazil (national capacity)

Item 6, Session 3: Time to address the root causes of systemic racism: Remedies, Reparations, Accountability and Justice

This session provides us with the opportunity to share information on some of the public policies and programmes devised to combat racism, racial discrimination in Brazil.

(2) The Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights comprises an Office of the Ombudsman, which is responsible for receiving complaints regarding racism and religious intolerance, forwarding them to the competent authorities at federal, state, and local levels.

(3) The Office does not have decision-making power regarding the complaints presented at administrative and judicial levels. It cannot act in the police investigation or in the judgment of cases per se, but it can forward them to the competent authorities, monitor them until they reach the judicial system, and provide information and guidance to complainants and victims.

(4) The Office of the Ombudsman is responsible for receiving, examining and forwarding complaints and grievances, thus acting in conflict resolution and in the remediation of human rights violations. This is instrumental, as a means to foster remedies, reparations, accountability and justice in matters related to racism.

(5) In an age of misinformation, the visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism to Brazil, scheduled to take place next year, will contribute to a better understanding of Brazilian reality, providing further proof of our commitment to constructive dialogue and accountability in the field of human rights.

(6) On the international arena, we will provide our comments concerning the establishment of a Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the launching negotiations of a UN declaration on the rights People of African Descent to the ensuing discussions under item 7 of the agenda.

(262 words)