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Erica Baganza,

Thank you, Madame Chair, the member states, and members of civil society. My name is Erica Baganza, and I am the Policy Manager at The Black Alliance for Just Immigration, known as (BAJI).

We have all seen how the international community is quite capable of creating and implementing immigration policies that help migrants in crisis, and choose to intentionally perpetuate racial inequalities in their disparate treatment of Black migrants seeking refuge from deadly harm.

The most current and prevalent example of this is the international community's failure to mobilize for Sudan and its people in their desperate time of need in comparison to the treatment received by Ukrainian migrants. Sudan has long been a place of refuge and aided the international community in mitigating the refugee crises that have accelerated in recent years from global warming, civil conflict, and worsening economic depression. Yet, when the crisis erupted on April 15, 2023 the international community decided to evacuate its own diplomatic staff, negotiate ceasefires from afar, and leave thousands of Black Sudanese behind subject to displacement, death, and the aftermath of the effects of ongoing conflict.

When the Ukrainian crisis unfolded in February 2022, the international community demonstrated a level of urgency and creativity never extended to Black people. The United States even developed Unite For Ukraine, a private sponsorship program that allowed any U.S. citizen to sponsor Ukrainians migrating to the U.S..

The only difference in the response to Ukrainian migrants versus Black migrants is that Ukrainian migrants are white. The proof is in the pudding.

We recommend the member states create, legislate, and implement dignified and compassionate immigration policies that respect the human rights of Black migrants.