

OHCHR high-level event

LISTEN UP: Meaningful, Inclusive, and Safe Participation of People of African Descent in Public Affairs

 Friday, 6 October 2023, 15:00 – 17:00 CET

 Palais des Nations, Room XIX, Geneva, Switzerland
and remote participation via Zoom (with interpretation)

REGISTRATION

<https://indico.un.org/event/1007582/>

For people everywhere, the ability to influence and shape their futures is critical. To this end, international human rights law enshrines the right to participate in public affairs without discrimination. However, in practice, people of African descent continue to be marginalized and excluded from decision-making processes, including those that directly affect them—a reality inextricably linked to daily experiences of systemic racism in every area of life.

This high-level panel will bring visibility to a new guidance note on [How to effectively implement the right to participate in public affairs: A spotlight on people of African descent](#); and highlight the specific challenges faced by people of African descent in this regard. Panellists will explore synergies between combating systemic racism against people of African descent and the importance of their meaningful, inclusive, and safe participation in public affairs.

Opening Video Statement delivered by Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

PANELLISTS:

Minister Anielle Franco, *Minister of Racial Equality, Brazil*

Ms. Gaynel Curry, *Member of the UN Permanent Forum of People of African Descent*

Rev. Dr. Iva E. Carruthers, *General Secretary of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference*

Ms. Fairuz Sewbaks, *Deputy Director of PAD Link*

Moderated by Mr. Abdoul Aziz Thioye, *Chief (a.i.) of Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, OHCHR*