



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 30, 2025

Case No. FL-2023-00037

Reed Rubinstein
America First Legal
611 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

As we noted in our letter dated January 31, 2025, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State (“Department”) has identified an additional eight responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that the eight records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant United States Attorney Jeremy Simon at Jeremy.Simon@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2023-00036, and the civil action number, 23-cv-00419, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Avery Bullard

Avery Bullard
Supervisory Government Information Specialist
Litigation and Appeals Office

Enclosures: As stated.

Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

FW: Virtual introduction to US expert on UN law enforcement body

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Wed 1/5/2022 3:41 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Looks like we'll aim for the week of January 17. Will share more feedback from the WH after I receive it. thanks!

(b)(6) (she/her)

Senior Advisor
Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO)
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov



The United States is proud to support
Doreen Bogdan-Martin for Secretary-General of the
International Telecommunication Union

From: Bernstein, Jesse M. EOP/NSC (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 3:26 PM

To: Hill, Steven R. EOP/NSC <(b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: Lombardo, Allison K (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ried, Curtis R (b)(6) Leary, Kimberlyn R. EOP/WHO

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Virtual introduction to US expert on UN law enforcement body

Thanks (b)(6) and happy new year! I'm also happy to participate, I'd also flag that for State, I think it is important that INL participate given the law enforcement nexus.

On the DPC - (b)(6) is the Director for Criminal Justice and should at least be brought in/aware of this conversation - (b)(6) and I are set to talk tomorrow and we can discuss this further.

All best and thanks for prompting this opportunity!

(b)(6)

From: Hill, Steven R. EOP/NSC
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 3:20 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Lombardo, Allison K (b)(6)@state.gov>; Ried, Curtis R. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Bernstein, Jesse M. EOP/NSC
 (b)(6) Leary, Kimberlyn R. EOP/WHO (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Virtual introduction to US expert on UN law enforcement body

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for reaching our about Dr. Keesee and her appointment to the new UN body on systemic racism in law enforcement. I'd be happy to participate in the kind of meeting you describe. The week after next might be most realistic. What kind of attendee(s) do you have in from DHS?

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 2:20 PM
To: Hill, Steven R. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Bernstein, Jesse M. EOP/NSC (b)(6) Leary, Kimberlyn R. EOP/WHO
 (b)(6)
Cc: Lombardo, Allison K (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Virtual introduction to US expert on UN law enforcement body

(b)(6) -

I just had a very positive call with Dr. Tracie Keesee, one of the three newly appointed independent experts to the new UN mechanism tasked to examine systemic racism in law enforcement globally established by Human Rights Council resolution 47/21 (attached).

Although this new mechanism has a global mandate, we should fully expect a U.S. focus given the realities here and the fact that George Floyd's murder precipitated the resolution that created this mechanism. And although she is an independent expert, Tracie would like to have a solid understanding of the Administration's priorities and progress as she engages with her counterparts to hash out their own priorities and focus areas for their 3-year mandate.

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

system. I suggest a one-hour virtual meeting next week or the following, as Tracie has already begun engaging with the other experts and we want to give her at least a baseline understanding of what we're doing at the federal level. Equipping her with this knowledge prior to broader engagement with Member States and civil society – which she anticipates happening in February – will also be important to help us proactively share the good work we are doing.

1/7/22, 12:15 PM

Mail - (b)(6) - Outlook

State can take the lead on setting up the call, but would need your help identifying the right people on the domestic side to participate, especially from DHS. In addition to you three, I think having (b)(6) and (b)(6) and/or (b)(6) from DOJ join again (as they did in the ASG meeting) would be fantastic.

Looking forward to your thoughts. Happy to hop on a quick call to address any questions.

Many thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (she/her)

Senior Advisor

Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO)

U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov



The United States is proud to support
Doreen Bogdan-Martin for Secretary-General of the
International Telecommunication Union

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From:	IOStaffAssistants <IOStaffAssistants@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
CC:	IOStaffAssistants <IOStaffAssistants@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	Urgent Clearance Request: High Level Remarks Invitation - Ambassador Susan Rice - UN ECOSOC Special Meeting on Countering Racism
Date:	Wed, 27 Jan 2021 15:42:28 +0000

Ms. (b)(6)

Enclosed for your urgent clearance: High Level Remarks Invitation - Ambassador Susan Rice - UN ECOSOC Special Meeting on Countering Racism.

Thank you.

(b)(6) **Staff Assistant**
Bureau for International Organization Affairs
(b)(6)@state.gov | W: (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Sender:	IOStaffAssistants <IOStaffAssistants@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; IOStaffAssistants <IOStaffAssistants@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

-2-

Approved: IO – Erica Barks-Ruggles, Acting []

Drafted: IO/HRH (b)(6)

Cleared: IO/FO (b)(6)

IO/FO: Allison Lombardo

IO/FO: (b)(6)

IO/FO: Hugo Yon

IO/HRH: (b)(6) (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

USUN: (b)(6) (ok)

**(SBU) Meeting with Canadian Minister Hussen
Monday, November 28, 2022, 2:00 PM, Canada Office at Casa Alleman**

(SBU) BLUF/OBJECTIVES:

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

(SBU) ASKS:

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

SRREJ/USG Collaboration: (b)(5) Deliberative Process

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

SRREJ Mandate: (b)(5) Deliberative Process

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

(U) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**Previous Canada meetings:**

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

Canadian Participants:

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

Biography for Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen was first elected in 2015 to represent the riding of York South—Weston. He has previously served as Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. Minister Hussen immigrated to Canada in 1993 and settled in Toronto. He began his career in public service after high school, working with the Hamilton-Wentworth social services department.

Minister Hussen co-founded the Regent Park Community Council in 2002. As its president, he played a key role in securing the \$500-million revitalization project for Regent Park, while advocating for its 15,000 residents to ensure that their interests were protected. He was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for his leadership efforts in the Regent Park community.

Serving as National President for the Canadian Somali Congress, Minister Hussen worked with national and regional authorities to advocate on important issues to Canadians of Somali heritage, strengthening civic engagement and integration. His results-driven reputation led to an invitation from the Toronto City Summit Alliance to join a task force for modernizing income security for adults.

As a result of his advocacy work, the Toronto Star recognized Minister Hussen in 2004 as one of 10 individuals in Toronto to have made substantial contributions to the community.

After earning a law degree from the University of Ottawa, Minister Hussen practised law in the areas of criminal defence, immigration and refugee law, and human rights. He served as a director on the board of the Global Enrichment Foundation, an organization that has enabled women in East Africa to access education in colleges and universities in the region, and on the board of Journalists for Human Rights, an organization that empowers journalists in developing countries to cover human rights and governance issues objectively and effectively. Minister Hussen also previously worked as a Special Assistant for intergovernmental affairs to former Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, and sat on the Government of Canada's Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security.

Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion Mandate: “As Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, your overarching goal is to help ensure Canadians can get a home of their own, through work to improve housing affordability and end chronic homelessness, and to champion the full breadth of our country's vibrant diversity through greater inclusion. Continuing the Government's rights-based approach to housing, you will work with provinces, territories and municipalities to prioritize the launch of the new Housing Accelerator Fund and take action to protect consumers from anti-competitive practices in the real estate market. To help address critical gaps, you will likewise engage with Indigenous partners early to begin the co-development of an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy. You will also lead a whole-of-government approach to build a more inclusive, equitable and just society, working to combat systemic racism, discrimination and xenophobia. This will include supporting all ministers to advance equality and inclusion within their portfolio and working across government and in close collaboration with communities to renew Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy, including a National Action Plan on Combatting Hate.” (Mandate Letter)

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	Davide Rodogno (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamedou (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; (b)(6)@diasporarising.org (b)(6)@diasporarising.org>; Eric Ward (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Gay McDougall (b)(6) Léna Menge (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>
CC:	team@(b)(6) rebekahc@(b)(6) IHEID Events (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; Jacqueline Coté (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; Laurence Algarra (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	RE: Thank you
Date:	Thu, 18 Mar 2021 14:27:18 +0000

Dear All,

On behalf of the United States Mission to the UN in Geneva, I would like to add my profound thanks to all of you for making this important event come to life. In the past 24 hours, we have received many notes of appreciation from our diplomatic partners and civil society organizations remarking on the substance and candor of the discussion. Professor McDougall, Opal, Eric, and (b)(6) your thoughtful presentations were extraordinary and helped to clarify this complex topic for many of our international interlocutors. Professors Mohamedou and Rodogno, thank you both for your expert moderation and all of the time you dedicated to ensure this program went smoothly. Thanks as well to the entire team at the Graduate Institute, Geneva for their close collaboration and partnership.

We very sincerely hope to continue this conversation and I know our entire team here was inspired by the call to make sure our work is reflected in outcomes and real change. For your reference, I attach a full transcript of the event and the link to the video which Lena was kind enough to share.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCvoEHCTj0s>

(b)(6)

From: Davide Rodogno (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>

Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:40 AM

To: Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamedou (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>

Cc: (b)(6)@diasporarising.org; Eric Ward (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; team@(b)(6) Gay McDougall (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; rebekahc@(b)(6) Léna Menge

(b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; IHEID Events (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; Jacqueline Coté

(b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; Laurence Algarra (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>

Subject: Re: Thank you

Dear all,

a post scriptum to Mahmoud's thank you note. This was inspiring and important. A significant moment, which as far as I am concerned clearly goes beyond academia. I thank you all for this opportunity and the quality of our exchanges.

Best wishes,

Davide

On Wed, 17 Mar 2021 at 16:41, Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamedou

(b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch> wrote:

Dear Gay, Opal, (b)(6) and Eric:

A word to thank you for an excellent and important conversation today.

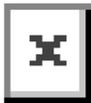
We greatly appreciated your respective inputs, honest assessments, and availability.

We take this opportunity to thank (b)(6) and all the colleagues at the US Mission for the partnership, and our colleagues at the Graduate Institute for their kind assistance in the successful production of this event.

With warm wishes,

Mahmoud and Davide

MOHAMED MAHMOUD MOHAMEDOU
PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS
CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITICS
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
Maison de la Paix P2-547 | Case Postale 1672 | 1211 Geneva | Switzerland
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Davide Rodogno

Head | Interdisciplinary Programmes

International History & Politics Professor

[\(b\)\(6\)](http://graduateinstitute.ch/directory/_/people/(b)(6))

Personal Website

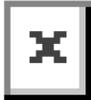
(b)(6)

<https://www.utopia3.ch/>

Research Projects' Websites:

<http://heraldsofglobalization.net/>

<https://themythofhomogeneity.wordpress.com/>



Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2A Case postale 1672, 1211 Genève 1

Error! Filename not specified.Tel: +41 22 908 62 15 – Fax : + 41 22 908 62 71

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Davide Rodogno (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamedou (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; (b)(6)@diasporarising.org (b)(6)@diasporarising.org>; Eric Ward (b)(6) (b)(6)@state.gov>; Gay McDougall (b)(6) Léna Menge (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; team@(b)(6) rebekahc@(b)(6) IHEID Events (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; Jacqueline Côté (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; Laurence Algarra (b)(6)@graduateinstitute.ch>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

**Addressing Racial Justice
As a U.S. Foreign Policy Imperative**

(b)(6)

**Bureau of International Organization Affairs
U.S. Department of State**

**Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou
Davide Rodogno
Professors of International History - Graduate Institute
Moderators**

**Gay McDougall - Former Vice Chair
UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Fordham University School of Law, 2021 CERD Candidate**

**Opal Tometi
Co-Founder - Black Lives Matter
Founder - Diaspora Rising**

**Eric K. Ward
Executive Director - Western States Center
Senior Fellow - Southern Poverty Law Center & Race Forward**

**Graduate Institute Geneva
March 17, 2021**

Dr. Rodogno: My name is Davide Rodogno.

This webinar lasts one hour. It will be divided in two parts. We will start with opening remarks by Desirée Cormier Smith. She's Senior Advisor in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

Following Ms. Smith's opening remarks, we will turn our panel discussion with three guests - Gay McDougall, Opal Tometi and Eric Ward who will be introduced later on. Each will make introductory remarks, some five minutes, followed by exchanges. We will take a few questions at the end of the session.

Dr. Mohamedou: Let us now start by taking the opening remarks of Desirée Cormier Smith from the U.S. State Department. Previously Ms. Smith was Senior Policy Advisor for Africa, Europe and Eurasia at the Open Society Foundation. She was also

honored by the New America Foundation as a 2020 American National Security and Foreign Policy Next Generation leader.

Ms. Smith, welcome. This is a special moment for racial justice and for the U.S. and its reengaging with the Human Rights Council. The floor is yours.

Ms. Smith: Thank you very much.

I'd like to begin by thanking the Graduate Institute Geneva for hosting today's discussion. Your reputation for excellence is well known and it's wonderful to partner with you on such an important and timely event.

My sincerest gratitude as well to the three distinguished panelists who have joined us. It's an honor to have each of you here to share your thoughts, experiences, and observations at such a pivotal moment in our history. You all are a continuation of the legacy started by the likes of Frederick Douglass and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. of black American activists and members of civil society who have constantly pushed us to live up to the ideals our country was founded upon, that all people are created equal and deserve equal protection under the law.

On a personal note, as a black woman I would like to take a moment to thank each of you for your tireless advocacy to create a society that is more just, safe, and equitable for every human being regardless of their race.

I'd like to start off by saying that we are appalled and saddened by the recent shootings and deaths of eight people in the Atlanta area and extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims. While I will not speculate on the motive and leave the investigations to the appropriate authorities, media reports state that many of the victims were of Asian descent and the majority were Asian women. Sadly, we are well aware that over the past year there have been numerous acts of violence and hate crimes in the United States directed against individuals of Asian descent. We have strongly condemned those acts and made clear that racism, racially motivated attacks and hatred will not be tolerated in America. As President Biden put it, it is unacceptable that any person of Asian descent is "forced to live in fear for their lives just walking down the streets in America". And unequivocally said that it's wrong, it's un-American and it must stop.

This program takes place at the dawn of a new era of American policy, both foreign and domestic. There have been seismic shifts in recent months after Americans exercised their right to vote in record numbers in last year's election despite a deadly pandemic and often against significant efforts to suppress their voices.

Americans chose a new path forward and with it a new way of looking at the systemic problems that confront our society, how we structure our relations with other nations in an increasingly fractured world, and our government's role in addressing the challenges we face.

America is a dynamic and vibrant democracy that has in more recent times revealed some of its imperfections. We are a driven nation bursting with enterprise, technology, culture and diversity. Historically, we have also been seen as a bulwark against oppression and authoritarianism as we stood by our allies and partners to defend the liberty and freedoms that are so much a part of our collective psyche as Americans.

The world has watched us closely as we have grappled openly with struggles of pain, oppression and the reconciliation needed in order to overcome them. Americans continue to fight against racism and discrimination through civic, legislative, and judicial mechanisms watched and reported on by a free and open press and bolstered by a vibrant and independent civil society.

Confronting systemic racism is a battle, often arduous, ugly, and difficult but a necessary one as it is for the soul of what a nation stands for, how it sees itself, and how it is viewed by the world. And what a government does or doesn't do reflects its values and its standing both at home and abroad.

On the very same day that President Biden was sworn in he issued an executive order on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government noting that equal opportunity is the bedrock of American democracy and our diversity is one of our country's greatest strengths.

Within a week of taking office President Biden also issued an executive order condemning and combating racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian-American and Pacific Islanders in the United States because advancing inclusion and belonging for people of all races, national origins and ethnicities is critical to guaranteeing the safety and security of the American people.

These are important steps in the right direction followed by many others in the days since that acknowledge the problem of systemic racism and make clear that the weight and resources of the U.S. Air Force would be used to affirmatively advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity for all. Even this week in Geneva we see this renewed commitment on display during the adoption of our Universal Periodic Review and our soon to be delivered Joint Statement on Racism.

American leadership on human rights must begin at home in order to be credible abroad. Our commitment must be reflected in our diplomatic practices, in the ways we engage with our neighbors and in our commitment to care for the most vulnerable among us. We must honestly account for our past and how it continues to affect our present while simultaneously working together to improve our collective futures. For we cannot solve a problem without first honestly confronting it, no matter how ugly or uncomfortable it may be.

We approach that task with humility and determination. As President Biden has said, we have never fully lived up to the founding principles of this nation, to state the obvious, that all people are created equal and have a right to be treated equally throughout their lives and it's time to act now. Not only because it's the right thing to do but because if we do we'll all be better off for it.

Today's conversation is a part of that process of trying to more fully live up to our ideals as the United States reengages with the Human Rights Council. As Secretary Blinken stated last month when he announced that we would seek election to the Council, any pledge to fight for human rights around the world must begin with the pledge for human rights at home.

I look forward to listening and learning with the many others who have taken the time to join us today and I hope the conversation ahead will be compelling for everyone here.

Thank you again.

Dr. Mohamedou: Thank you very much, Ms. Smith. Thank you for your opening remarks and for helping us frame this important conversation.

So precisely to help us shed light on this continuing question of the problem of racial justice in the United States and its

wider international implications, we now welcome three distinguished speakers. These are:

Ms. Gay McDougall who is a Senior Fellow and Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the Fordham University School of Law and Former Vice Chair and 2021 Candidate to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Ms. Opal Tometi, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter and Founder of Diaspora Rising, a new media and advocacy hub dedicated to the strengthening of the bonds amongst members of the global Black Diaspora.

And Mr. Eric Ward, Executive Director of the Western States Center and Senior Fellow at the Southern Poverty Law Center and at Race Forward.

We will start with Ms. Tometi and then move to Mr. Ward and then Ms. McDougall. This conversation takes place as the question of racism has dominated the headlines in recent months. This is of course not a new issue neither in the United States nor in other parts of the world. Racial justice has unfortunately been consistently present in the history of the USA and in the history of the world. There is, however, for the purposes of this discussion, a moment of urgency as the U.S. under the new administration has declared its intention to tackle this issue and globally as we see the problem getting more visibility.

So precisely as I mentioned, Ms. Tometi, as I go to you, you are one of the three women, co-founders of the Black Lives Matter movement which we should recall was, of course, formed in 2013 in the aftermath of the killing of Trayvon Martin who we should also remind ourselves, whose killer was acquitted as it were, raising obvious problems of justice in that case.

As one of the influential human rights leaders of our time the trial, Ms. Tometi, of the murder of another individual, George Floyd, of course is on right now in Minneapolis starting the past couple of days. What are your expectations? Why is this moment so important in and of itself for the issue that we all followed domestically, internationally, but also against the context and the backdrop of the events of the past few years? How, relatedly, in your own work do you conceive and think of the trajectory of the BLM movement in the U.S. and internationally where for instance some of us are imagining the movement becoming a BLM International. Would that be the case? And how could the work of institutions such as the Human Rights

Council here in Geneva be engaged with a movement such as the one you started?

Ms. Tometi, the floor is yours, please.

Ms. Tometi: Thank you. I want to first say thank you so much for inviting me to speak here and to be in exchange with some of my incredible colleagues and peers that I've worked with over the years.

Today is a very sobering day. I just want to say that outright. It's a very sobering day. The events that took place just last night in Atlanta really led me to a sleepless night. I am sure many of you are also feeling the same.

The work that we're talking about and what we're doing here today is not theoretical, but it is a reality, and my heart goes out to the Asian-American community right now as they're reeling from these hate crimes and these attacks that have been going on in their community. The xenophobia must stop. This white supremacist violence has to stop. I just had to get that off my chest.

To answer your question, just to speak about the George Floyd murder and now the trial of Derek Chauvin, I would just want to say that we are living in a very pivotal moment in history. While we're watching the trial of Derek Chauvin we can't lose sight of the larger factors that led to this police officer savagely murdering a man in broad daylight while people watched on. We must address the issues that allow a society to exist where such a thing could even happen.

This was clearly not an isolated event. As you shared earlier, BLM has been in motion over the years. We started this particular platform back in 2013 and I'd argue that the movement to stop extrajudicial killings of black people began far, far beyond that. I'd be remiss if I didn't raise the name of somebody like [Anama Dudialo] and many others.

So while we look to these high profile cases because they're very visible, I want us to be mindful of the fact that we can't solely pin our hopes on those cases and those courts.

One of the key reasons that I helped to co-create Black Lives Matter was to help remind people that racism is not solely about how an individual feels or about one individual's actions but

that it's systemic. It involves all of the institutions and public policies that govern people lives.

So today's event which is under this banner of why racism is a foreign policy issue is really important and I'd be remiss if I didn't add that I believe that the Biden administration must move beyond symbolism to outcomes that materially change the circumstances of black people in the United States. When the administration has done so they will have the capability to call out injustices around the world and promote human rights.

The events of the last seven years, and particularly the uprisings just this past year showed us that the U.S. was not able to hide behind its façade of racial harmony and democracy. An era of digital technology and social media has made obfuscating the United States' scourge of racism and violation of human rights much more difficult. Video of George Floyd, Eric Garner, Walter Scott, and accounts of murders of people like our sister Breonna Taylor who was asleep in her bed has exposed the horrors taking place the United States cloak of moral authority.

As a co-founder of Black Lives Matter, I understand firsthand the incredibly challenging work to hold leadership of the United States accountable for its history of racism and oppression against black people. And unless the United States intentionally, consistently, and tangibly grapples with institutionalized racism and the devaluating of black lives within its own borders it will have only marginal impact on the global stage.

Foreign policy is not just about the face a country puts out to the world. It is about projecting what is inside of that country to the world. The United States must ask itself what images are we projecting? What values are we embodying? What ideals will we continue to codify and do our actions align with the values we espouse? These to me are the core questions that are relevant to us right now.

I will begin to close by just saying nothing was more jarring than the images of the George Floyd makeshift posters that began circulating last year during the protests in places like Ghana, and then in places even like Nigeria. We saw a group of women standing in what appeared to be the local market crying out for justice for George Floyd. I saw a video clip where there was a lone man who stood by the side of the road repeatedly saying, "Stop killing us." These images from the African continent,

racked by the effects of colonialism, its own struggle for human rights violations only underscore how significant it is that its people identified at a visceral level with the cry "Black Lives Matter" that was emanating from the United States. Black people in the U.S. have consistently held up a mirror of this country, forcing it to reckon with the disconnect between its stated values and its actions. The killing of George Floyd done callously and casually by a police officer only revealed to the broader world what black people in America have already known. That no matter how much aid or how many humanitarian missions that the United States embarks upon elsewhere, it must face the hypocrisy within or risk being the biggest hypocrite on the world stage.

I'll close there.

Dr. Rodogno: Thank you very much, Ms. Tometi. That was significant and very important.

Let us now turn to our second speaker, Eric Ward. Mr. Ward you are an internationally recognized expert on the relationship between authoritarian movements, hate, violence, and preserving inclusive democracy, bringing over 30 years of leadership in community organizing and in philanthropy.

For a very long time scholars and the news media have refused to take seriously extreme right movements such as the alt-right movement in the U.S. and its various equivalents in Europe and elsewhere.

Things may seem to be changing now. For instance journalist and filmmaker Daniel Lombroso's movie *White Noise* shows how pernicious, now extended and nefarious in terms of discourses and outreach these movements can be.

Our questions for you are the following. How would you relate the expansion of these movements to the current moment that Ms. Tometi has mentioned in her speech? How can these movements be tackled with being indeed a racial justice imperative?

Mr. Ward: Good morning everyone, and thank you for the opportunity to speak, and thank you to the other speakers today.

This is such a critically important conversation, and this is about addressing both the implicit and explicit bias that prevents the advancement of racial equity in the United States. But whether you live in the United States or globally, all of us

are impacted by the failure to achieve racial equity in the United States. Whether we are talking about the targeting of Asian Americans in Georgia last night or the targeting of Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand nearly two years ago. What we understand is that the organized racial terror of the United States will no longer be contained to the United States.

When we talk about racial equity, quite simply we are speaking about the belief that everyone should have the right to live, love, worship and work free from systemic forms of discrimination and racialized political violence. And that everyone, regardless of the color of their skin, perceived race, cast or ethnicity should enjoy equal opportunity, prosperity, and equality under the law.

A July 2020 poll conducted by NBC News shows that most voters in the United States have developed a greater awareness of inequality and discrimination and the targeting of communities of color in the United States. This poll also showed that more voters are sympathetic to those protesting to end it.

Yet while that vision of a multi-racial society enjoys greater support, civil society, including governmental institutions find themselves under tremendous attack. I'm not alone in this assessment. 74 percent of American voters now believe that the United States' push towards an inclusive democracy is under threat. I believe that this threat derives from three primary concerns.

First, is the persistence of racial bias, both conscious and unconscious. The second is the rise of authoritarian ideologies movement in government. And the third is an emerging social movement known as white nationalism. This triple threat is exasperated by a climate crisis, the sudden emergence of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and a new form of colonialism that must be mentioned. The colonization of the human mind by a handful of tech entities who choose each day to place an abundance of profit above the common good and the public desire for community cohesion. The white nationalist movement in the United States has used the disruption and cohesion to tap into social anxieties, public alienation, and economic inequality to wreak its havoc domestically and internationally.

According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, in the first eight months of 2020 white nationalists in the United States orchestrated at least 67 percent of all plots and acts of political violence in the United States. In the last

four years alone, well over 140 law enforcement officers have been injured or killed by white nationalists. Scores of racial justice activists have been physically injured in mob, weapon, and vehicle attacks while engaging in constitutionally protected speech and public assembly. The mass murder of Jews in Pittsburgh, Latinos in El Paso, Blacks in Louisville, are merely some of the dozens of American lives taken by white nationalist violence over the years.

Rather than something to replicate, though, white nationalism sees white supremacy in the current form of systemic discrimination as a failed experiment and not one worth revisiting.

I think this distinction is important, and I'll briefly explain.

White supremacy, the current form of racial discrimination in the United States, is a system of social control and disparity formed to exploit indigenous population, blacks, poor white, immigrants and women's sexual reproduction to maintain political, cultural, and economic and social domination. Some examples include the early forms of chattel slavery, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, and Jim Crow. Morally and legally defeated by the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s de jure white supremacy gave way to de facto white supremacy generally known to exist in American society in economy, culture, politics, and services.

If white supremacy is a system of disparities and bias used to exploit and maintain control, white nationalism seeks the complete removal of Jews and people of color from the United States altogether. White nationalists, rather than trying to reclaim the United States government seeks to overthrow it. In short, it seeks to engage in ethnic cleansing. Unlike white supremacy, what nationalism is rooted in the false anti-Semitic narrative that Jews are responsible for the defeat of white supremacy and seek to destroy the white race through mass immigration, gay marriage, and a host of inclusionary policies.

The first step to effectively addressing this authoritarian challenge of white nationalism is to not forget the lessons of our domestic past.

I live and work in the Pacific Northwest of the United States, a region which has long been targeted by the white nationalist movement. This has always signaled to this region the lack of people of color, that the American West was prime geography for

the growth of white nationalists. To pursue the dreams of a white nationalist homeland, white nationalists sought to compel the region, through beatings, armed robberies, counterfeiting, bombings, murders, and intimidation. I'm speaking of 30 years ago, but of course it sounds very much like today.

Thirty years ago, local communities came across state lines together to respond to the surge of hate crimes and white nationalist ideology with robust organizing, locally based task forces that were supported by the plethora of civil society from governance to non-profit. Within a decade the region has successfully curbed the action and the influence of racial hate groups in the region at least for a time. And then we all moved on and here we are again.

In the U.S. the Trump administration did not create this crisis. It merely pulled the thing scab of wounds that have never been healed. One tangible step towards repair is to incorporate these lessons of the past. You see, it is often the cumulative impact of the historical disparities that leave all of us vulnerable to the violence of white nationalism. Not just here in the United States, but as we have seen internationally.

Specifically, colleagues should consider an annual international audit examining how countries, including the United States, are advancing racial justice relative to the related historical horrors.

For example, the ownership and the trafficking of other human beings. Second, the genocide of categories of people. Third, discrimination and violence on the basis of sex and gender. Fourth, discrimination and violence on the basis of race, ethnicity, and cast. And lastly, religious tolerance.

It is this type of robust system of monitoring that provides a historical perspective that would serve as an early warning system to countries. We must understand the mistakes of each country that has been made in these categories is a baseline upon which authoritarianism will grow, including in the United States. We must understand that remedial actions must be taken in response to the rise of white nationalism. This is not merely a challenge of criminalizing social movements who seek to engage in political violence and the overthrow of democracy. It is also about removing the underlying oxygen of systemic discrimination that creates disparity and responses by government and breaks down trust and community in the relationship with government. When community and the federal

government are divided by suspicion, the ability to be a global partner is seriously weakened.

At the end of the day, we should understand that white nationalism does not seek to merely put people of color back in the mythological place of the past, it seeks a revolutionary overthrow of the United States government by engaging in political violence. It is a threat that will distract the United States from policies that strengthen global relationship and domestic tranquility.

Thank you.

Dr. Mohamedou: Thank you very much, Eric. Thank you for your very important remarks and for reminding us of the breadth and the depth and the continuity of these issues. And the interrelatedness, in fact, with the question of democracy and the ethics that preside over these issues.

We turn now to our third speaker, Ms. Gay McDougall. Before I ask my question to her, just to remind the audience that they can type up their questions in the chat box and we will turn to them in a minute after the last set of remarks and some conversation with our guests.

Gay, welcome. It's very nice to have you with us today. You've been instrumental in contributing to this history. We've heard from Opal already and from Eric about the depth and the continuity but also the struggle. There's a long line in the United States of national figures, of course MLK and Malcolm X and Medgar Evers comes to mind, but so many other people have contributed at the level of civil society. Your own work has been engaging importantly on the international front. You have crafted human rights legislation for emerging democracies beyond the United States and engaged in such advocacy and education and training activities in Asia and Africa and Latin America and Eastern Europe. You successfully lobbied the Congress in 1986 to adopt the Anti-Apartheid Act and you have now been nominated, as I mentioned, as a candidate for election to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the '22-'26 term.

Now above and beyond the U.S. scene and context which we've begun addressing, there's a larger and urgent question. We heard the urgency from both Eric and Opal. How do you explain racism today? How can you have teenagers that carry such feelings and how can we sort of start effectively sort of entering the logic of closure to this issue, if at all possible?

You've been an advocate for many years. What is changing? What has changed in the manner in which you advocate and why? And how, to be programmatic about it, we just heard a proposal from Eric, how can the work of such international institutions as the Human Rights Council whose very design is to address such human rights issues, and racism is a human rights issues, how can such institutions engage creatively, I feel like saying, operationally, with this issue?

Ms. McDougall: Thank you very much for having me here today and I want to thank Desirée and Opal and Eric for each of them giving such impactful and opening statements.

I think we all have a gigantic task before us. And I just want to start by setting the framework for myself. Of course I started in the Civil Rights Movement. I grew up in the Jim Crow South and did Civil Rights work on the ground all over the South, in South Carolina, Alabama, Texas, et cetera, before even being able to get out of the South.

And there was a point at which I learned about W.E.B. Du Bois who was, as you all know, a very active participant along with other black leaders in the 1940s in the conferences that framed the United Nations, and formed the United Nations, because he believed that the United Nations could be a new forum in which black Americans who had been suffering with social racism could plead their case, and that the charter would create new and expanded rights for black Americans. This idea was one that fueled 50 years of my career. I believed, as W.E.B. Du Bois believed, that ending racism will demand the commitment of the entire world, the entire international community of nations in order to do it. Because racism is not only a scourge in the United States, although it is deep and it is, there's always finding new ways to form and grow, it is part of the tentacles of the international legal and economic order along with colonialism.

So, we all must find a way to make the UN a credible institution that can do what W.E.B. Du Bois started out thinking it could do. So that's what I've dedicated much of my career to. But I must say that at this moment in history, I think we all have to say was he wrong? Was he right? And is this institution that we are part of today up to that task? If not, why not?

Now we come together this very important month because the Human Rights Council not only is seeing the reentry of the United States, but it's also taking up the very important issue of the

murder of George Floyd. That has been put before it through the work of something like 700 human rights organizations around the world, along with the lead of the African group.

The question is, is the Human Rights Council going to be able to take up this charge and do what it must? I'm asked that constantly by human rights groups, civil rights groups that I have contact with around the U.S. on a daily basis. Are they going to be inhibited by speaking truth to power about what is undoubtedly a major human rights abuse?

Now there's not just the murder of this man, but what the murder of this man represents in terms of the continuing structure of racism. The reason why so many people flooded out into the streets after his murder - not just in the United States but around the world - is that it resonated in matters of racism that were being seen in the lives of other countries, in Latin America, in Europe, et cetera.

The issue of racism which I think loomed large on the agenda of the United Nations at the birth of the organization, [inaudible]. There have been some high points. For me a high point was the end of apartheid and the important role that was played by the U.S. The other high point was the Third World Conference on Racism in Durban. But I think that the reality is that we all must find a way to make this institution do what it must because we've got to make sure that W.E.B. Du Bois was right, that through the work of all the nations of the world we can find a way to end racial discrimination and to realize that only by ending it can we realize the true benefit that all human beings can make to the global community.

Dr. Rodogno: Thank you, Gay. That was very important.

Now we'll start asking you very short follow-up questions before opening up to the audience.

I have a first follow-up question for Opal. Opal, you stated by saying the work we're doing including today together during this dialogue is not theoretical, but it is practical. You founded quite recently Diaspora Rising which is a media and advocacy hub. My question for you is why did you decide to go about advocating in this particular way, and is Diaspora Rising the best way to go international with the work that you've been doing so far with Black Lives Matter?

Ms. Tometi: Thank you so much for that follow-up question and for the opportunity to share a little bit more about the continuation of the work.

The reality is that Black Lives Matter has many various kinds of tentacles and ways of expressing ourselves and the work that we're up to is bigger than any one individual organization or any individual or set of individuals. So, it's important that we continue to refine our strategies and approaches to attain justice. And the fact is that racism is a global phenomena. Anti-black racism specifically is a global phenomena. And it's important that we have additional language, tools, and methods to address the ways in which anti-black racism is impacting our lives across the board.

So this past year, inspired by the growing movement, I founded Diaspora Rising because I recognized that the global black diaspora is beginning to recognize the shared struggles that we face. And they were beginning to connect the dots between racism, colonialism, and capitalism. And they were beginning to rise up. So Diaspora Rising simply really seeks to meet the demand of this moment by working to strengthen those connections, amplify those issues that are happening around the world, educating the diaspora to raise both their awareness as well as empower our own communities with information to build the systems that we deserve. Systems that fundamentally respect our most basic human rights.

I think this is really important because, as you mentioned a little bit earlier, you kind of alluded to is there like a BLM International, or what kind of engagement might there be with institutions in Geneva and beyond. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that part of the way I see our engagement is by engaging with existing organizations, existing movements. There are many formations that have been mobilizing for years and years and years and have really been waiting on folks in the diaspora, and folks particularly in the U.S., to also stand alongside them and to raise our voices in a way where we can be formidable allies on the international stage calling for justice for all of us. I think that no matter what we call it if it's Black Lives Matter, if it's Fees Must Fall in South Africa, if it's #FreeHaiti in Haiti, I believe that we have a duty, we're all to be engaging in these types of multilateral instruments in order to achieve justice for black people no matter what country we're in, no matter what context we find ourselves in. I believe it's incumbent upon not only ourselves as people who are directly affected and at the grassroots, but I also think it's

important that we continue to receive these types of invitations like the ones that you extended today.

It's important that we not only have these invitations, but we also need to know that these spaces have teeth, right? This multilateral engagement isn't just an exercise in raising and sharing our stories because Lord knows we have countless reports, we have data, we have video, we have many testimonies. But we don't want to continue to see ourselves as pouring out our hearts and pouring out and sharing our stories and compiling data with no meaningful results.

And so I encourage us to think about the ways in which there is real tangible impact from these types of engagement. What are the ways that we can bring to bear and bring to fruition some tangible pressure that allows for us to have the types of gains that we so desperately deserve.

I'll just say one last thing. Later today, in a couple of hours I'm actually going to be chairing a board meeting for a board that I serve on that works between South Africa and the United States, and we're already thinking and moving in transnational ways. We're already thinking and moving in ways that acknowledge the nuances of how racism shows up in different places. And I think it's important that we maintain these types of conversations, gathering spaces, plans of action that transcend borders because we know that the scourge of white supremacy, as Eric was so brilliantly articulating, so was Gay, that we need that. We have to stay in conversation. We have to stay mindful of the ways in which it morphs over time. It might look a little different. It might mask itself once again. But it's always there. So we need to continually monitor, map it, but also develop and refine our plans of action to address it.

Dr. Mohamedou: Thank you very much.

Indeed, this transnational moment is already very visible, and I think it's very real as you said socially, internationally. Here in Geneva in June of last year there was one of the biggest demonstrations, marches of Black Lives Matter local which brought about 10,000 people in the city of Geneva which is one of the biggest marches that we had seen in years.

I want to turn to Eric and speak to something you brought up very importantly which is sort of you linked in your comments a dimension which is oftentimes missing in this conversation, Eric, which is the way these movements, these white supremacy

movements somehow eat away at the very fabric of democracy, therefore sort of gradually leading us into literally authoritarianism and systems that think that they are, that we'll never somehow see the materialization of this. And, of course, in history we see quite the opposite.

One of the striking things we saw back in January with the terrorist assault on the Congress was in a way the sort of, the entitlement that these groups had, that many commentators were pointing out already at the time that had these actors been BLM protesters or Muslim Americans, that the reaction would have been far different as opposed to the selfies we saw in very indecent ways with some of these police officers and so on.

This notion of a path of sorts which the media, some of the commentators, the general social media has turned a blind eye on this very real threat which you've been sort of researching and examining. And you mentioned the international connections, of course, here in Europe and parts of Asia, all around the world. How can this very notion of addressing things that have been somehow cast outside of the problem of violence, of terrorism, of this type of racism be dealt with at this key moment? We heard from Desirée and Gay how much the current moment opens up opportunities.

How can we move towards some sort of action on that front given this particular dynamic that we saw so vividly back in January?

Mr. Ward: It's important for us to remember that white nationalism and authoritarian movements are best first confronted by the rest of us being brave enough to pick up the mirror and to take a look into it.

The truth is this. Authoritarian movements rarely win because they are better organized. They typically win and subvert democratic practice or cause widespread harm because they are not competed against. This is the dilemma in the United States today.

White nationalists or the alt-right didn't come into DC or into other communities around the United States over the last four years bringing anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, or sexism with them. They merely organized the bigotry that already existed.

This means that in order to successfully confront the white nationalist movement we must do two things. The first is we

must create an alternative vision to what we mean when we say an inclusive and united America. The second is that we have to address the underlying issues. And I'll reflect it in a story.

About four years ago there was an alt-right protest here in Portland, Oregon. There was an alt-right activist who was being cornered by someone with a camera who was filming him and shouting at him, demanding that this alt-right activist answer why he was in Portland, Oregon. The person with the camera was screaming at this alt-right activist saying why are you here? No one wants you in Portland. Counter-protesters don't want you, the Mayor of Portland doesn't want you, why are you here?

What this alt-right activist said in response all of us should listen to. He said yes, I heard we aren't wanted, but Portland is a city in America with a shrinking black population by both percentage and whole number. He then looked the person with the camera in the eye and said, so you can say you don't want us here, but you are doing something we could never get away with. You are literally disappearing black people. In short, he was calling us hypocrites.

We have to fulfill the aspiration of a real inclusive democracy that is people centered, accountable and transparent. To do this means both addressing the historic and present-day realities of discrimination and beginning to build the broad-based governmental non-profit community-based coalition that are needed to manage white nationalism.

Let us be clear. The inability to address unconscious bias within American society is the greatest national security threat. We watched this play out in the Capitol on January 6th as law enforcement officers allowed people who sought not to dispute just the process but sought to overthrow the United States in many cases to walk into the nation's capitol, to corner elected officials and to threaten them with harm.

If this is what law enforcement allowed to happen in our nation's capitol, imagine the relationship of law enforcement to white nationalist violence in local communities around the country.

It is not just a qualitative understanding of the disparity of law enforcement practice in terms of racial justice activists versus those oriented towards racialized political violence. It is also quantitative. A report leaved here in this city, in Portland, Oregon nearly four years ago, documented a city

independent investigative commission showed that indeed, the perceived disparities between law enforcement crowd control tactics of racial justice activists versus the far right wasn't just perception. It was actual reality.

The truth is, that poll and study after study has suggested that the relationship between white nationalist movements in the United States and law enforcement is too close for comfort, that it has led many law enforcement agencies to prioritize political ideology over their mission to protect and serve. And all Americans have paid the price and the democracy known as the United States of America nearly paid the ultimate price on January 6th.

Dr. Rodogno: Thank you Eric.

I have a final question for Gay. I love the way, Gay, you brought up Du Bois and the way in which you keep up the flame of his belief and modus operandi and the trust in international institutions.

I have a simple question for you. If you were elected to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination what will be the first thing that you will do?

Ms. McDougall: Well, I don't know about the first thing. We don't have a first 100 days kind of tradition. But I'll tell you what, look, we've got to find a way to be effective and we've got to find a way to get implementation. This runs throughout the human rights mechanism. Is anybody paying attention to us? I'm not sure that we can absolutely say "yes." We can, within the treaty bodies, within the special rapporteurs, we've put out a lot of good words and I think we do great at our jobs in terms of that. But ensuring implementation is not exactly our job. It is really the job of states.

So I turn the question around to government. Are states doing their job? What is it that they're going to do as a Human Rights Council? As a General Assembly? To implement all of the things that we are saying and recommending and trying to see change in the world.

The other thing that I would observe, is I will try to also put on everybody's plate to remember the words of the Secretary General when he in his townhall meeting responded to the Black Lives Matter movement, finally, and made recognition of the fact that even within the U.S. there is racism, that there is racial

discrimination that needs to be rooted out, and that the UN has its own credibility questions to deal with within its ranks.

I think it always matters who's at the table. And if the organization internally is made of staffing that reflects the racism and exclusion of its member states, what have we got? We must find a way around that. And to find a way around that is the route to a more effective institution, at least one of the routes.

I think we have to press every member state. First of all, put forth the diversity that is in this country. Let's see it. See that diversity in the delegations that come to present their reports to CERD. I know there are - the African diaspora has spread like wildfire all over the world but in the country delegations as they come to present their reports, we don't see them. Let's see the UN put its might and its commitment behind Decade for African Descendants which has had pitiful little attention or funding thus far and almost no political backing. Let's see the proper celebration of Durbin plus 20 this coming year. Let's see the UN make racism the front agenda item that it should, in fact, be.

Dr. Mohamedou: Thank you very much, Gay. It's very nice to hear reference to Durbin which is completely forgotten, unfortunately, when so much has been tacking these issues. I had the pleasure myself of being there back in September 2001 and I think it's extremely important to see how much we can learn from that.

Unfortunately, time is running fast. We are literally beyond time. There were a lot of questions which in fact all three of you addressed in some of your comments just now and some of them have been addressed earlier in the commentary by Desirée on the white nationalist movement. We heard from Eric and all of you the Human Rights Council and what can be done as well as the U.S. particular issues that we covered.

There was maybe one question I'll just flag, we can have maybe one minute if one of you want to answer to that.

"While there's no question that the U.S. needs to walk the talk, is there anything that the country can and should learn from other countries in the area of anti-racism?"

Any quick thoughts on that comparatively? We've established the fact that racism of course remains a huge issue internationally.

But in the one minute before we close is there any thought that one of you would like to offer? Any one of the four of you, you're welcome to come in as well on this.

Any particular good practice? Gay, please, jump in.

Ms. McDougall: One of the things that I think we've been, we as civil society have been trying to convince our government in the U.S. it's very important to do, is that other governments, other countries have formed these national institutions of human rights, and they're independent bodies that speaks with more clout than civil society, but they're not government. And they have the ability, a range of abilities that are important. I won't go through them.

But I think that's a very good practice. And it's something that I take this opportunity to urge my government to take on again. Desirée. These institutions play a critical role in the fight against racism and in seeing that human rights are upheld in general.

Dr. Rodogno: Gay, I think our time is up and I would like to thank all of you. Eric, Opal, Gay, Desirée, for sharing your time with us. This was very important, very stimulating, very enriching, and I pass this on to Mahmoud. Thank you again.

Dr. Mohamedou: Simply to add my own thanks to our speakers for this fantastic set of comments. We really appreciate how engaged you are in your own work but also how you helped us make sense of this and see the urgency of all of these questions.

My thanks as well to Desirée for kindly contributing her opening remarks so importantly.

Thanks from Davide and myself to our co-organizers, the U.S. Mission here at the United Nations. Thank you very much for engaging with us on this very important and very ~~sensitive~~ issue at this particular time. And our thanks to all the colleagues here at the Graduate Institute for their support. And thank you of course to all of the audience who have signed up. We had a huge turnout from all around the world with many different walks of life - students, experts, researchers, representatives. So many thanks to everyone who was on board and for being here.

Thank you, and thanks again to our speakers. All the best.

#

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC:	Lombardo, Allison K <(b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	RE: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANTONY J. BLINKEN: U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism
Date:	Wed, 14 Jul 2021 13:55:41 +0000

Hi (b)(6)

It's the only ministerial-level statement we've seen thus far (via Geneva channels). It's possible South Africa or an African Group country issues a ministerial-level statement, but we haven't see one yet. I don't suspect any key allies will.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:41 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: Lombardo, Allison K <LombardoAK@state.gov>
Subject: FW: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANTONY J. BLINKEN: U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism

Team,

Please see note below from (b)(6) Could you confirm whether we were indeed the one to release a ministerial-level statement on the resolution?

Thanks!

(b)(6) (she/her)
 Bureau of International Organizations
 U.S. Department of State
 (b)(6)@state.gov



From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:38 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: Lombardo, Allison K (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: RE: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANTONY J. BLINKEN: U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism

Thanks so much, (b)(6) It would be good if State could confirm that this was the only Ministerial-level statement on this resolution. I think this is a great way to set ourselves apart from the pack.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:35 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
(b)(6) (b)(6)
Cc: Lombardo, Allison K (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: FW: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANTONY J. BLINKEN: U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism

FYSA, this was released last night.

(b)(6) (she/her)
Bureau of International Organizations
U.S. Department of State
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From: State Department Press Office <usstatebpa@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:10 PM
To: IOPPC <IOPPC@state.gov>
Subject: STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANTONY J. BLINKEN: U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANTONY J. BLINKEN

July 13, 2021

U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism

This Administration is deeply dedicated to addressing racial injustice and inequities at home and abroad. On the global stage, the United States is leading by example.

Last month, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report on racism and police brutality against Africans and people of African descent at the hands of law enforcement around the world, which includes examination of such cases in the United States. As the President has repeatedly made clear, great nations such as ours do not hide from our shortcomings; they acknowledge them openly and strive to improve with transparency. In so doing, we not only work to set the standard for national responses to these challenges, we also strengthen our democracy, and give new hope and motivation to human rights defenders across the globe.

It is in this context that the United States intends to issue a formal, standing invitation to all UN experts who report and advise on thematic human rights issues. As a first step, we have reached out to offer an official visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism and the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues. I also welcome the UN Human Rights Council's adoption today in Geneva of a resolution to address systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in the context of law enforcement. I look forward to engaging with the new mechanism to advance racial justice and equity.

Responsible nations must not shrink from scrutiny of their human rights record; rather, they should acknowledge it with the intent to improve. I urge all UN member states to join the United States in this effort, and confront the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia. Because when all people – regardless of their race or ethnicity – are free to live up to their full potential, our collective security is strengthened.

###

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This email was sent to ioppc@state.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: U.S. Department of State · 2201 C Street NW · Washington, DC 20520



Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Lombardo, Allison K <(b)(6)@state.gov>

From:	"Sullivan, Thomas D" (b)(6) @state.gov>
To:	Price, Edward C (b)(6) @state.gov>; George, Suzy (b)(6) @state.gov>
CC:	(b)(6) @state.gov>
Subject:	RE: SPOX CLEARANCE REQUEST - S Statement
Date:	Tue, 13 Jul 2021 19:31:39 +0000

Calling you.

From: Price, Edward C (b)(6) @state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:31 PM
To: George, Suzy (b)(6) @state.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Thomas D (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>
Subject: RE: SPOX CLEARANCE REQUEST - S Statement

(b)(5) Deliberative Process The resolution was adopted by consensus.

From: George, Suzy (b)(6) @state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Price, Edward C (b)(6) @state.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Thomas D (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>
Subject: Re: SPOX CLEARANCE REQUEST - S Statement

I will flag it for (b)(6) Thanks.

On Jul 13, 2021, at 12:05 PM, Price, Edward C (b)(6) @state.gov> wrote:

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

From: George, Suzy (b)(6) @state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Price, Edward C (b)(6) @state.gov>
Cc: Sullivan, Thomas D (b)(6) @state.gov>; (b)(6) @state.gov>
Subject: Re: SPOX CLEARANCE REQUEST - S Statement

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

Ned - is (b)(6) tracking since his office is leading on the racial equity EO work for the building.

On Jul 13, 2021, at 11:56 AM, Price, Edward C <(b)(6)@state.gov> wrote:

Yes, (b)(6) has cleared and I've asked them to double check to make sure (b)(5) Deliberative Process are on-board.

From: Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:48 AM

To: Price, Edward C <(b)(6)@state.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: RE: SPOX CLEARANCE REQUEST - S Statement

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

From: Price, Edward C <(b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:47 AM

To: Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov

Subject: FW: SPOX CLEARANCE REQUEST - S Statement

All, flagging this one for you. I've made some edits to the version that came up, stripping out some of the more domestic-focused content. I suspect this may be one we should show (b)(6). Per IO, they'd like to release today.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANTONY J. BLINKEN

July 13, 2021

U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism

This Administration is deeply dedicated to addressing racial injustice and inequities at home and abroad. On the global stage, the United States is leading by example.

Last month, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report on racism and police brutality against Africans and people of African descent at the hands of law enforcement around the world, which includes examination of such cases in the United States. As the President has repeatedly made clear, great nations such as ours do not hide from our shortcomings; they acknowledge them openly and strive to improve with transparency. In so

doing, we not only work to set the standard for national responses to these challenges, we also strengthen our democracy, and give new hope and motivation to human rights defenders across the globe.

It is in this context that I am pleased to announce today that the United States intends to issue a formal, standing invitation to all UN experts who report and advise on thematic human rights issues. As a first priority, and in anticipation of improving health and safety conditions with regard to COVID-19, we have reached out to offer an official visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism and the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues. I also welcome the UN Human Rights Council's adoption today in Geneva of a resolution to address systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in the context of law enforcement. I look forward to engaging with the new mechanism to advance racial justice and equity.

Responsible nations of the world must not shrink from scrutiny of their human rights record; rather, they should acknowledge it with the intent to improve. I urge all UN member states to join the United States in this effort, and confront the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia. Because when all people – regardless of their race or ethnicity – are free to live up to their full potential, our collective security is strengthened.

###

Proposed Tweets:

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:59 AM

To: SPOX2 <SPOX2@state.gov>

Cc: IO-Press-DL <IO-Press-DL@state.gov>

Subject: SPOX CLEARANCE REQUEST - S Statement

Good morning SPOX,

Attached and pasted below is a draft S Statement for your review.

We are hoping to release this today after the UN Human Rights Council's adoption of a resolution to address systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in the context of law enforcement.

Thank you!

(b)(6)

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANTONY J. BLINKEN

July 13, 2021

U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism

The Biden-Harris Administration is deeply dedicated to addressing racial injustice and inequities at home and abroad. That commitment is reflected in the President's whole-of-government strategy to advance racial equity and support for underserved populations through all federal agencies, policies, and programs. It also finds its expression on the global stage, where the United States is leading by example.

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

Responsible nations of the world must not shrink from scrutiny of their human rights record but embrace it with the intent to improve. I urge all UN member states to join the United States in this effort, and stamp out the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia once and

for all. Because when all people – regardless of their race or ethnicity – are free to live up to their full potential, our collective security is strengthened.

###

Proposed Tweets:

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Officer

Bureau of International Organization Affairs

U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)

<image001.png>

Sender:	"Sullivan, Thomas D" (b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	Price, Edward C (b)(6)@state.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

From:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
To:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject:	RE: HRC Systemic Racism
Date:	Thu, 15 Jul 2021 12:17:42 +0000

Adding others here who were also involved. The U.S. did send information to OHCHR for the report, and while we can't endorse the whole thing, we welcome it and the scrutiny it brings. We welcome the UN looking at us, as the S statement makes clear. It is a strong way to push back on the PRC, as we can continue to emphasize that we are always a work in progress and always striving to do better.

I'm not aware of the PRC providing input and only a few states did, I believe around a dozen in total.

(b)(6)

Office of Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs
Bureau of International Organizations

(b)(6)



SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:07 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>;

(b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: Fwd: HRC Systemic Racism

IO and Geneva colleagues,

See below for (b)(6) helpful flag that the PRC MFA latched onto OHCHR's report on systemic racism as part of its continued counterargument/deflection efforts and S statement on HRC 47 (nice work!).

How do we feel about OHCHR's report? (b)(5) Deliberative Process

(b)(5) Deliberative Process

(b)(6)

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Date: Jul 15, 2021 3:53 PM

Subject: HRC Systemic Racism

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>

(b)(6)

What I raised with you earlier may be somewhat OBE for POL Note since it happened July 13 with responses from MFA and State yesterday. The press briefing reference is to the broader UNHCHR's report from last month on systemic racism, but what was released July 12 from the HRC was a more narrow OHCHR Report on 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 (A/HRC/47/53) – see here <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27296&LangID=E>. SecState statement (U.S. Leadership on Human Rights and Ending Systemic Racism - United States Department of State) covers both reports. And, has some helpful lines in there. I think this is useful as a talking point to contrast the PRC approach/response – i.e. when the UNHRC raises concerns about our HR situation, we welcome UN observers and experts to offer their feedback and recommendations. We are open to shine a light on our past and look forward to continuing to create a more perfect union.

Here is the MFA Press Briefing comments from yesterday (7/14):

CCTV: On July 13, the 47th Session of the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on combating systemic racism submitted by African countries. Could you offer more details? What's your comment?

Zhao Lijian: On July 13, the 47th Session of the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on combating systemic racism submitted by African countries. The resolution deplores all forms of racial discrimination, including systemic and structural racism, and condemns the continuing racially discriminatory and violent practices perpetrated by many law enforcement officials against

Africans and people of African descent. It recalls the tragic murder of George Floyd in Minnesota, the US, on 25 May 2020, which drew attention to the scourge of systemic and structural racism and galvanized efforts to address this global problem in the US and around the world. It notes that the transatlantic slave trade is among the major sources and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples were victims of these acts and continue to be victims of their consequences. The resolution decides to establish an international independent expert mechanism in order to realize racial justice and equality, especially relating to the legacies of colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade in enslaved Africans, and ensure accountability and redress for victims. The international independent expert mechanism and the High Commissioner will present to the Human Rights Council their respective written reports on an annual basis.

The tragedy of George Floyd highlights the urgency and importance of curbing systemic racism and racial discrimination in the US and beyond. The international community must act now. The human rights of Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples. The adoption of this strong resolution will further galvanize international consensus and bring new impetus to the This resolution is the first one dedicated to combating systemic racism adopted by the HRC after George Floyd was killed. It sets out the systemic agenda for the international community to tackle systemic racism and racial discrimination and protect world anti-racism cause.

Countries who are beset by serious racism, racial discrimination, xenophobic violence and who engaged in or profited from enslavement, the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism should show the political will and courage to take responsibility for their crimes in history, and take substantive measures to resolve the ongoing racial discrimination and violent exclusivism, so as to reveal the truth and deliver justice to victims. They should also work with the international community to achieve racial justice and equality, truly promote and protect human rights, and avoid repeating the tragedy of George Floyd and the numerous victims of racism.

Here is reporting from CNBC:

The Biden administration has invited United Nations experts on racism and human rights to visit the U.S. in an effort to address domestic racial justice and equality.

“Responsible nations must not shrink from scrutiny of their human rights record; rather, they should acknowledge it with the intent to improve,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement released late Tuesday.

“I urge all UN member states to join the United States in this effort, and confront the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia. Because when all people – regardless of their race or ethnicity – are free to live up to their full potential, our collective security is strengthened.” *(emphasis mine)*

The State Department has reached out to the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism and the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues for an official visit, Blinken said in a

statement. Invitations to other UN experts who “report and advise on thematic human rights issues” will be forthcoming.

Blinken also used the statement to welcome the UN Human Rights Council’s adoption of a resolution on Tuesday that calls for action to combat systemic racism against Africans and people of African descent in the context of law enforcement.

The invitation comes at a pivotal time for racial justice issues in the U.S.. The murder of unarmed Black man George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in May 2020 prompted nationwide protests against police brutality and racism, as well as calls for legislation and government action.

In light of the protests, both of the special rapporteurs who have been invited to the U.S. signed a UN Human Rights Council statement last year that called for “reparative intervention for historical and contemporary racial justice” around the world.

“One reason it is important to look beyond the borders of the United States in the face of demands for seismic change on the racial justice front is that international human rights norms require and offer the foundation for a better system than the one currently in place in this country,” said E. Tendayi Achiume, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, in a statement last year.

Rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the U.N. Human Rights Council that typically have the role of compiling information on their respective human rights issue, undertaking visits to different countries and submitting reports to the U.N., among other responsibilities.

The State Department has not provided additional details about the visit of the special rapporteurs, and did not immediately respond to CNBC’s request for comment.

The invitation serves as a stark contrast to the Trump administration’s contempt for UN approaches to human rights issues, especially after the former president pulled the U.S. out of the UN Human Rights Council in 2018.

President Joe Biden rejoined it earlier this year, and made fighting racial injustice a key part of his 2020 campaign.

“As the President has repeatedly made clear, great nations such as ours do not hide from our shortcomings; they acknowledge them openly and strive to improve with transparency,” Blinken said.

“In so doing, we not only work to set the standard for national responses to these challenges, we also strengthen our democracy, and give new hope and motivation to human rights defenders across the globe.”

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
CC: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; IOStaffAssistants (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: clean versions of HRC48 interventions on racial justice
Date: Fri, 1 Oct 2021 15:46:06 +0000

Thanks, (b)(6) Attached, for (b)(6) are the final versions with all redline edits accepted.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 11:03
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; IOStaffAssistants (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: FW: Urgent Clearance Request by Noon 10/1: HRC48 interventions on racial justice

(b)(6)

Please see the final, cleared versions of the racism-related HRC statements. Good work. I know these need to be uploaded today so I'm going to go ahead and record them and send them to (b)(6) However, please share the final, clean versions with (b)(6) as soon as possible so they can also be uploaded.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO)
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: Barks-Ruggles, Erica J (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 10:06 AM
To: IOStaffAssistants (b)(6)@state.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Yon, Hugo Y (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Lombardo, Allison K (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Urgent Clearance Request by Noon 10/1: HRC48 interventions on racial justice

(b)(5) Deliberative Process I clear all three (the other w/o changes). Thanks for the great work on improving these! - Erica

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: IOStaffAssistants (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 8:20 AM
To: Barks-Ruggles, Erica J (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: IOStaffAssistants (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Yon, Hugo Y (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; Lombardo, Allison K (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Urgent Clearance Request by Noon 10/1: HRC48 interventions on racial justice

Ambassador,

Attached for your urgent clearance by noon today: HRC48 interventions on racial justice. DAS Lombardo and (b)(6) have both cleared.

Per the drafter:

- Requesting SBO clearance for three interventions for HRC48:
 1. Interactive Dialogue with UN Spec Rapport on Racism on Oct 4
 2. Interactive Dialogue with WG on People of African Descent on Oct 4
 3. General Debate on Racism on Oct 5

Thank you,

(b)(6) **Staff Assistant**
 Bureau of International Organization Affairs
 (b)(6)



~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Sender:	(b)(6)@state.gov>
Recipient:	(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; IOStaffAssistants (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>

Item 9 General Debate on Racism

Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America Human Rights Council - 48th Session October 5, 2021

- Racism erodes democratic values, diminishes respect for human rights, and undermines efforts to create inclusive societies.
- The United States firmly believes that great nations must face their past and address systemic racism to ensure a more prosperous future.
- The Biden Administration has elevated racial justice and equity as an immediate priority across our federal government agencies, policies, and programs, and in our engagement at the UN.
- As we seek to build a world that honors the dignity, equality, and contributions of all individuals and communities, we must address the root causes of structural racism while acknowledging its intersection with gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion, national origin, and other traits.

Every country has an obligation to address racial inequality and injustice. Though it may be uncomfortable to confront our histories and realities, as President Biden said, “Only with truth can come healing, justice, and repair.” .

We look forward to working with our partners across the UN to fight the scourge of racism worldwide, including through the newly established Permanent Forum for People of African Descent, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, relevant Special Rapporteurs, and OHCHR.

[WORD COUNT: 189] max 200

Approved: IO – Erica Barks-Ruggles

Drafted: IO – (b)(6)

Cleared:

IO/FO: ALombardo (ok)

IO/FO: (b)(6) (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

D: (ok)

P: (ok)

S/P: (ok)

J: (ok)

USUN W: (ok)

DRL/MLGA: (no response)

IO/HRH: (ok)

L/HRR: (b)(6) (ok)

USUN/ECOSOC: (ok)

Geneva: (ok)

(b)(6) (ok)

(ok)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume

**Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America
Human Rights Council - 48th Session
October 4, 2021**

- Thank you, Madame Special Rapporteur. Thank you for accepting our invitation to visit the United States next year.
- As we redouble our efforts against racism, it is critical that we address the root causes of structural racism while acknowledging the intersections of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion, national origin, and other traits.
- We are deeply concerned by ongoing violence and abuses driven by racism and xenophobia around the world. We stand against hate and violence against Asians, Pacific Islanders, and their descendants, which increased at alarming rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also condemn the rise in anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred, and any form of religious intolerance.
- The rise in racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism globally should alarm and motivate us all. We believe it should increase our urgency to eliminate the scourge of racism and xenophobia in our societies once and for all.

QUESTION: What methods have you seen that effectively eradicate systemic racism at its roots?

Word Count: 145 (150 max)

Approved: IO – Erica Barks-Ruggles [EBR]

Drafted: IO – (b)(6)

Cleared:

IO/FO: LombardoA (ok)

IO/FO: (b)(6) (ok)

IO/HRH: (b)(6) (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

D: (ok)

P: (ok)

S/P: (ok)

J: (ok)

USUN/W: (ok)

DRL/MLGA: (b)(6) (ok)

DRL/EAP: (b)(6) (ok)

J/IRF: (ok)

EUR/SEHI: (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

L/HRR: (b)(6) (ok)

USUN/ECOSOC: (b)(6) (ok)

Geneva: (b)(6) (ok)

AF/ERA: (no response)

EAP/CM: (ok)

(b)(6) (ok)

(b)(6) (ok)

**Interactive Dialogue on Working Group of Experts on
People of African Descent
48th Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, October 4, 2021**

- The United States recognizes the extraordinary contributions of Africans and the African diaspora around the world, including in our own nation. We commemorate the International Decade for People of African Descent and continue to work towards the shared goals of recognition, justice, and development.
- We strongly support the creation of the UN Permanent Forum for People of African Descent. We look forward to engaging with this historic and necessary body to not only acknowledge the unique and dynamic challenges that people of African descent face globally, but to find meaningful and sustainable ways of addressing these challenges. By creating a new and necessary space for people of African descent – in all their diversity – to focus on the systemic issues that continue to plague our societies, this Forum represents a monumental step towards a more just and equitable world for us all.

QUESTION: How will this Working Group amplify the efforts of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent and the panel of experts to investigate systemic racism in policing against people of African descent?

Word Count: 141 (max 150)

Approved: IO – Erica Barks-Ruggles [EBR]

Drafted: IO: (b)(6)

Cleared:

IO/FO: (b)(6) (ok)

IO/FO: LombardoA (ok)

D: (b)(6) (ok)

P: (ok)

S/P: (ok)

J: (ok)

USUN W: (b)(6) (ok)

DRL/MLGA: (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

IO/HRH: (ok)

L/HRR: (b)(6) (ok)

USUN/ECOSOC: (ok)

Geneva: (ok)

AF/ERA: (ok)

WHA/EPSC: (ok)

WHA/PDA: (ok)

(b)(6) (ok)