**54th Human Rights Council 11th September – 13th October 2023**

**Item 9: Enhanced interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner and the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement**

We find many constructive comments and workable solutions in Reports A/HRC/54/66 and A/HRC/54/69. In report 66, para D 13 highlights the lack of spaces and structures for people of African Descent to participate meaningfully in consultations for influencing policies. Para 14 notes that views are often discredited and dismissed.

We support Para 23 suggestion for the need to dismantling systemic racism. The conclusion in Para 65 is disheartening that Milestones come and go in the DDPA.

In report 69 we concur with C 21 to take Systemic approach to addressing systemic racism and agree that the bad apple theory is a ruse.

We feel our approach is echoed in the concluding para that the most critical and effective drive for change will come through a change of unwritten tacit rules governing the culture of policing and not simply sound legal regimes.

This is the thinking behind our proposal for a UN Declaration on Diversity. Such a Declaration will encourage States to adopt policies in all sectors of public life to promote a culture change, make people comfortable with diversity and influence ending long held prejudices.

Positive actions by States can go a long way to reversing racism, as has been noted in both reports.

We hope a UN Declaration on Diversity and a UN Day of Diversity will compliment and add a new dimension to the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action