



2030 development agenda 'fails' on racial equality and non-discrimination



Unsplash/Rolande PG | "Racism is a Virus" sign at a Black Lives Matter protest in Montreal, Canada.

5 July 2022 | **Human Rights**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are characterized by a “shallow commitment” to racial justice and equality, an independent UN-appointed rights expert told the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday, adding that they fail to address systematic racism and xenophobia.

“Despite the [2030 Agenda](#)’s promising rhetoric, it largely fails to fulfil its pledge to ‘leave no one behind’ when it comes to the principles of racial equality and non-discrimination,” said E. Tendayi

Achiume, [Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance](#) .

Limiting progress

Presenting the conclusions of her report on the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and the fight against racial



United Nations

UN News



combat racism.

United Nations Human Rights Council #HRC56
@UN_HRC · [Follow](#)



[#HRC50](#) | "Baseless attacks against [#CriticalRaceTheory](#) have sought to demonize demands for a more honest and deeper reckoning with systemic racism," Special Rapporteur on [#Racism](#) E. Tendayi Achiume told the Human Rights Council's 50th session.

INFO bit.ly/3ldv0Yb

Watch on X

"Racial justice commitments are largely absent from the operationalization of the SDGs, as seen through the lack of racial disaggregation in the SDG Targets and [Indicators](#)," she said.

"The persistent lack of resources, failure to collect disaggregated data and dearth of political willpower still **limit progress toward racial justice in virtually all national and international contexts**".

Entrenched challenges

The Special Rapporteur attributed the entrenched challenges of promoting racial equality and justice through development initiatives, to the “racialised origins” of today’s international development structure.

Citing the deep racial inequalities revealed by the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, she explained how global economic and financial systems continue to be engines of racially discriminatory “underdevelopment”.

This serious fault has left mainstream international development architecture ill-suited to challenging the status quo, she said.

Relentless cycle of inequity

A vast body of research available, has demonstrated that the international economic, development and financial order has perpetuated human rights problems and economic inequality.

As such, it has served to dismantle social safety nets in the global South and increase the dependency of formerly colonized peoples, she added.

Her report emphasized the urgent need to decolonize global economic, legal, and political systems.

To achieve this goal, international hierarchies must be disrupted and shifted beyond Euro-centric visions, models and means of economic development.

**For anti-racism initiatives to be successful,
institutional leaders must commit necessary
resources and political willpower – *UN expert***

Altering the debate

During her presentation, the Special Rapporteur highlighted racial justice uprisings in 2020, which mobilized the global community and significantly shifted the terms of debate at the United Nations and elsewhere.

She noted that racially and ethnically marginalized employees in particular, were voluntarily taking on institutional anti-racism work – providing vital leadership without compensation.

Ms. Achiume expressed her unwavering support for those actively challenging systemic racism within international institutions.

“For anti-racism initiatives to be successful, institutional leaders must commit necessary resources and political willpower to transformation,” underscored the independent expert.

This can only be achieved by “making institutions more representative of the populations they serve, especially at decision-making levels,” she added.

Special Rapporteurs are appointed by the Geneva-based UN [Human Rights Council](#) to [examine and report back](#) on a specific human rights theme or a country situation. The positions are honorary and the experts are not paid for their work.

◆ Receive daily updates directly in your inbox - [Subscribe here](#) to a topic.

◆ Download the UN News app for your [iOS](#) or [Android](#) devices.


RACISM

|


RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

LISTEN TO UN RADIO

THE LID IS ON

29'29" 

PODCAST: Reckoning with slavery's legacy: Nikole Hannah-Jone...



RELATED STORIES



UN's truth-teller on racism, xenophobia and intolerance sees signs of hope, amid COVID quagmire and rising hate speech



From one anti-racism trailblazer to another: Andrew Young remembers Ralph Bunche



Promote tolerance, respect diversity, UN chief urges ahead of International Day against racial discrimination

NEWS TRACKER: PAST STORIES ON THIS ISSUE



Violence against indigenous women, 'legacy of colonialism' rooted in racism

22 June 2022 | **Human Rights**

Indigenous women and girls face grave, systematic, and continuous acts of violence that permeate every aspect of their lives, a UN-appointed independent rights expert said on Wednesday in a hard hitting [report](#) to the Human Rights Council in Geneva



Interview: Slave trade reparations ‘essential’, 1619 Project founder tells UN News

2 April 2022 | [Human Rights](#)

New York Times writer Nikole Hannah-Jones, best known for the 1619 Project, which frames slavery as one of the core elements of the history of the United States, addressed the UN [General Assembly](#) during a commemoration of the [transatlantic slave trade](#) on Tuesday. She explained to UN News how the Project came about.

RESOURCES



SECRETARY-GENERAL



SPOKESPERSON'S OFFICE



FIND US



[A-Z SITE INDEX](#) | [COPYRIGHT](#) | [FAQ](#) | [FRAUD ALERT](#) | [PRIVACY NOTICE](#) |

[TERMS OF USE](#)



[DONATE](#)