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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 9

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Mandate of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

STATES MUST RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT TO REPARATORY JUSTICE

UN Human Rights Council

57th session

9 September – 11 October

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent on its third session and firmly supports its call for the proclamation of a second International Decade for People of African Descent.

Notwithstanding the successes of the first International Decade for People of African Descent, much remains to be done to fully address and eliminate systemic and structural racism against people of African descent. We encourage all States to support this proposal and to make the second international decade a reality.

As the Permanent Forum notes, much of the systemic racism faced by people of African descent is rooted in the histories of enslavement and colonialism, which remain insufficiently remedied today. This November marks the 140-year anniversary of the Berlin Conference which formalised the ‘Scramble for Africa,’ carving up the continent for European colonial domination and exploitation. Despite the formal abolition of enslavement and colonialism, the legacies of these historical injustices continue to have profound and far-reaching effects on the rights of people of African descent today. We therefore welcome the Permanent Forum’s recommendation that the right to reparatory justice for enslavement and colonialism be included in the requested second International Decade for People of African Descent. We urge all States to recognize the right of people of African descent to reparatory justice for these historical harms and for those States that engaged in, and profited from, enslavement and colonialism to make appropriate reparations.

Thank you.