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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Geledés - Instituto da Mulher Negra, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 August 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Truth as Means to Justice and Reparation for the People of African Descent in Brazil

The issue of truth in the context of the Afro-descendant population in Brazil demands a profound examination and an honest confrontation not just of the historical errors of slavery but also the recognition of an ongoing project of extermination. This project manifests through institutional and social practices that perpetuate violence, marginalization, and economic exclusion of the Afro-descendant population. Truth must go beyond acknowledging past acts and address the continuities of these injustices today, highlighting how outdated structures still operate to sustain a deeply unequal system.

Furthermore, the Brazilian state needs to recognize that discriminatory practices and violence are not isolated remnants of a distant past but elements of a broader and ongoing strategy of racial disempowerment. This reality is reflected in the statistics of police violence, disparities in health, education, and unequal access to the labor market and decent housing. Acknowledging this painful truth is a critical step towards building genuine justice that is not limited to palliative measures but is committed to transforming the structures that perpetuate inequality.

Thus, the necessary and indispensable reparations required to eliminate socio-economic and political disparities need to be comprehensive and structural. This includes ensuring that the Afro-descendant population has proportional representation in all power and decision-making spaces, reflecting their demographic majority in the country. By promoting authentic and effective representation, Brazil can begin to dismantle the barriers that have kept Afro-descendant communities in a position of vulnerability and subalternity. Only then can the country envision a future of true equity, where justice is not just a promise but a lived reality for all its citizens.
