

**Input for the 2025 High-level Political Forum
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**

Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.

In relation to SDG 3, the Committee on the elimination of racial discrimination (CERD) has adopted General recommendation No. 37 (2024) on equality and freedom from racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health. Therein the Committee highlights that "The realization of the right to equality and non-discrimination is an absolute prerequisite for the effective enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Those rights are enshrined in numerous international human rights instruments, and the health of all peoples has been recognized as "fundamental to the attainment of peace and security". Employment, education, exposure to the physical environment, occupational hazards, housing, chemicals, air and water quality, sanitation and hygiene, climate change and economic, social and development policies have a significant impact on one's health and well-being, as they influence access to resources, opportunities and quality of life. Structural determinants have the largest impact on patterns of health inequities. Racism, classism, sexism, ableism, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia are among the structural determinants of health. Disadvantaged groups experience higher levels of exposure to health risks and higher levels of associated mortality, while the denial of access to essential medicines, vaccines and other health products creates or perpetuates discrimination and exacerbates existing inequalities in the realization of the right to health, including mental health. The legacies of colonialism, slavery and apartheid persist, and States parties have shown reluctance to effectively acknowledge in their policies and actions the negative effects that continue to disadvantage people of African descent and members of other racial and ethnic groups".

Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

The General recommendation highlights the key areas to be addressed in this regard.

Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.

The commitment to ensuring healthy lives for all at all ages and to reducing inequalities within and among countries was renewed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely in

Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 10. Equality is embedded in the One Health approach, which is aimed at sustainably balancing and optimizing the health of people, animals and ecosystems for global health security.

Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With CERD General recommendation No. 37 (2024) on equality and freedom from racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health, the Committee on the elimination of racial discrimination addresses urgent calls for action, and aims to promote better coordination within and among States parties to clarify the measures under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination necessary for eliminating racial discrimination and guaranteeing equal enjoyment of the right to health. see full text here: <https://docs.un.org/en/CERD/C/GC/37>

Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

In accordance with State Parties human rights obligations, the Declaration should call for urgent action to fully implement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and CERD's General recommendations, including General recommendation No. 37 (2024) on equality and freedom from racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health.

States must prevent racial discrimination, protect individuals against harm and promote equality and dignity for all members of society. Combating structural inequalities requires comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of health inequities and promote social justice, equality and inclusion. This includes investing in community-led initiatives and resources, promoting diversity and cultural competence in healthcare and other sectors, and identifying and addressing broader structural inequalities and systemic barriers that perpetuate racial health disparities.