

Thank you Chairperson for affording me this opportunity to address this meeting

I am Chawapiwa Faith Muverengwi and I have already introduced my organization,

Tapepuka works with African migrants in the North of England, and it is African led.

I would like to make a statement in the Development section of the day, as I believe that part of development for PAD (People of African Descent) is giving legitimacy and resources to the grassroots organisations that work directly with affected communities, that have their trust, and that speak their languages.

In the UK, where I work, there are initial accommodation centres for migrants. African people in these centres endure devastating conditions, including inadequate sanitary facilities, poor diet and denied warm clothing.

And as a result suffer, physical, mental and psychological abuse from being there.

And yet grassroots organisations like Tapepuka are refused entry to these accommodation centres. We are denied the opportunity to provide vital support to these people in the times of their greatest need.

I urge the United Nations to make firm recommendations to Member States to stop the violation of rights and dignity of new migrants in accommodation centres. I also ask for the UN to support PAD led grassroots organisations providing vital support to migrants, through making available resources, and through creating an international network of PAD organisations. This way, we can ensure the growth of organisations like my own, Tapepuka, who are working with the most affected on the ground.