

UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

I welcome this opportunity to welcome this forum and to participate with you this morning on behalf of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Inclusive education, for the committee is a very important tool in addressing racial discrimination. One very important tool. We believe it's essential, and it's mentioned in virtually every single one of the concluding observations we make to states that come before us. Inclusive education for us means being inclusive in all dimensions. First and foremost, inclusive and equal access for all young women, all young men, and all older women and men who are part of any society, for people who are part of any minority that is part of that society. Secondly, it means a curriculum that's inclusive and which respects and acknowledges the contribution of minorities to the societies of which they are part. And thirdly, it means that that curriculum is delivered by people who are representative of the diversity that's part of any society. We believe that these elements are essential. Otherwise, you are talking about delivering inclusive education for and not with the people who are part of a society. We acknowledge that inclusive education is absolutely essential for strong and positive self-identities for young people from minorities. And we believe that the educational spaces and resources, the special measures referred to by South Africa, are essential in order to create the conditions for that. I thank you very much, and wish you well with your discussions.