

**Delegation from the United States of America**  
**Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The topics before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) are: Combating Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; and Business and Human Rights. As a country with a huge population, of about 330 million inhabitants, of which almost 47 million are from a different origin, the United States of America considers itself as a meeting point for individuals of every background, race or ethnicity. Therefore, the United States of America promotes the acceptance of every person and the strengthening of their human rights in every sector of their life. The United States of America supports all resolutions and solutions to the above-mentioned topics, as long as they are compatible with the constitution and governmental principles.

**I. Combating Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance**

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) report about committed hate crimes during the calendar year 2020, the majority of them (61.8%) were caused by the culprits' discrimination of either the race, ethnicity or ancestry of the victim. Recognising the omnipresent relevance of this problematic, the United States of America commits itself to implement strategies to prevent racist discrimination as well as to promote racial and ethnic equality. Therefore, we strongly believe in supporting marginalised groups not only within our country, furthermore abroad in a global perspective.

The United States of America already took strict measures to start reaching the goal of equality and combat any type of ethnic or racial intolerance. To start with our 46th President Joseph Robinette Biden's publication of an action plan to further include marginalised social groups in society, as well as to provide support through policies, non-governmental organisations (NGO) and Federal agencies (2021). In addition to that, we implemented monitoring bodies within our legal and social systems which will report agencies that engage in racial patterns and practices to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice who will investigate and bring suits forward against them. We see the global importance and relevance of said topic, hence why we worked out a statement focussing on the significance of the implementation of further measurements to resolve and address systematic racism. This was one of our actions taken at the 46th session of the UNHRC Council (2021), where our statement got signed by 158 other member states. Going hand in hand with that is our will to work together with the other member states. Therefore we hosted the *Summit for Democracy* in December 2021, where we invited 111 leaders from foreign governments, persons of interest from the civil society as well as from the private sector to work together on a strengthening of an equal democracy. The United States of America is a strong supporter of marginalised groups from other countries as well. For that reason, we are delighted to announce, that we attended the final two years of the *International Decade for People of African Descent*. We are aware of the relevance of the topics which are on the agenda there, hence why we are convinced, the implementation of a Permanent Forum for People of African Descent is necessary to raise awareness for past and still ongoing discriminatory events. Working together with the other member states is as important to us as supporting resolutions made by the United Nations and their member states. That and the fact that we honor the human rights of every individual are the reasons why we signed the General Assemblies (GA) *Second International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD) in 1966 and ratified it in the year 1994. To express our interest in combatting intolerance in every sector, we committed ourselves to strengthen the labor rights of people of different descents in 2020 with the establishment of the *U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement* (USMCA).

As of right now, we are observing the execution and results of our recent published action plans and measures in the combat against all forms or types of racial and ethnic discrimination. Additionally to that, we are already working on orders and ideas about how to further improve the equality of each individual, no matter their ancestry or origin. One field of interest is the further „inclusion of social groups which have been historically underrepresented as well as underserved in the Federal Government“ (White House, 2021). Meaning that marginalised groups which benefited less through governmental programs and were the victim of racist actions are planned on getting included in a reformed way. We admire a cooperation with community-based and civil rights organisations to work on policies benefiting those groups. Going hand in hand with that is the plan on improving the access to governmental benefits, since they are eligible for all individuals. Therefore we want to remove still existing barriers which prevent said social groups from accessing them. Another area we want to improve our legal system in is the area of education. The United States of America is convinced every person should have access to education without the fear of discrimination. For that reason we want to implement plans to reduce „[...] concentrated poverty and racial isolation in schools and

neighbourhoods [...]“ (Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights), rather improve the social integration with plans on affordable housing and transportation to enable students the access to education, no matter their ethnicity. The United States of America encourages all the other member states to work together on the creation of a global work pattern and establishment of action plans to further improve the equality of all individuals no matter their origin, skin color or ancestry. We are looking forward on working together with the other member states as well as NGOs to make a change into an era of a more inclusive political, legal and social system.

## II. Business and Human Rights

Bernard Sanders, who is active in the role as Vermonts Senator since 2007, expressed his opinion about the economical situation with focus on human rights as follows: „[...] A nation will not survive morally or economically when so few have so much and so many have so little [...]“ (Bernie Sanders, Twitter). Recognising the important role businesses play with their activities, it is given that they impact the lives of uncountable people. The United States of America acknowledges said statement and sees the importance of the implementation of measurements, which will improve as well as promote human and labour rights.

Recognising the importance of human rights in every sector of our lives, the United States of America is aware of the relevance of the further improvement of labor rights. For that reason, we are a strong supporter of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR), which we signed in 1977 and ratified in 1992. The United States of America continuously observes the situation of human rights in its country. In our still ongoing evaluations of this important topic, we came to the conclusion, that we have to approach this issue in multiple ways. The first one is the strengthening of minority, marginalised and unequally treated social groups, who have been discriminated and whose human rights have been violated in regards to labor rights. Since especially the most vulnerable groups of our society tend to be the victim of unequal treatments or even discrimination when it comes to the occupation, we committed ourselves to support and include those social groups with a strengthening of their human rights in regards to business and their work life. To achieve that, we signed the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD) in the year 2009. The United States of America is convinced that gender equality is essential if we want to improve the standard of our working conditions. That's why we support the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) which we signed in 1980. Not only persons with disabilities are the victims of unequal treatments in business, it also effects people from other origins. Therefore, we established the USMCA in 2020 which is intended to strengthen the protection of labor rights of people from descents other than the United States of America. The second approach to further strengthen human rights in business is a general approach with recommendations given, actions taken and tools established to improve the situation of business and the civil society. To realize that, we support the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (CESR) which we signed in 1977. A topic of interest for us is the combat of forced labour. For that reason we publish guidelines and strategy plans which are supposed to reduce and preferably eliminate human trafficking as well as stop the import of products produced by forced labour. The executing organ for this project is the Department of Homeland Security.

Regarding the alarming number of human rights violations when it comes to business and labour, the United States of America emphasises itself to promote respect and tolerance for all individuals in business. Further actions we want to take are the strengthening of cooperations with civil societies, companies all sizes as well as like-minded governments. We admire a further establishment of bilateral and multilateral relations which goes hand in hand with our commitment to support UN summit meetings such as the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* (OECD). Another point of interest for us is the improvement of structures and bodies which are responsible for human rights violations in business. Meaning that the civil society will have the possibility to report human rights violations in labour. We admire to build capacities for global programs to create a platform for the exchange of relevant issues where we are able to discuss and as well try to solve them. The development of training programs and guidelines for government employees are important plans we want to realise within following working sessions. Since our world is connected through import and export of goods, we are convinced the topics business and human rights are highly connected and global ones, where all the member states should work together to implement strict guidelines for supply chains, employee rights and strengthen the rights of people whose human rights were gotten violated. Therefore, the United States of America encourages all the other member states to work together on the strengthening of human rights for all individuals, when it comes to business and any other topic.