

**Statement by Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide on the killings in Buffalo, New York on 14 May**

(New York, 17 May 2022)

The Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, expressed her dismay at the horrific shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York that took the lives of ten people and injured three others, and strongly condemned it as a senseless act of racially motivated violent extremism and hatred. She also echoed the condemnation expressed by the Secretary-General of racism in all its forms and of any manifestation discrimination based on race, religion, belief, or national origin. The thoughts of the Special Adviser are with the families of the victims.

Special Adviser Wairimu Nderitu noted that the connection between racism and racial discrimination as related to the risk of atrocity crimes has been established by a number of United Nations Conventions, including the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. “Advancing national and international efforts to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, as well as their incitement – which is a commitment that all Member States have universally adopted – requires concrete action to address racism as a matter of priority.”

The Special Adviser also reiterated that “systemic racism enables conditions that can perpetuate and facilitate discrimination and violence. This dynamic is not exclusive to any particular country. Intolerance, racism and xenophobia are all too present across the world. It is essential that all Member States undertake all necessary efforts to embrace the diversity of their societies and to commit to a culture of understanding, respect and equality for all their citizens, including by effectively addressing and combatting any manifestation of racial hatred, including hate speech, as well as incitement to violence.” Special Adviser Wairimu Nderitu reiterated the view that fighting against racial discrimination also constitutes an important strategy for the prevention of atrocity crimes, which requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. “In countering the scourge of racial hatred and discrimination, everyone must play their part, from top government officials to individual citizens in their communities.”