

Le forum pour les personnes d'origine africaine

Quelques réflexions...

Mireille Fanon-Mendès France
Chair du Groupe de travail sur les personnes d'origine africaine

Quelques remarques sur le Forum "consultatif"

- Première remarque

"Decide to establish a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism, to be provided by one of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms such as the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent or the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and in this regard requests the Human Rights Council to allocate two or three days of the annual sessions of one of these mechanisms that shall be devoted to this purpose and that would ensure the inclusive participation of all States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, civil society organizations of people of African descent and all other relevant stakeholders¹".

« a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism, to be provided by one of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms such as the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent or the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action²»,

Le groupe de travail d'experts sur les personnes d'origine africaine et africaine est mentionné comme acteur possible pour jouer un rôle dans la tenue du forum, par le fait qu'il est un des mécanismes mis en place à l'issue de la conférence internationale contre le racisme, la xénophobie, la discrimination et l'intolérance associée de 2001³, tout comme l'est le groupe de travail intergouvernemental de suivi des résolutions de Durban⁴.

¹ 2-i, RES/69/16, Programme of activities for the implementation of the International decade for People of African Descent, November, 18, 2014

² Voir note 1

³ A Durban du 30 au 8 septembre 2001

⁴ Voir note 2

Si le groupe de travail d'experts est un acteur possible au vu de son mandat⁵ qui est uniquement dédié sur les personnes d'origine africaine, -ce sont des personnes indépendantes qui ne sont liées à aucun Etat et qui assurent ce mandat à titre individuel⁶- ; on ne peut dire la même chose des membres du IGWG⁷ qui sont des représentants des Etats et dont le mandat repose sur l'ensemble du suivi de la Déclaration et du Plan d'action de Durban et non spécifiquement sur les personnes d'origine africaine. Il est cohérent dès lors de demander au WGEPAD d'assurer un rôle particulier dans la tenue du Forum qui est pensé pour la réalisation de l'ensemble des droits des personnes d'origine africaine.

Par ailleurs, il faut noter que le Groupe de travail peut, en tant que groupe formé d'experts ayant chacun une spécificité, apporter une plus-value dans le cadre de l'organisation et du suivi des forums tant régionaux qu'internationaux ; mais aussi par l'expertise indépendante -au regard de son mandat- que ce groupe de travail représente ; cette indépendance peut agir comme une facilitation positive dans le cadre des discussions, mais aussi favoriser des recommandations en relation avec les objectifs identifiés par leur mandat.

Dans ce cadre-là on est en droit de se demander s'il ne peut y avoir conflit d'intérêt lorsque force est de constater que certains Etats ont émis de sérieux doutes sur la pertinence d'une telle décennie et sont peu enclins à assurer des financements qui permettraient de réaliser une visibilité à la hauteur des enjeux de cette décennie, entre autres de *«promouvoir non seulement le respect, la protection et la réalisation de tous les droits humains et de toutes les libertés fondamentales des personnes d'ascendance africaine, comme le prévoit la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme mais aussi une meilleure connaissance et un plus grand respect de la diversité du patrimoine, de la culture et de la contribution au développement des sociétés des personnes d'ascendance africaine. Et d'adopter et de renforcer les cadres juridiques internationaux, régionaux et nationaux, conformément à la Déclaration et au Programme d'action de Durban et à la Convention internationale sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination raciale, et de veiller à les mettre en œuvre intégralement et effectivement⁸»*.

⁵ Résolutions 2003/68 et 2003/30 de la Commission des droits de l'homme, puis repris par le Conseil des droits de l'Homme dans sa résolution 9/14

⁶ <http://www.un.org/fr/rights/overview/rsgt.shtml>

⁷ Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

⁸ Voir le programme complet de la décennie <http://www.un.org/fr/events/africandescentdecade/programme.shtml>

Certes, on ne peut ignorer les difficultés financières supportées aussi bien par les Etats que par les institutions internationales mais la lutte contre le racisme anti noir et plus généralement contre toutes les formes de racisme est un enjeu, voire un défi mondial, qui ne peut être considéré comme secondaire. Et particulièrement dans le contexte actuel de durcissement des rapports de forces et des relations internationales dans les zones géographiques où de nombreux afro descendants et africains sont présents. La question financière relève d'une volonté politique des Etats et des institutions internationales et cette réalité ne peut entraver un but si universel dont tous les peuples et les Etats auront à bénéficier.

Conflit d'intérêt car on ne peut d'une part, tenir ferme sur les enjeux géostratégiques et socio-économiques défendus par les Etats dans un monde soumis aux diktats d'un système financier qui a pour conséquence de déstructurer et délégitimer tous les acquis sociaux, économiques, culturels mis en place dans de nombre de pays au sortir de la seconde guerre mondiale ; et d'autre part, porter les enjeux d'un forum pour les personnes d'origine africaine qui sont « *among those most affected by racism. Too often, they face denial of basic rights such as access to quality health services and education* », ainsi que l'a récemment souligné Ban Ki-moon, Secrétaire général des Nations unies.

Si la décision est prise de donner au groupe de travail d'experts sur les personnes d'origine africaine d'assurer l'articulation et la dynamique des relations entre les différents acteurs devant garantir la tenue -dans tous les sens du terme- du forum en tant que mécanisme consultatif, il reste à définir le rôle de ce groupe de travail d'experts et ses capacités d'action.

- Deuxième remarque

"to allocate two or three days of the annual sessions of one of these mechanisms that shall be devoted to this purpose"⁹

Il est dommageable pour le processus de travail des deux mécanismes de les priver de deux ou trois jours de leurs sessions.

Le groupe de travail d'experts a annuellement deux sessions de 5 jours de travail à Genève. L'une en interne, l'autre publique. Ces deux sessions suffisent à peine à accomplir l'ensemble du travail auquel le groupe a à faire face. Amputer une des sessions de deux ou trois jours risque d'obérer la qualité de son travail et de réduire ses capacités de recherche et de réflexion. La session interne est particulièrement importante, elle permet

⁹ Voir note 1

d'aborder, d'échanger et d'orienter le travail de fond du WGEPAD, ce qu'il est impossible de faire par échange d'emails ou lors de la session publique qui elle, aussi, est indispensable afin d'identifier les attentes, les questionnements ou les positions des représentants des Etats.

Ces rencontres sont indispensables à la réalisation du mandat des Experts, tout comme est indispensable les rencontres avec les membres de la société civile qui est un des acteurs majeurs dans le processus qui réunit les uns et les autres dans la lutte contre le racisme, la xénophobie, la discrimination et l'intolérance associée.

Par ailleurs, il faut souligner que les deux sessions ont lieu à Genève. Pour avoir rencontré des représentants des Etats à New York lors du lancement de la décennie, j'ai pu constater combien il était important que notre WGEPAD soit aussi présent à New York¹⁰ pour informer ces membres de missions qui y sont présentes du travail mené à Genève et des orientations prises mais aussi des moyens dont nous nous dotons ou que nous voudrions pouvoir disposer pour répondre au mieux aux objectifs de notre mandat et de ceux de la lutte pour l'éradication du racisme. Pour l'heure ce travail qui seul peut être assuré par une présence à Genève mais aussi à New York n'existe pas, pourtant une meilleure articulation entre ces deux lieux permettrait de conforter et de confirmer le travail du WGEPAD.

Il serait très important que le Forum ait lieu à New York où les missions des Etats sont présentes et ont en nombre des membres, ce qui permet de suivre plus facilement plusieurs dossiers –ce qui peut être plus difficile à Genève. Cela permettrait un double appui au travail du WGEPAD et au vu de l'enjeu, cela ne semble pas de trop et devrait être acceptable et négociable. Par ailleurs, il peut être ajouté que New York est pertinent dans la mesure où le continent nord-américain a une longue histoire de résistance au racisme anti noir ; décider de tenir le Forum aux Etats-Unis fait sens et renforcerait certainement sa visibilité en vue d'en faire événement-rendez-vous mondial.

- Troisième remarque

to establish a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism¹¹

Il est dommageable que le Groupe de travail, malgré ses constants efforts, n'ait pas réussi à obtenir une instance permanente sur les questions des Afro descendants pour obtenir que ce Forum devienne un organe

¹⁰ Rencontre avec les missions du Brésil et de Trinidad et Tobago

¹¹ Voir note 1

consultatif auprès du Conseil économique et social, avec un mandat pour discuter des questions concernant les Afro descendants liées au Développement qu'il soit économique, social, culturel -dont l'éducation, la santé et les droits humains-, politique, environnemental, à la Justice et à la Reconnaissance.

Ce Forum permanent aurait permis un travail de suivi sur la réalisation des droits des personnes d'origine africaine articulé avec la poursuite des objectifs identifiés dans la Déclaration et le Plan d'Action de Durban.

Risque d'un forum dont les contours sont flous

Le résultat d'un tel forum risque de se solder par un listage d'actions organisées par la société civile avec ou non le soutien d'Etats ou d'institutions sans, qu'à terme, ne soit obtenu un engagement formel des Etats à lutter contre les discriminations raciales, le racisme sous toutes ses formes dont celui frappant spécifiquement les personnes d'origine africaine ou africaines, la xénophobie et l'intolérance associée, et à identifier des politiques nationales, régionales ou internationales devant impérativement être mises en place.

- Quatrième remarque

L'importance d'un Forum permanent

En devenant un organe consultatif auprès du Conseil Economique et social¹², il pourrait -ainsi que l'envisage l'article 62¹³- fournir des rapports au Conseil économique et social ce qui permettrait de revisiter positivement l'apport des Afro descendants et des Africains au monde contemporain.

Par exemple, sous le thème de Reconnaissance pourrait être abordée entre autres, la question de la « direction¹⁴ » ou du « pilotage » mis en place dans certaines sociétés afro descendantes ou africaines pour résoudre des problèmes de prises de décision tant politique que juridique, de rapports sociaux, de répartition des biens, d'éducation et de transmission et de construction de savoirs, de rapports avec la nature et de ce que signifie la souveraineté alimentaire.

Cet aspect est peu souvent abordé. L'aborder, lors d'un Forum permanent, permettrait de travailler à la fois sur les aspects positifs de la culture spécifiquement africaine et de celle des afro descendants et d'identifier des

¹² Chapitre X de la Charte des Nations unies

¹³ Chapitre X, Charte des Nations Unies

¹⁴ Au lieu du terme « gouvernance » qui pour polémique qu'il est, fait aussi référence à un terme trop connoté dans le champ de la domination

éléments pertinents qui pourraient être envisagés sous un aspect beaucoup plus large et dynamique que cela n'a été fait jusqu'à présent. Ce travail initié par le Forum pourrait déboucher sur la proposition faite, lors du lancement de la décennie : *l'ONU devrait rapidement organiser un séminaire mondial sur l'afro- descendance et le monde contemporain.*

Cette thématique pourrait réunir des experts de tous pays et de tous horizons et aurait pour objet la mise en valeur de l'apport culturel, scientifique, économique, social, politique des Afro-descendants au monde d'aujourd'hui. L'ensemble des contributions, d'où qu'elles viennent, devraient être collectées par le Haut-commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, en partenariat avec des institutions telles que l'UNESCO, afin de constituer une encyclopédie de l'Afro-descendance et de sa contribution à l'histoire mondiale.

Le Forum doit être pensé au regard des 3 thèmes de la décennie, Justice avec un focus particulier sur la justice réparatrice, Développement et Reconnaissance et comme la colonne vertébrale de la recherche-action pour élaborer des orientations engageant substantiellement vers l'éradication du racisme, de la discrimination raciale, de la xénophobie et de l'intolérance associée. On peut d'ailleurs se demander si le premier thème à aborder, au regard des événements graves qui se sont déroulés depuis quelques années –et ce dans différents pays- ne doit pas impérativement être celui de la justice et particulièrement de la déconstruction de l'impunité en vue d'une justice réparatrice. Il est temps que les violations des droits des afro descendants cessent et soient punis pour ce qu'ils sont, à savoir des crimes affectant gravement le droit fondamental à la non-discrimination et à l'égalité et le droit à la dignité humaine.

Ces rapports pourraient servir de bases de réflexion dans la perspective d'élaborer une Déclaration des Nations unies pour les droits humains des personnes d'origine africaine, qui est essentielle, compte tenu du phénomène d'intersectionnalité –très spécifique- dont sont victimes ces personnes lorsqu'il y a violation de leurs droits.

Mais ils pourraient aussi permettre que, dans un premier temps, les personnes d'origine africaine se réinvestissent dans leur histoire qui a participé à l'élaboration du monde actuel et se retrouvent à interroger l'apport fondamental de leur histoire qui a rencontré un autre monde. Ce travail de réinvestissement d'une histoire trop souvent oubliée au profit d'une histoire construite -par la traite négrière, la mise en esclavage et le colonialisme- comme histoire commune, a fait oublier de distinguer l'histoire particulière des personnes d'origine africaine et africaines –en

leur donnant leur espace- ; ce travail de mise en relation devrait à terme permettre de réconcilier les histoires pour mieux les accorder. Lors de ce forum, il est important de relier les rapports entre les différences afin de parvenir à la rencontre des unes et des autres.

Par ailleurs, compte tenu de la croyance intériorisée d'une hiérarchisation des races et des cultures, il est important que pour les personnes d'origine africaine et africaines, soit réaffirmé que toutes les doctrines, y compris la doctrine de la découverte, qui invoquent ou prônent la supériorité en se fondant sur des différences d'ordre national, racial, religieux, ethnique ou culturel sont racistes, scientifiquement fausses, juridiquement sans valeur, moralement condamnables et socialement injustes et devraient être dénoncées en paroles et en actes.

- Cinquième remarque

Organiser des forums régionaux ?

Si le forum peut être pensé dans un premier temps sur un plan régional, voire national, il doit impérativement, à la suite, se situer sur un plan international. Si le nombre des Afro descendants n'est pas connu –par manque de volonté politique de certains Etats de ne pas favoriser le comptage des personnes d'origine africaine dans leur pays, il n'en demeure pas moins que leur nombre est plus qu'important, ainsi plus de 50,2% de la population brésilienne s'affirme afro-brésilienne-, il est suffisamment significatif pour identifier une parole commune dépassant les limites de la nation ou de la région et particulièrement dans un contexte de mondialisation. Il ne faut pas négliger le fait, pour argumenter en faveur, dans un premier temps de forum régionaux, que chaque région a des façons spécifiques de lutter contre le racisme et de rendre visible les populations afro-descendantes. Mais ces forums risquent de ne se centrer que sur leurs problématiques régionales, or la décennie vise à rendre visible l'ensemble de la population afro descendante, où qu'elle se trouve.

Par ailleurs, si ces personnes sont soumises au même genre de discours discriminants et xénophobes –et ce dans tous les domaines de leur vie-, il est important de penser des temps pour la mise en place de forums internationaux de façon à identifier la construction d'alternatives au discours affirmant la supériorité de la «race blanche» et de la culture occidentale ; alternatives devant répondre au thème organisateur de la décennie, Développement, Justice, Reconnaissance. Ces temps de forum international doivent permettre la confrontation et l'analyse des situations spécifiques, de partager des rapports multiples mais aussi l'élaboration de plans d'action à porter internationalement. Ils doivent aussi favoriser la

mise en relation de régions indispensable à un universalisme partagé et non compartimenté.

Ces forums doivent être pensés en deux temps : région puis international.

On ne peut évacuer aussi qu'entre le niveau des régions et de l'international, il y a un élément essentiel qui est de réfléchir ensemble à la façon dont sera levé l'horizon brouillé de millions d'Afro-descendants et d'Africains qui ne sont perçus qu'à travers le prisme dévalorisant de la race. Ces forums internationaux doivent être le moment de construction d'une autre relation des personnes d'origine africaine et africaines au monde en passant du statut de victimes de la traite négrière, de la mise en esclavage et du colonialisme à celui d'acteurs de changement.

Ce changement de regard sur soi ne sera pas sans conséquence sur l'autre dont le regard est orienté par une histoire officielle phantasmée, souvent réécrite et trop souvent niée ou folklorisée.

Il s'agit de dessiner les contours d'une dynamique de relation qui engendre des magnétismes entre les différents. Cela ne pourra se faire que parce qu'il y aura des espaces où la relation pourra se construire et se dire, ainsi elle se renforcera et cessera de s'exclure.

Un Forum international, organisé, dans un premier temps, par région, permettrait de renforcer la visibilité des personnes d'origine africaine au plan international et leur donnerait une voix forte et particulièrement dans le cadre des relations internationales. N'est-ce pas aussi un des enjeux du Forum international ?

C'est là tout l'enjeu de cette décennie, c'est là tout son défi. Défi posé aussi bien aux Etats qu'aux peuples, s'il y a une volonté commune de sortir d'une guerre de civilisation construite sur la peur de l'Autre.

Dès lors, de la nature, la forme et l'orientation du forum, de la définition du rôle de chacun des acteurs dépendra le succès positif de la décennie, non parce qu'un grand nombre d'activités ou d'actions seront comptabilisées mais parce que le forum et son organisation auront apporté des changements substantiels dans l'organisation d'un monde basé sur la domination et l'aliénation.

2024 ne doit pas se solder par le même constat fait lors de l'ouverture de la Conférence^[9] de Durban en 2001 «*malgré les efforts de la communauté*

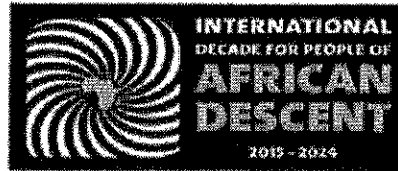
internationale, les principaux objectifs de trois dernières décennies contre le racisme et la discrimination raciale n'ont pas été atteints, une grande partie de l'humanité continue à être victime de racisme, de discrimination raciale, de xénophobie et d'intolérance associée¹⁵».

¹⁵ Déclaration de Madeleine Robinson; ancienne Haut-Commissaire du Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, page 3, Déclaration et programme d'action de Durban



Stichting Nationaal Monument Nederlands Slavernijverleden

Landelijk Platform Slavernijverleden



Contribution Related to the
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - NEW FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

As is decided by

The United Nations General Assembly, in resolution A/RES/69/16, to establish a Forum for People of African Descent to serve as a consultation mechanism during the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

To the

:International Decade for People of African Descent, Anti-Racial Discrimination Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),
UNOG-OHCHR, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Date February 25, 2015

For information:

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1. Mission and Goals

We agreed that the Forum should function as a consultative Platform with a view to achieving better synergy, coordination and complementarity on issues related to people of African descent during the Decade with an option after ten year to adopt this instrument as a Permanent Forum on people of African descent as was adopted for Indigenous peoples. In our view the Platform is a vehicle between the member states and the Civil Society with a view to realise the necessary Political Will to implement the UN Decade Program of activities into National Action Plans.

2. About the thematic Focus

The focus cannot be something else than the theme of the Decade: Recognition, Justice and Development. Main focus must be the implementation of the UN Program of activities by member states including the implementation of the Durban Declaration and the Program of Action (DDPA 2001) as well all other affiliated resolutions and related consolidated outcomes such as the Durban Review 2009 outcome document.

3. Format of the Agenda

We advise to use the same strategy as for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous peoples issues. But the Agenda cannot be something different than what has been decided by the UNGA. So that by the end of the Decade the member states has fully implemented the DDPA 2001 and all other affiliated resolutions and related consolidated outcomes such as the Durban Review 2009 outcome document. In this regards that member states who has benefited from the trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism and who has not done this yet, has apologised and realised Reparations for the crimes against Africa and African people.

4. how to ensure wide participation in the Forum and what should be its outcomes

First of all the Forum must exist of 70% of people of African descent: Thus at least 70% of the seats must reserve for African descendants stakeholders, experts and the civil society people. We advise to use the same methodic as was used for the nomination of a civil society speaker for the launching of the International Decade for people of African descent. It is very important to realise a specific call for submissions of nomination criteria for members of the Forum. This is crucial to for come that people who have other intentions come on board of the Forum. We advise a quota of 50% men and 50% women of the 70% seats for the people of African descent. For us this is very crucial.

On behalf of

Tiye International

The African European Women's Movement 'Sophiedela'

The African and African descendant Network The Netherlands.

The DDPA Monitoring Working Group the Netherlands

The Decade Coordinating Working Group The Netherlands



European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD)



European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD)

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Aims, objectives and thematic focus. We would like to emphasize that empowering and mobilizing African descendent civil society actors is essential to an international Forum for People of African Descent. The social, cultural and political empowerment of people of African descent is both an end in itself that is central to the Decade as well as being instrumental to achieving full equality of human dignity and rights for all people of African descent. Towards this end we suggest that the Forum: (a) act as an international platform for civil society actors to exchange best practices and coordinate strategies and campaigns (including an outreach program to increase the interaction between communities and international institutions), (b) develop an online civil society platform that can connect international, regional and national networks of civil society actors, raise awareness and promote campaigns.

Regarding (a), by being such an international platform, the Forum should empower people of African descent to achieve the objectives of the Decade both on the national levels and on the international stage. On the national levels the Forum should assist with strategies, know-how and other tools, empower through internationally coordinated and nationally implemented campaigns, and add an international and UN backed dimension to civil society pressure on States to implement the Decade. On the international level the Forum could act as a united voice for the interests of people of African descent and the objectives of the Decade.

Format and agenda. The Forum should meet bi-annually in a 2-3 day conference organized by the Human Rights Council and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. In between such conferences there should be regular online or telephone conferences to actively connect civil society actors globally.

As part of its organization, we suggest that the Forum be both internationally and nationally coordinated. We believe that our European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD) can act as a best practice model for regional coordination and that it would be advisable for other regions such as Latin America, North America, the Caribbean and Africa to develop similar networks. This will help localize regional needs and tailor and coordinate regional

efforts around the Decade. Such regional organization will also simplify and otherwise facilitate representation and coordination on the international level in the Forum.

Ensuring wide participation. To ensure wide participation the Forum should ideally include NGOs, local activists and researchers. Developing systematic and structured, international and national networks and collaborations between such actors will be of great importance to the success of the Decade. An online civil society platform (which could include e.g. a possibility to submit comments, and with newsletters about the work of the Forum as well as civil society activities around the Decade) will also serve to widen the participation.

Written by **Michael McEachrane**

Signing parties of the Network:

ISD - Initiative of Black People in Germany

Nederland Wordt Beter - the Netherlands

Zwarte Piet Niet - the Netherlands

Narrative Eye - UK

PAWLO Germany (Pan-African Women's Liberation Organization)

Ebony Organization, Arts and Human Rights

AUADS; African Union African Diaspora sixth Region Germany

AK Panafrikanismus - Panafricanism Working Group Germany

Fight Racism Now (FRN) - Sweden

AkiDWA - National network for migrant women in Ireland

New Urban Collective - the Netherlands

ADYNE; African Diaspora youth Network in Europe

Raad Van de Afrikaanse Gemeenschappen in Europa - RVDAGE/VL vzw Belgium

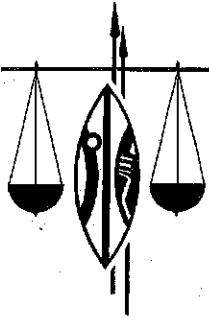
ADEFRA Grassroots e.V. - Germany

D'HERO; Decades of Heroes for the Elimination of Racism and Oppression- the Netherlands

Africa Council Berlin /Brandenburg - Germany

CRAN - le Conseil Représentatif des Associations Noires de France





February 25, 2015

Dear Christina Saunders:

Submission: Forum for People of African Descent

The African Canadian Legal Clinic (ACLC) is of the position that the model of the Forum for People of African Descent (FPAD) should be similar to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The FPAD should serve as a direct advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR). The mandate of the FPAD should be to discuss issues affecting People of African Descent that are related but not limited to human rights, economic and social development, culture, the environment, education and health. More specifically, the FPAD should be mandated to:

1. Support the progressive and successful execution of the Mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent;
2. Provide expert advice and recommendations on issues facing African Descendants to ECOSOC and the OHCHR, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the ECOSOC and OHCHR;
3. Raise awareness of issues affecting People of African Descent and promote the integration and coordination of activities that advance the issues of African Descendants within and beyond the UN system; and
4. Gather, prepare and disseminate information on issues affecting African Descendants.

The new Forum should hold an annual two-week session, with yearly sessions that alternate between New York and Geneva. The FPAD should be recognized and relied upon as an authoritative UN body of experts dealing with issues specifically affecting African Descendants. The thematic focus of the FPAD should be: "African Descendants and Diasporas: memory, justice, institutional equity, and re-education".

To ensure wide participation in the FPAD, its Membership should be comprised of thirty-two (32) independent experts, functioning in their personal capacity, who serve for a term of three years as Members and may be re-elected or re-appointed for one additional term. Sixteen (16) of the Members should be nominated by governments and sixteen (16) should be nominated directly by African Descendant human rights and economic development organizations. This balance must be maintained to ensure that government-appointed representation is equally balanced and works collaboratively with experts nominated by civil society groups. A Civil Society Participation Fund should be established and adequately resourced to facilitate active and balanced participation of civil society organizations at each session of the FPAD.

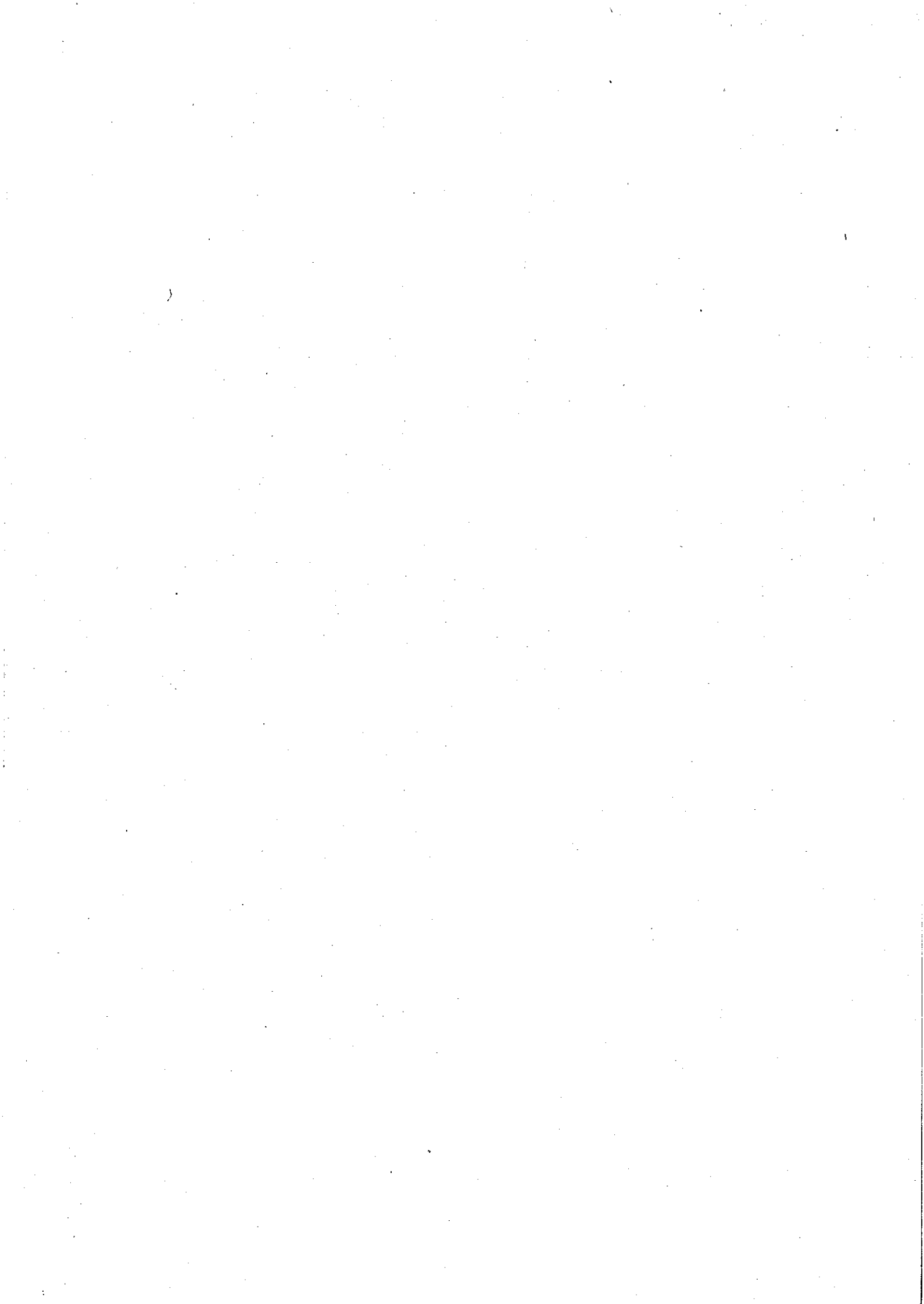
The Members nominated by governments should be elected by ECOSOC based on the following regional groupings of States: Africa; Middle East; Asia and the Pacific; the Caribbean; Europe; Latin America; and North America.

The Members directly nominated by African Descendant human rights and economic development organizations should be appointed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and

represent the aforementioned seven socio-cultural regions which give global representation to the world's People of African Descent.

The outcomes of the FPAD should be:

- a. Establishing a Permanent Forum for People of African Descent;
- b. Developing a Declaration on the Rights of African Descendants;
- c. Developing and offering leadership and technical assistance that will support the development and advancement of People of African Descent, their institutions, and their communities;
- d. Establishing a permanent international institute for African Descendants to obtain the highest standards of education and training on issues affecting African Descendants across the globe.
- e. Creation of Trust Fund to promote, support and implement the objectives of the Decade and its Programme of Activities.



**Developing and Using Empirical Data to Dismantle Racism in Environmental and Climate Policies:
A Proposal to the New Forum for People of African Descent**

to the
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

prepared by the

**Dr. Robert Bullard, Dean of the
Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland School of Public Policy at Texas Southern University in
Houston, Texas, USA
and
Monique Harden, Attorney and Co-Director of
Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, a public interest law firm based in New Orleans,
Louisiana, USA**

February 25, 2015

The Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland School of Public Policy at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas, USA and Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, respectfully submit to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights *Developing and Using Environmental, Social, Cultural, Economic, and Political Data to Dismantle Racism in Environmental and Climate Policies: A Proposal to the New Forum for People of African Descent*. This proposal was developed from the extensive research and public policy development that are at the foundation of the Urban Planning and Environmental Policy Program of the Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland School of Public Policy.

From the development of our individual personalities to the opportunities we pursue, the places where we live have significant influence over who we are and what we do. Policies affecting the environment and climate shape the conditions we find in the places where we are born, grow up, perhaps become parents, and die. Across the globe, short-sighted environmental and climate policies are threatening the sustainability of communities inhabited predominantly by people of African descent. Helping people of African descent to develop, access, and use empirical data to drive environmental and climate policies that are sustainable, equitable, and just is urgently needed to avoid further violations and abuses of human rights.

We propose that one of the objectives of the New Forum for People of African Descent is the development of strategies to dismantle racism in environmental and climate policies that threaten the livability of communities. With this objective, we propose a thematic focus on empirical data which maps the influence of environmental and climate policies on communities of African descended people. We suggest an interactive workshop format that allows people to gain a hands-on experience with accessing and analyzing available data regarding environmental and environmentally-related conditions, such as health, quality of life, and development, in their communities. We anticipate significant participation by people with interests in community development, urban planning, economy, environment, and climate change. The expected outcomes are (1) expanded knowledge of how environmental and climate policies disproportionately burden communities of African descended people across the globe, and (2) strategic thinking on how to use evidentiary-based policies to dismantle racism and advance human rights in environmental and climate policies.

For inquiries or responses, please contact: Dr. Robert D. Bullard, Dean, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, Texas Southern University, 3100 Cleburne Avenue, Houston, TX 77004 USA, (713) 313-6840 (ph), (713) 313-7153 (fx), E-Mail: Bullardrd@tsu.edu, Website: <http://bjmlspa.tsu.edu/>

24 February 2015

International Decade for People of African Descent
Anti-Racial Discrimination Section
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
UNOG-OHCHR, CH-1211
Geneva 10, Switzerland

RE: Response to Call for Submissions on the New Forum for People of African Descent

Excellency,

I write as an interested stakeholder to express my gratitude for the invitation to submit information on what the proposed aims and objectives, thematic focus, format and agenda, and outcomes of the New Forum for People of African Descent should be.

A Forum for People of African Descent should aim to operate as the official, global consultation mechanism of the United Nations during the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). Additionally, the Form for People of African Descent should align clearly with and advance the main objectives of existing United Nations Human Rights programmes by enhancing advocacy, awareness, and mobilization of public/political opinion specifically in support of Strategic Goals outlined for the International Decade for People of African Descent.

The thematic focus should be "The International Remembrance of Victory Over the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, and its Effects". The format should be a virtual, global forum comprised of 125 delegates, individual people reflecting the geographic/cultural diversity of Member States to whom ambassadorial rank should be accorded for Expert on Mission service as a United Nations Human Rights Ambassador-at-Large for International Victory Over the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, and its Effects in the United States, for example.

The agenda of a New Forum for People of African Descent should feature three main sections. Part I is the selection of 125 individual delegates (via application, invitation, or appointment) accompanied by official announcement of ambassador-at-large appointments published and disseminated in the Secretary-General's bulletin(s) and applicable websites in the United Nations system.

Section two of the agenda is convening a Round Table to administer guidelines to the ambassadors-at-large for their work such as terms of reference, contractual agreements for duties and responsibilities, and initial delineation of applicable tracking systems and output indicators which may include but are not necessarily limited to: number of activities by type, number of readers and viewers, type of audiences and countries outreached, estimated value of public service announcements and advertisements..etc., impact on legislation, behavioral changes, partnerships entered into and estimated value, number of hits on websites, dollar value of funds raised, dollar value of donations, and number of individual donors.

The third section of the agenda is implementation of The International Remembrance of Victory Over the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, and its Effects programmatic components supported by maximum levels of funding and staffing resources allocated from United Nations Executive Management, Partners, and/or Affiliates.

This New Forum for People of African Descent should ultimately be a platform during the International Decade for People of African Descent to showcase Victory around the world Over Transatlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, and its Effects.

I welcome communications about this proposal with respect to additional suggestions, questions, or comments, and thank you in advance for all due consideration.

With Highest Regards,

Commissioner Nuriyah A. Bone'-Owens
AMISTAD COMMISSION of New York State
Educational and Cultural Resources Committee, Chair

Submission to the New Forum for People of African Descent

This draft concept note¹ proposes one major area of activity, for possible incorporation in the broader “aims and objectives” of the New Forum for People of African Descent. The tentative name of the proposal is “Fully Trained in Africa (FTA).” It refers to people of African descent who have obtained their formal academic qualifications entirely from Africa-based universities: starting from primary degrees (such as BA, BSc, LLB etc.) up to highest academic qualifications (such as DPhil, PhD, LLD, etc.), and who are making lasting contributions in the development of *communities outside of Africa* (with an emphasis on the latter element). The initiative is concerned mainly with identifying the potential of FTA-individuals, without contradicting the broader concept of “people of African descent.” The identification will be made based on notable contributions made by FTA-individuals, such as through the production of policy-relevant and evidence-based knowledge with meaningful impact in the development of *communities outside of Africa*, the logic being: Africa is not only a recipient of help but it also makes potential contribution to the betterment of the world. Particular attention will be paid to FTA-individuals who have excelled by penetrating the profusely inaccessible doors of Western job markets and/or professional quarters.

In addition to identifying the hidden potential of outstanding FTA-individuals, there is a need to recognize their excellence and reward their achievement through commensurate acknowledgment of merit. Efforts of FTA-individuals aimed at penetrating Western job markets are disproportionately affected by intransigent tones of disbelief on their *qualifications* and appertaining suspicion on their *abilities* to do a *serious* job. This is simply because their academic qualifications, and the experts themselves, happen to be from a continent about which prejudices abound. The problem persists irrespective of the qualitative merit of the people in question. Like in all other “normal” cases, the attributes of FTA-individuals cannot be identified without having a sober look at the “realness” of the qualitative merit they own.

Overcoming *de facto* (if not *de jure*) stifling and iniquitous judgemental assumptions, some FTA-individuals have exceptionally excelled in their respective field of specialization. Others are already making meaningful contributions, by impacting the development of their host communities, notably outside of Africa. In spite of this, their contributions remain under-recognized. Common sense and logic require that they be given the recognition they deserve, with a view to rewarding their excellence and encouraging the visibility of other talents of FTA-individuals at a global scale, thus promoting also the broader objectives of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

With this in mind, this submission proposes the establishment of an annual prize, tentatively known as “The FTA Award,” to be awarded on the basis of an open and competitive selection process, to people of African descent, who are *fully trained in Africa* and are making notable contribution, mainly *outside of the African continent*. For the first ten years, the project may be administered as part of the envisaged New Forum for People of African Descent. Thereafter, it can be incorporated in other similar global projects. If the New Forum does not see the proposed FTA Award as a viable option, it is kindly requested to adopt other convenient mechanisms that duly give credit to FTA-individuals of African descent.

¹ Submitted by Daniel R. Mekonnen, Senior Legal Advisor, International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI), Oslo, Norway; email: drm@ilpi.org. Eritrean by origin, the author is a former Judge of the Central Provincial Court in Asmara, Eritrea.



Black Women's Blueprint | Museum of Women's Resistance | 279 Empire Boulevard | Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225
347-533-9102 P | 347- 750-1652 F | www.blackwomensblueprint.org |

Since the first World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, there has been global efforts to address human rights violations against people of African descent but many of the factors that contribute or result in racial discrimination and racial disparities have not been adequately addressed. Consequently, women of African descent in the United States and worldwide continue to face disproportionately high rates of gender-based violence and poverty.

As a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and other human rights treaties, the U.S. and other state signatories are bound by the provisions of the Conventions. This includes a commitment to the guiding principles of non-discrimination, equality under law as well as the promotion and protection of human rights. However, as Black Women's Blueprint research indicates, more needs to be done to raise the visibility of women of African descent and contribute to the promotion and protection of their rights.

The most striking examples of U.S. failure to satisfy ICERD as well as the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action are: 1) the alarming rates of intimate partner violence and sexual assault against black women and 2) economic vulnerability due to structural racism and sexism which places black women in uncertain and dangerous environments. Black women suffer disproportionately high levels of rape and sexual violence but are less likely to have their cases prosecuted and perpetrators are more likely to escape punishment. USDOJ data indicates that Black women are 35% more likely than their white counterparts to be victims of violence and account for a full third of intimate partner homicides. However, they comprise only 8% of the U.S. population.

It is often the case that African women's situation remains largely invisible due to under-prioritization, including the lack of resources to assist women of African descent access justice and social provisions. In order to meet the key goals of recognition, justice and development, the Forum for People of African Descent must insure that the intersecting forms of discrimination that make women of African descent vulnerable is addressed by: 1) mainstreaming gender into all program activities and 2) establishing monitoring mechanisms to assess whether the States are meeting their obligations. There must be a gendered understanding of recognition, justice and development.

Black Women's Blueprint, a civil and human rights organization committed to highlighting the challenges women of African descent face and advancing their rights through advocacy and direct service provision, welcomes the opportunity to work with OCHR on these issues. We hope that OCHR will organize national, regional and international discussions to strategize and ensure full participation of people of African descent, particularly women and other vulnerable groups (youth, LGBTQ etc). The outcomes must identify the key issues of prioritization and include a gender analysis.

We also believe that a truth and reconciliation commission plays an important and critical role to promoting recognition and addressing the violations committed women of African descent. In the U.S., BWB has launched the first commission to examine the history, context, causes, and consequence of sexual assault on women of African descent in the United States. It is an innovative and groundbreaking move by Black women across generation, ethnicity, sexuality and other identities to confront the ever-shifting nature of rape culture, and sexual violence against African-American/Black women in the United-States.

We look forward to being part of the Forum and working to achieve the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent.

Candidature du CRAN

Pour faire partie du Forum des Personnes d'Ascendance Africaine

Par Louis-Georges Tin, tin@le-cran.fr

S'inscrivant dans la grande tradition panafricaine, le CRAN* souhaite ardemment participer au Forum des Personnes d'Ascendance Africaine.

Objectifs

Le premier objectif de forum, selon nous, est de **favoriser l'information du public** concernant la décennie. Si l'on veut éviter que celle-ci passe inaperçue, ce qui est le grand danger, il est utile de travailler ensemble. Si des supports de communication sont réalisés, si des campagnes sont mises en œuvre par telle ou telle ONG, ces instruments pourront être mutualisés et partagés avec les autres membres du forum, obtenant par là même une diffusion plus grande.

Le second objectif, selon nous, est de **mobiliser les dirigeants**. En effet, lorsque les associations issues de la société civile iront mobiliser les responsables politiques, économiques ou culturels, elles pourront se prévaloir du soutien du forum auquel elles appartiennent, pour que la pression soit d'autant plus grande. Les communiqués de presse pourraient être signés de manière collective au international, ce qui donnerait d'autant plus d'impact aux démarches nationales.

Le troisième objectif, selon moi, est de **resserrer les liens** de solidarité entre les ONG d'Afrique et de la diaspora. Celles-ci sont souvent éparpillés à travers le monde, et ne se connaissent pas assez. Si elles travaillaient davantage ensemble, des projets nouveaux verraient le jour, et il y aurait de grands bénéficiaires à en tirer, en terme de développement économique, politique, social et humain, tout simplement.

Format et Agenda

Il me semble qu'il faudrait au moins une ONG par pays, et celle-ci serait mandatée pour favoriser, voire coordonner si possible, la décennie dans son pays d'origine. Elle serait chargée de veiller à ce que les forces vives de ce pays coopèrent à la dynamique de la décennie.

Mais il faudrait aussi, au sein de ce forum, créer un observatoire, chargé de faire le suivi de la décennie dans les sous-régions concernées (Amérique du Nord, Amérique centrale, Caraïbes, Amérique latine, Europe de l'Ouest, Europe de l'est, etc.). Une fois par année serait publié un rapport, et il faudrait que le Bureau des droits de l'Homme, ou tout autre mécanisme jugé pertinent à cet égard, interpelle publiquement les gouvernements sur leurs lacunes, notamment dans les pays les plus en retrait.

Enfin, une fois par année, il serait bon que les ONG se retrouvent pendant deux ou trois jours. Cela leur permettrait d'échanger sur les bonnes pratiques et sur les moyens de favoriser la mobilisation internationale sur le terrain où tout se joue.

Thématiques

Les thématiques à aborder sont évidemment celles de la décennie (Reconnaissance, Justice, Développement). Pour ce qui est de la reconnaissance, il s'agit d'évoquer l'histoire coloniale dans tous ses aspects, de faire le bilan de la colonisation et de ses conséquences durables, tout en signalant ce que l'Afrique a apporté au monde depuis des siècles.

Pour ce qui est de la justice, il convient d'évoquer aussi bien la justice sociale (éducation, santé, logement, etc.), que la justice au sens étroit du terme (justice pénale, justice distributive, justice réparative). Ensuite, il faudra que le Forum contribue à modifier la donne des politiques de développement dont tout le monde sait qu'elles ne sont bien souvent que le cache-sexe de l'exploitation de l'Afrique et de ses ressources.

* Le CRAN est le Conseil Représentatif des Associations Noires de France. C'est une fédération qui a aussi des filiales au Gabon, au Bénin, au Sénégal, au Maroc, au Cameroun, etc. Le CRAN est un mouvement antiraciste et anticolonialiste. Le CRAN se bat contre les discriminations raciales et pour les réparations liées à l'esclavage et à la colonisation.

En 2008, le CRAN a reçu le prix de la NAACP. En 2014, Jesse Jackson a demandé au CRAN d'être son représentant officiel en France, et depuis 2015, Malaak Shabazz, la fille de Malcolm X, est aussi membre d'honneur de l'organisation. Participant à l'ENAR (European Network Against Racism) et co-fondateur de l'ENPAD (European Network of People of African Descent), le CRAN est aussi à l'origine de la Commission Européenne pour les Réparations, et conduira la délégation européenne à New York pour le sommet international sur les réparations qui se tiendra en avril 2015.

Président du CRAN, ancien élève de la prestigieuse Ecole normale supérieure, Louis-Georges Tin est un universitaire né en Martinique. Il a écrit de nombreux ouvrages sur les discriminations, qui ont été traduits en plusieurs langues et dans des maisons d'éditions réputées (comme les presses du MIT, par exemple, ou les Presses Universitaires de France). Ses deux derniers ouvrages portent sur les réparations liées à l'esclavage.

Black Mental Health UK

BMH UK Submission to the Forum for People of African Descent

To serve as a consultation mechanism during the International Decade for People of African Decent (2015-2024).

*Black Mental Health UK
50 Broadway, St James
Westminster, London
SW1H 0BL
E: Matilda@blackmentalhealth.org.uk
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The Diaspora living in the United Kingdom

BMH UK
Black Mental Health UK

March 2014

About Black Mental Health UK

Black Mental Health UK (BMH UK) is a human rights campaigns group established in 2006 that focuses on raising awareness of and seeing a reduction in the disproportionate numbers of people from the UK's African Caribbean communities/People of African Descent (PADs) subject to detention under the Mental Health Act.

BMH UK are concerned that PAD's suffer some of the worst kinds of human rights abuses which violate, Article 3 of the UDHR, CERD, OPCAT and CRPD.

Our work focuses on establishing new models of health promotion that addresses the social, political and economic exclusion, as well as the marked reduced life expectancy of PAD's living with a diagnosis of severe and enduring mental illness.

BMH UK is the only agency working in the area of public policy with a focus on the inequalities in treatment and care of black people who come in contact with these services, which also campaigns on behalf of these communities' interests. We also work towards addressing the injustices and inequalities that people from this community face in other custodial settings across the UK criminal justice system.

BMH UK vision for new forum for People of African Descent

- **Aims and objectives for the Forum for People of African Descent**

To empower PAD led civil society agencies that are led and serving PAD's round the world to establish and run initiatives that educate and inform these PAD' communities on the Decade's themes of Recognition, Justice and Development by making financial resources and funding available in to these agencies

Enable PAD led civil society agencies that are serving PAD to be formally affiliated with the UN Decade so there is clarity in the regions where they are being delivered that the programmes have formal links to the United Nations Human Rights Council or the UN Decade.

Formalise partnerships with Fellows who have graduated from the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and make resources available for them to become regional champions of the Decade, resources would cover the time and resources it takes to go on speaking events to inform their region about the decade.

Ensure that every year a graduate of the UN Fellowship on PAD's is invited to formally submit a paper and be invited to formally deliver this paper at the annual public session on the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD).

- **The format and agenda**

The format of this new forum should work as an adjunct to the WGEPAD where the graduates from the fellowship programme are formally appointed to work on this project on a five year rotating basis.

- **How to ensure wide participation in the Forum**

Wide participations would be ensured through formal partnerships with PAD led civil society agencies at a regional level who are resourced to disseminate information about the decade.

- **What should be its outcomes**

Legislative change with policies and benchmarking at a regional level to ensure the themes of the Decade of Recognition, Justice, Development becomes a reality.

Black Mental Health UK

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Published March 2015

Aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent

We propose that the aims and objectives for the forum align with the General Assembly's resolution 69/16.

1. Advocate for the role of People of African Descent in the diaspora, pointing out their contribution to the creation of cultural diversity, academia, and the economic value they create both historically and currently.
2. Provide organizations in the diaspora with a national and international platform to exchange information, develop positions and provide support for the issue of rights for People of African Descent.
3. To promote awareness and understanding of the detrimental effects of racism on all people, in particular the role that discrimination plays in economic loss and cost of supporting institutions that have institutional barriers to equality.
4. Build a consensus based on the value of equality and diversity within the education system to ensure that children of African descent are not exposed to indirect and direct discrimination.

Thematic Focus

A thematic focus for the forum within Asia and Asia Pacific will consider the unique forms of racial discrimination and profiling that occur within an international context. For employment and education opportunities, people of African descent can be treated differently, based on nationality and country of origin. Another challenge people of African descent face in Asia is the negative perception towards those of darker hues. Historically, in Asia, darker skin is viewed as undesirable. This stigma can carry over to people of African descent which can lead to discrimination.

Format and Agenda

The forum format should include an effective platform of engagement amongst Asia and the Asia Pacific that connects various consulates, business, NGO's, and individuals that have a desire to promote the aims of the international decade of people of African descent.

Ensuring wide participation in the forum

Engage relevant stakeholders, reach out broadly across Asia and the Diaspora, achieve wide and balanced representation. Engage universities, businesses and individuals.

What should be the outcome of the forum

The outcome should be quantitative and qualitative. Measurable statistical data is necessary to gauge the extent of discrimination that people experience. At the same time, understanding how People of African Descent cope with such discrimination while living abroad requires qualitative study. Dialogues with governments, organizations, stakeholders and individuals about the state of people of African descent in the countries where they reside and work would benefit all people involved, the forum can demonstrate that racism impacts everyone's lives negatively regardless of color.

Working Party for People of African Descent - Asia

Gail Burrowes

ELM SOAS University of London

Steering Committee Sistas in Hong Kong

Planning Committee International Black History Month

Keisha Siriboe

MA, Comparative Education, Beijing Normal University

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The Association of Certified Chartered Accountants

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Marketing and Branding Strategist

**TRUTH & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT
RECOGNITION, JUSTICE, AND DEVELOPMENT**

A Proposal of the Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism, of the
NGO Committee On Human Rights

GENERAL PURPOSE: The Subcommittee for the Elimination of Racism & Other Forms of Intolerance, of the NGO Committee for Human Rights proposes organizing a, **Truth & Human Rights Commission For People of African Descent [THRC]** as part of the New Forum for People of African Descent which brings together all stakeholders of African descent together at local, national, regional and international levels to outline and unpack the role that Afrophobia plays in our collective imaginations and social practice globally. **Afrophobia**, is the irrational fear, dislike or hatred of people and cultures of African descent. Afrophobia manifests itself in acts of bias and violence and is institutionalized in the form of structural racism and discrimination in access to justice, housing, employment, health care, education and property. It is the cause of crippling economic disparities. It results in the denial of personhood, and human dignity, and inflicts wounds to the psyche.

The THRC would serve as an instrument of reparatory justice that furthers implementation of the Durban Declaration & Programme of Action Plan. An intersectional approach is required, and it should enhance compliance within and outside the DDPA's proposed mechanisms for optimizing realization of the national action plans of member states. An intersectional approach that begins with decriminalization of African epistemologies and ritual practice; accompanied by testimonials and examinations of how gender biases; economics, housing and other matters of human security chafe against access to land, juridical, technological and other infrastructural and developmental responses needed to dismantle, and terminate the scourge of Afrophobia.

OBJECTIVES: The THRC would gather and coordinate information, and enable its dissemination for the New Forum that will result in obtaining qualitative and quantitative data to be used for corrective measures for future work. Its principle goals are to:

1. Facilitate examination and documentation of the continuous violation of all treaties, mandates and conventions eroding the human, social, cultural, and economic rights of African descendants.
2. Access and secure quantitative and qualitative data from member states that ratified the DDPA, ICERD and the Sustainable Development Goals to measure progress of their national action plans and enhance compliance.
3. Recognize, identify and dismantle historic and contemporary forms of dehumanizing African descendants, manifest in epistemology and thought including discrimination against, on-going stigmatization and criminalization of spiritual practice as evidence in Afrophobic behaviours both internalized by the descendant community and imposed from dominant culture doctrines. All of the structural and systemic configurations of racism both direct and covert perpetuated against African descendants in digital and new technological formats; educational; electoral; epistemological; juridical; scientific; spatial, theological and other forms must be acknowledged, challenged and corrected.

PROCEDURE: We respectfully issue a call at the international level for implementation of this exercise. We recommend starting at the local level, followed by a full year of national conferences in the areas of the world where African descendants are impacted by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance in Africa, the Americas,

Asia, the Caribbean, and Europe. After all we recommend the results of each THRC session in each region be funneled one into the other. Summarized digests and reports would be presented to each succeeding event.

We recommend three fora to be held during the International Decade: the first in 2015/16; the second in 2019; the third in 2024. Each forum would include Member States of the United Nations, UN agencies, Civil Society Actors and Non-Governmental Organizations and other stakeholders. Using the process used for major UN conferences, each forum to be held at the international level at UN Headquarters in New York City should be preceded by national data collection and fora at the national level. The data and documentation from the national level would be sent as a report to OHCHR and also feed into the regional fora to be held subsequently. The data and documentation from the regional fora will be reported to OHCHR and featured at the forum at the international level. A comprehensive report of this forum should identify progress in the eradication racism and racial inequality effecting people of African descent, remaining challenges and how these will be tackled.

OUTCOMES:

- Comprehensive documentation and intersectional analysis of the impact of Afrophobia as a form of discrimination, racism and xenophobia against African descends;
- Facilitate decriminalization and de-stigmatization at the legislative level of African-based religion and thought as found in the philosophies and practices of Vodou, Candomble, Santeria, Bwiti, Mami Wata, Obia, Lukumi, Winti, Sango, Palo Mayombe, Umbanda, Ifa and other African traditional and indigenous practices of African descendants that have enabled their survival, and retention of cultural patrimony following the slave trade in captive Africans;
- Realization of a Permanent Forum for People of African Decent and their recognition as a Major Group;
- Obtaining disaggregated information at the national and international levels of acts of discrimination, microaggressions and biased against African descendants;
- Propose corrective measures against Afrophobia, systemic and structural racism xenophobia, and related intolerance.
- Procure and mobilize the tools for the enforcement of the human, social, economic, and cultural rights of African descendants resulting in the actualization of "Recognition, Justice and Development" by the end of the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024.

Submitted by Manbo Dòwòti Désir, Interim Chair, and The Decade Taskforce members: Dr. Corann Okorodudu, Chair Emeritus; Mr. Bruce Knotts, Chair, NGO Committee for Human Rights; Bobbi Nassar, Vice-Chair, NGO Committee for Human Rights; Ms. Kerry Mclean, Esq.; Ms. Viola Plumber, Mr. Roger Wareham, Esq.; Rev. Janice Marie Johnson, and Rev. Hope Johnson.

Please contact: Manbo Dòwòti Désir, Interim Chair at dowotidesir@gmail.com or dowodesir@icloud.com +01.917.539.7252

FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (FPAD)

By email to: africandescent@ohchr.org

1. Aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent (FPAD)

Aims and Objectives of the forum should include; Provision of Opportunities to the under-served and under privileged using platforms of workshops, seminars that feature national and international scholars of African Descent. To build a coalition of great minds of African Descent, scholars and Artists of African descent in engagements that foster unity interaction. For several years since 1996, the promoters (Dr. Sebastian Mezu (1) and Dr. Rose Mezu (2) organized **Writers of African Descent Speak (WADS): Black Creativity and the State of the Race**, with international interdisciplinary conferences on **Black Creativity and the State of the Race**, (3) conducted workshop sessions and seminars, writing clinics that featured national and international scholars, writers artists and political leaders of African descent from Africa, the Americas and the West Indies with annual conferences at Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland USA. (4) FPAD like WADS should work with other organizations that foster the provision of opportunities to under-served and underprivileged groups irrespective of color, race, national origin or religious affiliation.

2. FPAD's thematic focus

FPAD should envision program to train people in selected trades and industries including equipping inner city and rural dwellers, school drop-outs, welfare to work participants with knowledge of computer training and office machine applications to better equip them for work in the twenty-first century. FPAD should leverage the resources of diverse organizations including public and private entities committed to building a better society. FPAD should also tap United Nations/UNESCO's network of collaborating nonprofit organizations, major corporations, national and international departments of culture and education in the area of technology, funding, personnel training, to help the target population acquire the needed skills and experiences required to succeed in the new digital age including use of after-school programs for young kids with screened and selected volunteers to promote, for instance, internet skills and safety needed to not only succeed but to survive in the 21st century

3. Format and Agenda

FPAD should have as its agenda to seek the collaboration with government community technology centers and programs in information technology and related learning services so as to combat the "new illiteracy" among residents of distressed urban and rural communities of the target population. FPAD programs should be scalable and should encompass non-conventional students and the population at large. It should be sustainable with multiplatform compatible programs and software developed to facilitate replicability, transferability and cost effectiveness.

4. Ensuring wide participation in the Forum

FPAD should challenge traditional structures and practices by seeking to transform methods of educational delivery and social communication while supplementing conventional approaches. This is based on the premise and firm belief that **the human mind given fairly equal opportunities will generally perform equally well in sciences and technology**. In short, **technological illiteracy is neither genetic nor racial and its geographical concentration is neither based on ethnicity nor on low intelligence quotient but rather determined or pre-determined by missed or non-existent opportunities generated by economic disadvantages and social bias**. Women should have a special place in FPAD programs exposing them to new opportunities and giving them a choice of working for a traditional company or working out of their homes from a computer on a variety of jobs while still looking after their young, paying taxes instead of being on welfare, creating wealth instead of being consumers of wealth.

5. What should be its outcomes

FPAD should set up computer generated parameters to monitor the progress or otherwise of each pilot program with a solid evaluation plan in place and executed by an independent evaluator with good social science research skills and with verifiable benchmarks set up. FPAD should seek to create new opportunities for the target population in our inner cities and in rural communities who will otherwise remain not only unemployed but unemployable and enable them to grow up into contributing adults proud of their communities and willing to give back to that community a little of that kindness and service that helped make them responsible adults as today exemplified in the philanthropic works of Mezu International Foundation, Inc.(5) Finally and most importantly, WADS/Black Academy Press, Inc. (6) have recently been asked to take over the website <http://nathanielturner.com/> (7) to save it from extinction and virtual death. FPAD should endeavor to set up a virtual internet museum to search for and archive in a virtual institute the works (literary, cultural and scientific) of Peoples of African Descent from Olaudah Equiano through *Presence Africaine* and Cheik Anta Diop to Chinua Achebe and *Things Fall Apart*.

NOTES

1. Dr. S. Okechukwu Mezu
https://www.google.com/search?q=sebastian+Mezu&aq=chrome..69i57j69i61j69i60j69i61.4759j0j7&sourceid=chrome&es_sm=122&ie=UTF-8#q=Sebastian+Okechukwu+Mezu
2. Dr. Rose Ure Mezu
https://www.google.com/search?q=sebastian+Mezu&aq=chrome..69i57j69i61j69i60j69i61.4759j0j7&sourceid=chrome&es_sm=122&ie=UTF-8#q=Rose+Ure+Mezu
3. Writers of African Descent Speak (WADS): Black Creativity and the State of the Race
<http://jewel.morgan.edu/~rmezu/index.html>;
4. The promoters of this WADS project, Dr. S. Okechukwu Mezu, has directed training centers for the US **Peace Corps at Morehouse College and Spelman College** in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Rose Ure Mezu has directed several programs in Africa for Governments involving welfare participants, the disabled, war amputees, prisoners and youth in remand homes.
<http://www.blackacademypress.com/?product=writers-of-african-descent-speak-black-creativity-and-the-state>
5. Mezu International Foundation is a 501 (c) public charity organization involved in helping the underserved in USA and Africa in the areas of agriculture, education, healthcare, community development through research, education and medical missions. . <http://www.mezufoundation.org/>
6. <http://www.blackacademypress.com/> Black Academy Press Inc was established in 1969. It is one of the very first black owned academic publishing Companies that set the tone for Africana studies in the Sixties in the United States of America. It remains one of the longest standing.
7. <http://nathanielturner.com/> publishes *ChickenBones: A Journal* – a black website that has between three to five million visitors annually is interested in posting the works of all writers and artists, regardless of race, ethnic or national background. “We invite topics economic, political, and religious as well Writings of African, Asian, Latin and Hispanic writers... open to all who speak to the human heart, to those who do not have the means or contacts to get a fair hearing. True art belongs to the world.”

REFERENCES

<http://jewel.morgan.edu/~rmezu/index.html>
<http://www.blackacademypress.com/>
<http://www.blackacademypress.com/?product=writers-of-african-descent-speak-black-creativity-and-the-state>
<http://www.mezufoundation.org/>
<http://nathanielturner.com/>

CONTACT DETAILS

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Dr. Rose Ure Mezu. Ph. +1 (443) 889-3079; email: roseyure@aol.com

Address: 4011 OLD COURT ROAD, PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208, USA

We would be very happy to elaborate a comprehensive list of objectives for FPAD, a beginning program of action, anticipated outcomes, scalable growth, and help advance modalities for pilot schemes, present their scalability and project their self-sustenance probability.

Presented by DR. S. OKECHUKWU MEZU & DR. ROSE URE MEZU

MARCH 5, 2015



BlackHumanRights
Leadership Council of San Francisco

Saving the Community One Head at a Time

Dr. Espanola Jackson Founder

4909 3rd Street
San Francisco CA 94124
415-570-9938
admin@sfchange.org

March 3, 2015

Forum for People of African Descent

Goals and Objectives: Promote sustainable short-term and long-term economic growth opportunities for people of African descent through global initiatives, global awareness and strategic partnerships.

Thematic Focus: Collaborating to build global bridges linking people of African descent through economic partnerships that promote opportunities for people of African descent that are focused on our unique culture.

Format: A report card grading system that gives each country / region a letter grade based on the support provided to promote economic growth and cultural improvement initiatives for people of African descent.

The report card grading systems baseline will be established based on history and current status of Blacks in each specific region where Blacks have been historically oppressed, excluded and discriminated. The real-time situations and outcomes must be expressed in a way that the world can see and shame human rights violators and praise those who help overcome obstacles for people of African descent during this decade.

Agenda: Building sustainable Black communities free from negative outside influence. Leveraging the power of social media and real time communications of the Internet to promote equality and justice. The eyes of the world provide a unique opportunity to remove the "cloak" of anonymity when human rights violations take place.

Anticipated Outcomes: Measurable growth in key performance indicators for wealth building and control of resources.

Point of Contact:

Yolanda Lewis, CEO

Black Human Rights Leadership Council of San Francisco

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www.bhrlcsf.org

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International Decade for People of African Descent New Forum for People of African Descent Submission

Racism against people of African descent is deeply embedded in systems, economies, politics and sociological structures around the globe. The International Decade for People of African Descent is a unique opportunity to engage the world in critical conversation about racism, tolerance and cultural respect and advocating for policy changes to support a global shift in this area. I salute the United Nations for their boldness in taking on such a daunting task. While it is true that morality cannot be mandated nor legislated, laws and policies that were created to discriminate on the basis of skin color and racial make up can be as systematically dismantled as they were placed and enacted upon.

The aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent should include, but not be limited to the following: 1) Serve as the guiding body for global activities which will take place during the International Decade for People of African Descent. 2) Set, distribute and monitor goals and objectives which are to be used to define and measure public engagement and outcomes. 3) Support the work that is being done on the ground by connecting those who are working on common initiatives and in common space and developing best practices. 4) Record the progress of the initiative and disseminate outcomes biannually

Each year of the initiative should have a particular **Thematic Focus**. This focus would not preclude people from continuing to work on on-going projects, but it would enable new ideas and projects to be integrated into the overall effort on an annual basis. An Example of a thematic focus could be *Promoting The Voices of Women Fighting for Racial Justice in Recognition of the International Decade for People of African Descent*.

Utilizing technology to network Forum Members could support dedicated engagement. On a larger scale, being rigorous about building networks to connect the global body of participants can be very powerful. One of the biggest challenges within the Diaspora is that we are not connected. Once connected, the ingenuity of this group of people will take on a life of its own. Most of the world has access to some form of technology. It can be used to communicate, train, inform and strengthen the global network of individuals who will engage in this initiative and successfully move the needle on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia forward.

December 1, 2014

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404-444-7125
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When the Decade for People of African Descent has ended there should be greater cultural understanding and respect for the contributions of Black people in the world. After ten years of unpacking racist policies and discriminatory practices, we should see a dismantling of laws and policies in pockets of the world. The networks will continue to operate as the work continues outside of the parameters of the initiative, and that's when we will see the true success of the International Decade for People of African Descent. Once the people are connected and determined to change their collective circumstance, the amazing will occur.

December 1, 2014

Forum for People of African Descent

SAAFON (Southeastern African American Farmers Organic Network) has worked with farmers from the United States, Caribbean and Africa. We have hosted in Italy 3 meetings of farmers from the African Diaspora to share everything from seeds to ancestral stories and their food culture.

In bringing this gathering together we have discovered that as much as we think we may be different how very similar we really actually are. In all of so learning, what has branched from the gatherings are friendships and long term partnerships.

The thematic focus for the forum should be understanding and acceptance of each other from the across the African Diaspora. We must find a way to break down our barriers and to create a mid-way point of trust. Because SAAFON's focus is food, it is the language we have adopted to assist us in breaking down some of those barriers.

The language of the forum should include agriculture but economics, agroecology, environment and women's rights. It is a broad brush that would include responses from countries, big cities, small villages and small cities helping to create the final verbiage.

Objectives should include development of a communication system that would allow for those that take part in the Forum to continue to work with each other.

Information on what is the economic power of the People of African Descent and how does that create a position of sustainability and not one of dependency

The development of an economic model that provides plug- ins for not only for governmental entities, large corporations, but small businesses, and NGOs.

Participation will be strongly dependent on communications. How well and how timely the information about the forum is filtered out to the community, Grassroots organizations are a good source of letting the public know the importance of the Forum and other vital information. The age of social media has made it is easy.

SAAFON has worked a long time in the African Diaspora. One of the main outcomes for this Forum would be the creation of alliances in industries across the globe.

Cynthia Hayes
Executive Director
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Savannah, Georgia 31402

PH: 912 441-8032
email: saafon@comcast.net

Aims and objectives of the Forum For People of African Descent

I suggest that the aims and objectives for the forum should be as follows;

- - Advocate for the role of People of African Descent in the diaspora, pointing out their contribution to the creation of cultural diversity and the economic value they create both historically and currently.
- - Provide organisations in the diaspora with an international platform to exchange information, develop positions and provide support for the issue of rights for People of African Descent.
- - To promote awareness and understanding of the detrimental effects of racism on all people, in particular the role that discrimination plays in economic loss and cost of supporting institutions that have institutional barriers to equality.
- - Create policies that strengthen organisations, companies and institutions that do have diversity policies in place and encourage those that don't to do so.
- - Build a greater consensus on the value of equality and diversity.

Thematic Focus

A thematic focus for the forum could be racial profiling in the diaspora. At ports of entry, racial profiling is endemic for People of African Descent, who are often detained and subjected to additional questioning by immigration officers. A useful policy and practice would be collection of statistical data on the numbers and ethnicity of people stopped at ports of entry and departure. This would better assist governments to move away from profiling based on race and focus on training officers to detect and combat criminal activity at borders.

Format and Agenda

The forum format should include the voices of the many people of African Descent in the Diaspora, in particular those living and working in Asia as business people and professionals who face challenges finding somewhere to live, coping with being negatively stereotyped and profiled. It should offer support for the consulates of African people who find their countrymen in jails around Asia where organisations offering international support are not always able to assist.

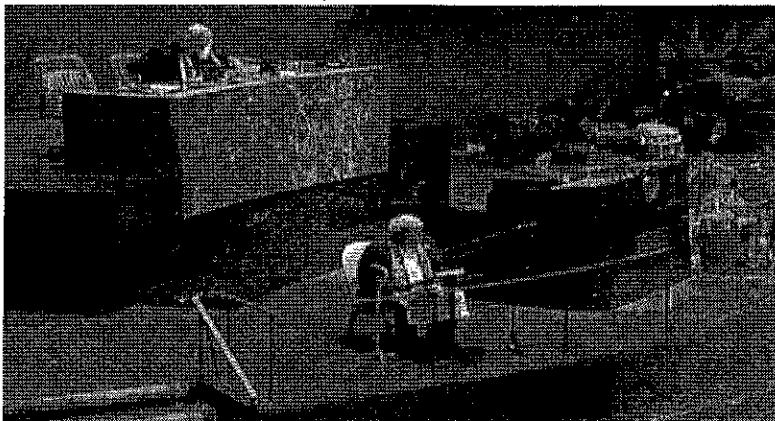
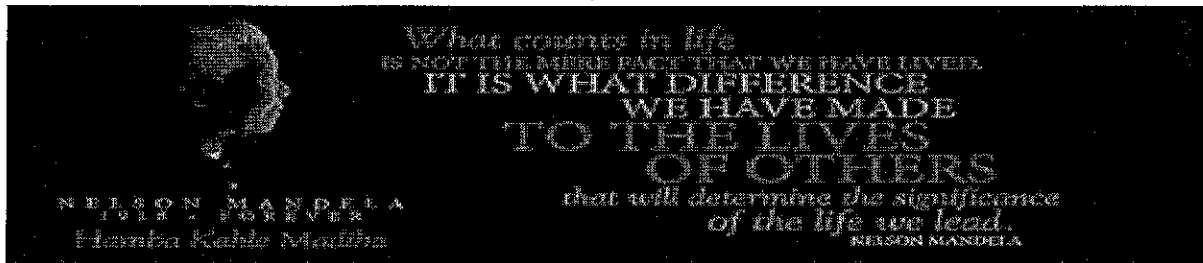
Ensuring wide participation in the forum

Engage relevant stakeholders, reach out broadly across Asia and the Diaspora, achieve wide and balanced representation. Engage universities, businesses and individuals.

What should be the outcome of the forum.

The outcome should be quantitative and measurable to include a continuing dialogue with governments, organisations, stakeholders and individuals about the state of People of African Descent in the countries where they reside and work. Raise awareness of conscious and unconscious disparity of treatment and formulate effective policies that engage all people in demonstrating that racism impacts everyone's lives negatively regardless of colour.

Gail Burrowes
Steering Committee Sistas in Hong Kong
Planning Committee International Black History Month



“Reiterating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races.”



Proclaims the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, to be officially launched immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

The aims and objectives of the New Forum for People of African Descent should be building/strengthening human rights institutions and creating platforms and initiatives that produce knowledge, ideas and strategies to advance a positive vision for the implementation of CERD, empowerment of stakeholders and creation of vibrant communities.

Thematic focus: "Building Human Rights Institutions and investing in the capacity of People of African descent: recognition, justice and development",

What should the format and the agenda be? Assessing and building the capacity of Local, Regional and National Human Rights Institutions to implement the recommendations of **CERD** (CRC & CEDAW)

- Convene regional policy forums throughout the diaspora with workshops to assess the achievements and challenges for further improvements in the protection and promotion of human rights in four major areas: access to housing, social security, quality education and health services.
- Inform communities about how to access and partner with the three key mechanisms within the UN system, that the UN employs to defend and promote human rights: 1) Human Rights Treaties that further develop international human rights standards, including the protection of women's rights, the rights of the child, and the rights of those with disabilities; 2) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which works to promote and protect human rights in the field by monitoring and reporting on human rights violations and strengthening the capacity of national institutions to provide adequate human rights protection; and 3) the Human Rights Council, the only global intergovernmental body comprised of 47 member states that works to address human rights.¹

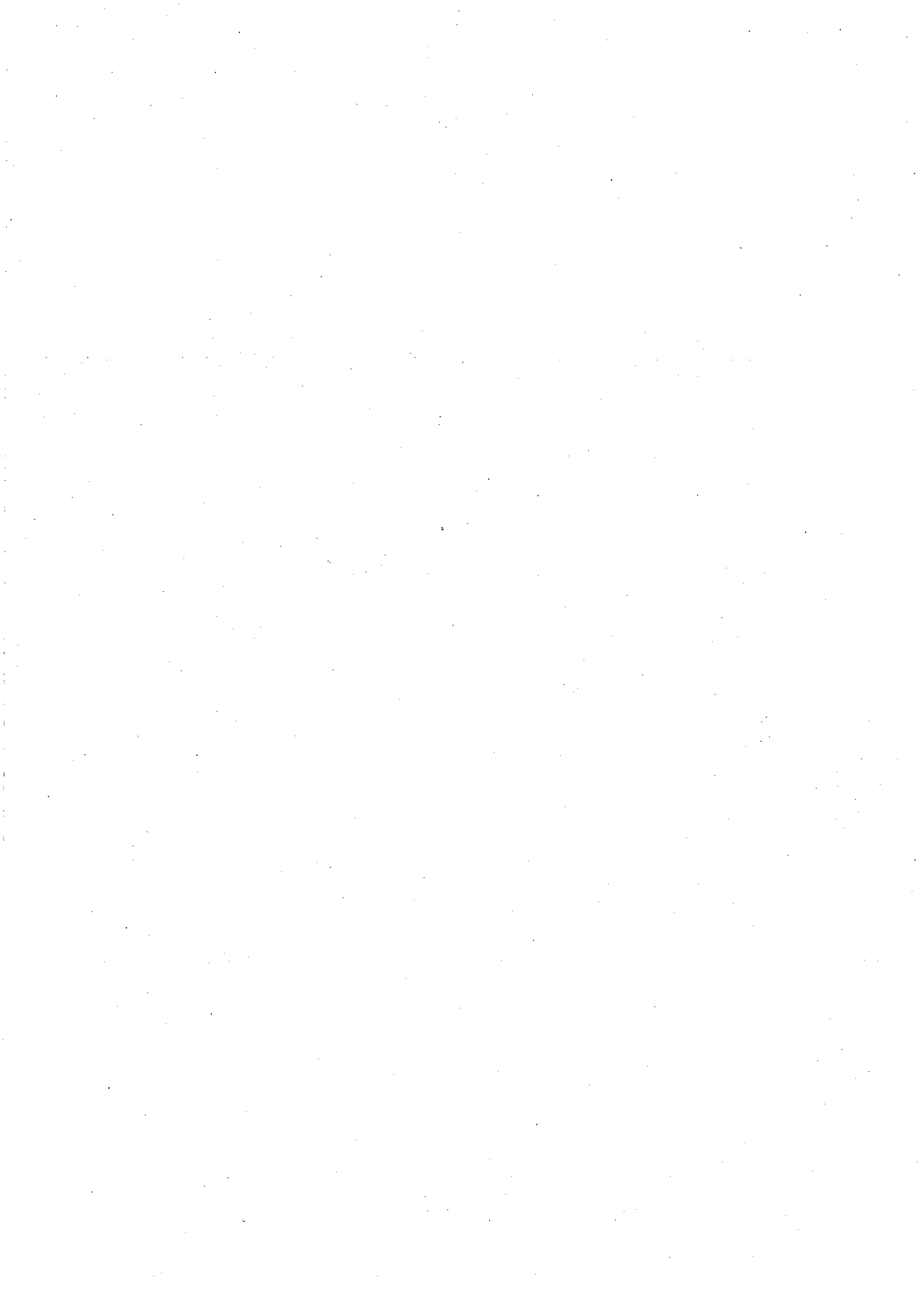
How do we ensure widespread participation in the Forum?

- Convene high impact, culturally rich & media-worthy educational events that demonstrate our shared interests, commitment to human rights, accountability and prosperity for all. Celebrate the diverse heritage of People of African Descent, commitment to human rights and global economic development through outreach to civil society organizations, neighborhood associations, consulates, local chambers of commerce, educational institutions and cultural organizations;
- Encourage widespread participation and stakeholder buy-in by featuring cultural products, goods and services from micro, small & medium sized enterprises²; and
- Increase program impact by drawing in the youth and student organizations for social impact and for the sustainability of initiatives, leverage sms, social media, e-news letters, and satellite (pop-up) events throughout the year to inform and conduct trainings in themed neighborhoods

What should be its outcomes?

Partners: Nana B.F.A. Ofori-Atta, J.D. – President/ Managing Director of Real Time Leadership Solutions, Inc. www.rtleads.com/Editor of Real Time Africa – www.realtimeafricans.com; Angelique Westerfield, Multimedia Producer & Writer – Media One & Chioma Dike – Africa's Daughters Foundation

Strengthened Institutions and increased capacity of people of African descent to gain access to housing, social security, quality education and health services.



International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024): A vision for the new Forum for People of African Descent.

These are the questions you have requested us to take into consideration: “What should be the aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent, its thematic focus, the format and the agenda, how to ensure wide participation in the Forum and what should be its outcomes?”

Desired Outcomes

Long term outcome: to eliminate racial segregation, law enforcement profiling and all forms of discrimination in general.

Short term outcome: to engage state actors in policy implementation against institutional racism in employment & housing; and police and immigration racial profiling.

Aim and objectives of Forum

1. To make the case for racial discrimination on the principle of human rights visible in public discourse – all Media (electronic and press).
2. To work for a theoretical discourse of “race”. For, while discrimination is experienced by many other types of collectivities, I am concerned the over utilisation of the concept “racism“ is blurring the boundaries of collective discrimination to the extent that racism and “race” are encompassing many other identities other than biological.
3. To require that North governments systematically review their laws to plug loopholes that facilitates racism by private individuals, as well as by institutions.
4. To engage governments in national discourses on migration. In this discourse the Forum should request that North states: 3a) acknowledge their international obligation to offer shelter to those in need and; 3b) to initiate a public discourse in their countries with honesty about the need for labour in their aging societies.

Participation

1. News of the Forum’s activities and other events in all Media
2. Annual review conferences within the decade that shows Forum activities
3. Educational seminars and workshops for state and public officials in all countries
4. Mobilisation campaigns – recording all violent racial attacks, keeping a ticking clock of when and how often.
5. Liaising with governments and legal institutions to ensure that offenders are brought to book.

24 February 2015

ATTN: International Decade for People of African Descent,
Anti-Racial Discrimination Section,
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,
UNOG-OHCHR,
CH-1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland

SUBMISSION ABOUT THE FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hereby, I am stating the position of the International Young Professionals Foundation (founded in 2001, with over 14 000 members worldwide) about the Forum for People of African Descent, in the format preliminarily requested by the OCHHR.

What should be the aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent:

- Serve as a global bottom-up platform for exchange of good practices and cooperation regarding the cohesive integration and active involvement of people of African Descent worldwide;
- Discuss and bring to the agenda of intergovernmental and regional organisations a wide range of topics that are the voice of and about people of African Descent;
- Contribute to the successful implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and in the follow-up remain a sustainable, vibrant space of debate and inspiration as well as a resource hub for and about the people of African Descent.

Thematic focus: cross-sectorial cooperation among people of African Descent and those advocating their involvement, social entrepreneurship, success stories of integration and participation, sustainable development.

The format and the agenda: the agenda will be set by consensus by the members/participants in the Forum. These would include:

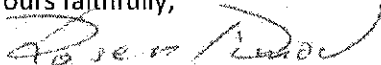
- Representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations of or servicing people of African Descent worldwide;
- Outstanding individuals of African Descent: particularly, social entrepreneurs, scholars, journalists, people of art, all professions in general.
- With an observer's status: representatives of intergovernmental and regional organisations.

How to ensure wide participation in the Forum and what should be its outcomes?

- Adopting a governance and structure mechanism that would enable the inclusion of new members and rotating occupancies of the "power" levels in the Forum;
- Regular calls for new members of the Forum, invitation of external participants, full visibility of the Forum meetings (worldwide livestreamed meetings that enable interaction with those that are online and unable to join);
- Outcomes should be qualitative and quantitative, well deliberated and set by the Forum by consensus, in pursuit of common objectives: moreover, they should be sustainable long after the International Decade.

I hope that this submission will be taken into consideration. The IYPF will remain at your disposal for further consultation and possible involvement in the preparation of the Forum. Should you wish to cooperate with us, please do get in contact with us.

Yours faithfully,

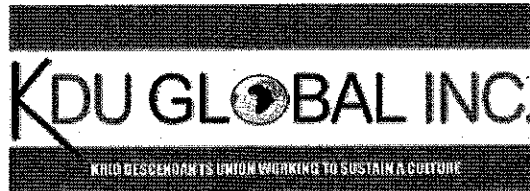


Dr Rosen Dimov

President of the International Young Professionals Foundation
rosendimov@iypf.org

UNHCHR – New Forum for People of African Descent

Submission by Krio Descendants Union



The Krio Descendants Union (KDU) is an organization whose mission is to promote and preserve the history, culture and heritage of the Krios through reflection, education, charitable giving and to pass on this heritage to the younger generation. KDU currently has branches in Sierra Leone, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The Krios are descendants of various African- American, Caribbean and African ex-slaves and freemen who the British resettled in the modern day West African country of Sierra Leone between 1787 and 1885.

The transatlantic slave trade being one of the darkest chapters in human history and worst abuse of human rights has led to the recognition, justice and development that the people of African descent seek today and it is pertinent that KDU as a relevant stakeholder submits information on its vision for the Forum for People of African Descent and registers its interest to participate. The Forum's main **aims and objectives** should be:

- To work with UNHCHR to provide advice and opinion on the implementation and development of the programme of activities which will promote recognition, justice and development for people of African descent
- To monitor the programme delivery against its aims and objectives
- To help share information among various stakeholders
- To receive reports from UNHCR and provide external scrutiny

The Forum should be a membership **format** made up of the various stakeholders worldwide and communication and **participation** could include a closed Facebook discussion page, an email distribution list, websites such as www.kduglobal.org and www.thekrios.com, quarterly web conferencing and an annual meeting at UN headquarters. Within the Forum's membership there could be various sub-committees dealing with each of the three themes for the international decade. The '**Recognition**' **agenda** should include:

- Recognition and publicity of the Africans who established settlements in the 18th and 19th centuries, e.g. - Freetown, Maroon areas in Jamaica, Haiti, Liberia.
- Identifying more historical sites in Africa and in other countries with ties to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and helping to preserve them and build permanent memorials.
- Celebration of the achievements and contribution of people of African Descent to the world at large and recognizing the broad spectrum of where people of African Descent were taken to including Latin America and South America.
- A frank and open discussion about the issue of reparations for the evil of slavery.
- Discussing the effects and repercussions of Colonialism in Africa and other regions.

Melbourne Garber, Chair KDU Global
Email: magarber59@yahoo.com

Iyamide Thomas, Member, KDU Global
Email: iyamidet@hotmail.com

JUSTICE 21

Association

Address: 26, Vesletz Str., Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel. +359 899902837

Support for People of African descent in Bulgaria:

Justice 21 is National Platform Coordinator of European Network against Racism (ENAR) for Bulgaria (2010-2014):

- Organizing 5 national campaigns with support of ENAR Secretariat, Brussels to Bulgarian and European authorities concerning brutal acts of racial attacks in Bulgaria;
- Representing ENAR in European level as an expert on Hate Crime (2010-2014);
- Participation in ENAR projects on ENAR anti-racism policy responses to EU legislative initiatives ;
- Organizing ENAR Eastern Regional Conference: Positive Narratives, 13-14 May 2011, Sofia – meeting with policy makers from 13 countries ;
- Author of ENAR Shadow Report : Racism and Discrimination in Bulgaria (2011-2013)
http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=15294&la=1&langue=EN;
- Author of Racially Motivated Crime Monitoring of Bulgaria (ENAR Shadow Report 2013);

Board of Directors Member of the First Network of Experts on Integration of Third country nationals in Bulgaria, coordinated by Commission for Protection against Discrimination (Equality Body in Bulgaria)

Coordinator of "Justice 21" which started as a civil initiative in 2007. On 20 January 2007 Mr. Muiyiwa Kolauole, 20-year-old footballer from Nigeria was brutally stabbed in Sofia from skinheads and while giving him legal aid and financial help Justice 21 got involved in active work with the refugee community in Bulgaria. On 15 April 2011 Justice 21 was officially registered as an Association. Mission of J21 is practically organize the efforts of all Bulgarian citizens who are ready to do their part so that in justice for people and groups who face racism, xenophobia and persecution based on religious, ethnical and racial reasons is guaranteed.

Victims of Hate Crimes (HC) rights/protection is one of main purposes and activities of J21:

- Monitoring of Hate Crimes in community of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers in Bulgaria providing data on national level to Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPD) – Equality Body in Bulgaria; ECRI; ODIHR – TANDIS;
- Participation in CEJI "Train the Trainers" seminar (1 week) in London 2012 on Hate crime;
- Participation in the Course for Trainers 'Responding and Monitoring Hate Crime against Roma and Sinti', (13-14 April 2011) ODIHR, Warsaw;
- Presentation in National training 'Prevention and combat against discrimination through the instruments of criminal law'. Participants: lawyers, prosecutors, NGOs. Trainers: Larry Olomofe and Alex Thomas, ODIHR (8-10 April 2010), Sofia;
- Training 35 volunteers for social work and advocacy helping asylum and refugees to report HC to the police;
- Organizing trainings and seminars on hate crimes for NGOs (Workshop for civil society in Bulgaria and Training for Hate Crime, 12-13 September 2013 in Sofia with ODIHR);
- **Provides legal help to victims of HC. The legal procedure to help Muiyiwa Kolauole ended with the finalization of THE FIRST CASE IN BULGARIA AGAINST AN**

ACCOMPLICE IN A RACIA VIOLENCE ACT WHO RECEIVED SENTENCE ON ALL BULGARIAN JUDICIAL INSTANCES;

- Working with Police – providing practical examples and testimonies of victims of HC for the Training of ODIHR for 30 police officers in Sofia, (May 2012);
- Supporting victims: helping victims to report HC. J21 provides victim support ensuring the best interest of the victim are respected;
- Emergency assistance – 35 trained volunteers of J21 provide assistance to victims of HC to identify and obtain documents from Forensics and apply complains to Police office, providing translators for refugees and asylum;
- Accompanying victims to Police or Government agencies or other local or European authorities;
- Providing legal help to victims of HC and support in the court;
- Presenting the cases of HC to the media: Press Releases, press conferences, interviews.

Elena Dyankova

Founder, Chair and Member of Directors Board of Association "Justice 21", Sofia, Bulgaria

NARRATIVE EYE

PROPELLING THE WRITTEN WORD

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New Forum for People of African Descent- Submission

Introduction:

Narrative Eye is an organisation dedicated to promoting equality and social change through education. We are dedicated to the production and promotion of creative works that document and challenge the inequalities and injustices faced by people of African descent in the UK. We have nearly 15 years of experience of working with schools, colleges, universities and the community, researching, documenting and distributing information about the history and contribution of people of African descent.

Our vision for the Forum

Over the next 10 years, the Forum has a momentous scope to make change. We believe this change has to be founded in proper research. The forum should commission and work with individuals, communities and organisations, to research and pull information together about:

- The condition and injustices suffered by people of African descent in the past
- The condition and injustices suffered by people of African descent now
- The historical achievements and contribution of people of African descent
- Examples of success projects and how they could be replicated globally to make change

Through the findings of these research projects the Forum can implement projects that can make real difference to people of African descent.

How it can work

The Forum has to engage grassroots organisations from member states. The work of the Forum has to start from the grassroots upwards. Due to the desperate conditions of these African communities, the Forum needs to include people and organisations who serve the real needs of the community. It should search for grassroots organisations, rather than huge NGO's who are normally far too removed, to understand the real situation on the ground.

Each grassroots group would be responsible for collating local information, to create a knowledge pool for the UN, which can then be distributed. This knowledge pool should specify the conditions people of African descent face in their local areas as well as historical data. This knowledge pool should also include success stories of projects which can be replicated globally. This knowledge pool and process of information sharing could be disseminated via- social media.

The Forum must be clear and transparent in all its workings and have a real mechanism of monitoring and evaluation, to quantify the change that has taken place. There should be a yearly review of progress, and a conference every two years to bring delegates across the world to discuss and share best practices.

Ultimately the Forum needs some form of power to scrutinise UN member states who continue to deny people of African descent the justice, recognition and development they truly deserve.



The Franklin Law Group, P.C.
Pioneers in Innovative Legal Service Delivery

Stephanie S. Franklin

Sarah B. Witlen
Kyle A. Warfield
Marja K. Plater

NEW FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

The Franklin Law Group, P.C. and the Ubuntu Council submit this proposal in response to the request by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The Franklin Law Group, P.C. is a U.S. based child advocacy law firm located in Baltimore, Maryland that provides legal representation to abused and neglected children in the state of Maryland, largely Afro-descendants. The Ubuntu Council (thedecade.org) - formed to honor and recognize the International Decade for People of African descent - is a collection of human rights activists and advocates in the U.S. working for the recognition, equality, and healing of Afro-descendant peoples globally.

In response to the guiding questions of the OHCHR we propose the following:

1. What should be the aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent?
 - a. The goals/aims should be based on the theme of the Decade – recognition, justice, and development.
 - b. The objectives should be to:
 - i. Hold several international tribunals and mini convenings focused on the social, economic, and cultural human rights of Afro-descendant peoples locally, regionally, and internationally. Topics can include: Afro-descendant spiritual and cultural traditions, enslavement in the Americas, health, education, criminal justice, family, children and youth, and women. One tribunal should happen every year.
 - ii. Hold quarterly local, regional, and international events that focus on reparatory justice – which can include economic and non-economic reparations for Afro-descendant peoples. For example, non-economic reparatory justice can include inclusion and accurate contributions of Black people to the history of the United States of America in primary and secondary education curricula.
 - iii. Provide financial resources for the promotion of events and public education forums for the Decade. This should be throughout the Decade.

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2. The thematic focus should be: Recognition, Dignity & Reparations
3. The format and agenda should include public forums, expert convenings, and tribunals that address the human rights violations faced by Afro-descendants. The objectives can be to produce reports, advocacy kits, etc. resulting from these efforts to be presented to various State's parties and civil society to be used as advocacy supports to challenge and change policies and laws that violate the human rights of Afro-descendants. For example, holding mini convenings that include experts (directly impacted and human rights defenders) focused on specific issue areas over a series of days can be helpful in changing policies and laws that impact various Afro-descendant populations. (i.e. - children and youth could span two days and include issues such as: foster care, juvenile justice, criminal justice, health, education, immigration, etc.)
4. How to ensure widespread participation in the forum and what should be its outcomes?
 - a. To ensure widespread participation, the following would be helpful: a) including a diversity of individuals, civil society organizations, and issue areas will help widen the information net; b) having supportive funding to ensure that participants from a diverse range of topic areas can participate in events will help broaden participation; and c) establishing an office that is responsible for broad and diverse outreach to individuals, civil society organizations, etc. can ensure effective and broad – reaching communications.
 - b. The outcomes include: a) diverse issue areas covered - particularly marginalized issues that are rarely raised in public forums; b) raising awareness of diverse issues that impact Afro-descendant people globally; c) building alliances of human rights defenders globally; and d) increasing the numbers of human rights activists globally who are focused on issues pertaining to Afro-descendants; and e) building stronger existing human rights advocates, activists, and defenders to work toward the principles of the UDHR and push to put them in practice, globally.

CONTACT: Stephanie S. Franklin, Esq. (sfranklin@franklinlaw.us) – President & CEO – The Franklin Law Group, P.C. & Co-Chairs Stephanie S. Franklin, Esq. & Manbo Dòwòti Désir – Ubuntu Council

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Propose: New Forum for People of African Descent
Author: Dennis de Oliveira (BRAZIL)

The african-descendent population in the world is involved in the worst social ills. The last World Conference Against Racism, Discrimination and Related Intolerance held in Durban in 2001, pointed the people of the African Diaspora as the main victims of all forms of human rights abuses. Combating racism inflicted upon the African Diaspora population is therefore vital for the promotion of peace and human rights worldwide. Therefore, it is necessary that the subject is treated across the board. For this, the proposal is that the Forum make a diagnosis of the situation of the people of the African Diaspora in the continent and in Africa itself from the premises below.

One of the main problems of the people of the African Diaspora is that, for historical and geopolitical reasons, all countries of African and Afro-descendant majority are on the periphery of the world economy. The African countries suffering from war, hunger, forced displacement, especially of women and children and destruction of the social fabric. The trade pacts signed in international fora unlike provide access of these people to at least share of the wealth produced, contribute to further segregate. This is because Africa is seen, ultimately, as a place to cut raw material for the production of manufactured goods in the more sophisticated industries in First World countries. The documentary "Blood Cell" Frank Poulsen authored shows how the extraction of coltan ore (tantalum) used in the manufacture of mobile screens moves the civil war and the enslavement of children in Congo. In addition, the arms industry, strengthened during the Cold War and seeking expansion of markets, fosters internal conflicts in these countries to spawn your stock. African states, overwhelmingly new, as recently won their independence policies, can not be established as institutions capable of promoting the autonomous development of these countries and even serve the interests of the people it represents. Bonds of international financial and economic system, as WTO trade agreements, patents on medicines essential for the treatment of incurable diseases such as AIDS, among others, virtually squanders public assets in these countries. Therefore, you must stop the depletion of natural and monetary resources of these countries so that they are able to put together in autonomous nations effectively.

In countries whose population is mostly of the African diaspora, as the Caribbean and Brazil, the fact that African descent have passed the tragic experience of slavery condemned them to a structural and institutional racism situation. In these nations, the difference between white and black is reflected in all social indicators. Already in the nations in which the presence of the population of the diaspora comes from immigration of people from former colonies, such as Europe, the rise of racism manifested by xenophobia and proposals of Nazi-fascist character.

The three experiences listed here - bleeding and failure of African nation states, structural racial inequality in Latin American countries and xenophobia in European countries - have in common, the human rights abuses and the risk to democracy and peace. For this reason, the thematic focus of the Forum should be the fight against racism and the promotion of African descent as a condition for peace, human rights and democracy in the world. The cross-cutting approach to the subject should be made on the basis of treaties and UN conventions for women's rights protection, children, cultural diversity, racism and prejudice in the labor market and the defense and promotion of human rights in general .

Hence, the Forum should be organized in the following format:

1 - Diagnosis of the situation of the African peoples and the African diaspora in African countries, American and European experts with presentation of each of the regions.

2 - Successful policies Experiences of promotion of the people of the African Diaspora managed by national states and NGOs.

3 - Interest groups

3.1 - African and Afro-descendant Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

3.2 - Children and the Protection of Children's Rights Convention

3.3 - Diaspora people of Culture and the Protection of Cultural Diversity Convention

3.4 - Worker of the African Diaspora and the Convention 111 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)

3.5 - Violence against people of African diaspora and conventions and treaties on human rights

In each of the groups of interest shall be made, an assessment of the situation of Afro-descendants and as the exclusion of this group prevents the application of conventions and treaties of the United Nations aimed at these specific issues. The purpose of this discussion is to reflect on the people of the African Diaspora light of the United Nations views expressed in treaties and conventions for the promotion of peace.

With this, the Forum can point prospects for action by the United Nations as a whole and of civil society organizations for improving the applicability of treaties and conventions, as well as pointing out the limits and possibilities of these instruments to deal with the problem.

DENNIS DE OLIVEIRA is a professor of journalism at the University of São Paulo (Brazil) .Member of the Scientific Council of the Center for Support, to Research and Interdisciplinary Studies of Brazilian Black. Coordinator of Quilombação - Anti-Racism Activists Collective.

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Submission to New Forum For People of African Descent -African Diaspora Approach to Family History

Patrick Vernon, Clore Fellow, Associate Fellow at Warwick University and founder of Every Generation Media (patrickvernon@btconnect.com)

Forum for People of African Descent

With the launch in the UK in 2013 of the online database **Legacies of British Slave-Ownership** project which provides details of the £20 million paid to slave owners this has raised key issues have not only about the whole debate regarding reparations and apology, but also family genealogy. The records hold details of over 3,000 absentee plantation owners along with 46,000 claims for compensation that provide rich information to research either the European side of your family history, or potentially your roots in Africa. These records, along with the slave plantation records, have always been in the public domain and stored either at The National Archives or the House of Lords. But thanks to the growth of digitalisation, the power of the Internet and online databases, we can now do a lot of this research from the comfort of our own homes. This contrasts sharply with the days when Alex Haley was researching his novel **Roots: The Saga of an American Family (1976)** and had to travel to the British Library from the USA in the 1960s.

The commercialisation of family history exposes a growing inequality when it comes to accessing information. Companies like Ancestry have exclusive licences from UK and USA archives to digitise records and charge the public a subscription fee. It raises an ethical issue! Should descendants of the enslaved have to face the double penalty of paying for records and other related information to trace their ancestors.

Despite the impact of Haley's book and the TV series, and more recently with the BBC **Who Do You Think You Are?** in capturing the lives of black personalities such as Colin Jackson, Moira Stuart, Hugh Quarshie and John Barnes, there is still a lack of awareness around family genealogy and intergenerational learning for the black community in the UK. The programme **Who Do You Think You Are?** is a great brand using celebrities to demonstrate the accessibility of family history. However, it still reinforces a narrow version of Britishness despite using various black celebrities and personalities and only provides an superficial approach to enslavement.

I have spent the past 15 years not only researching my family history, but supporting thousands of people through my website **Every Generation** (www.everygeneration.co.uk) with tips, advice, case studies, workshops and writing articles on family history.

Retracing our journey using maps, documentary records, oral history and DNA should be part of an **African Diaspora Approach** to family history and genealogy (<http://www.rgs.org/NR/rdonlyres/4D6C438A-A452-4892-AF6BEB7B3626D9F6/0/FamilyHistoryResearchandRGSIBGCollections.pdf>).

This approach provides a useful way of black people reclaiming and defining our identity, building our resilience, and a platform to understand and develop our own solutions in tackling inequality, racism and the negative impact of globalisation.

The trauma of slavery is still present within our subconscious 400 years later. It is reinforced by everyday racism and the consequences of government policy and globalisation. Family history is an important part of the healing process. It enables us to move forward by recognising our family achievements and challenges of the past. We need to reclaim our family history which will involve more soul searching within our own families and intergenerational dialogue and reconciliation.

The Forum as part of a wider dialogue around reparations and restorative justice can explore a programme on family history as part of reparations:

- Free genealogy DNA tests along with regular updates over a 5-10 year period for X, Y and Admixture chromosome (including any new products on the market) to ascertain family history;
- Genetic counselling and support in understanding the results of DNA tests and their implications;
- Free access to existing websites and online resources which charge a subscription for slave, passenger ship and other key records;
- Free support and equipment to digitise personal family history documentation
- Free copies of publications, maps, documents and photographic/audio/video material to support individual family history research;
- Development of a free online community led ancestral database and forum to support individuals and communities to share their family research and experiences around enslavement;
- Support and encouragement of meetings around reconciliation and dialogue with descendants of the beneficiaries of slavery and of enslaved families
- Free access to family historians and genealogists to support individual and family history research;
- Bursaries to individuals and family members to travel to key locations in the Caribbean, African, North America, Asia, Middle East and Europe as part of a process of healing and remembrance;
- Establishment of an Emancipation Fund to support events, monuments and activities around Emancipation Day, Windrush Day and Black/African History Month.

Towards an Unbound African and African Diaspora Community!

Let's not wait Let's act now 2015!



Hedy-jane Guds, Ma.

***A pro-active plan to join efforts and opportunities
to serve the coming generations
eager and ready for success!***

24.2.2015

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THE AFRICAN DIASPORA PROMISE

To : Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Anti-racial Discrimination Section (OHCHR)
From: Hedy-jane Guds, Amsterdam The Netherlands ;GIFforYES
Reg: Suggestions regarding the Forum for People of African Descent

Permit me to thank Mrs. Baryll Biekman for her tremendous efforts to link us Afropeans in the Netherlands to this much appreciated and historical initiative, as well as UN representatives from member states who have put all their, invisible yet certainly not unnoticed, efforts without which we would certainly not have had this memorable event to benefit and thrive from.

I also applaud and humbly say grace for our great ancestors without whose zest, stamina and stories we would not be here to continue the quest for Freedom among the Family of Nations. For all of them I just mention two namesBob Marley and Harriet Tubman. They symbolize the strength, the talent, the remarkable resourcefulness and inspiration.

The Global Innercity Freedom foundation organizers realizing Youth Enrichment Services started in Amsterdam in 2002. GIF4YES is a non governmental agency which supports the exchange and use of already developed tools and instruments for the sustainable empowerment and organizing of African leadership. H.Guds works together with Ms. Lena Jones and Ms. Shauen Pearce in Minneapolis, USA. A youth exchange will be taking place the coming summer. In order to enhance this goal we try to stimulate the development (through training, coaching) and international exchange of young urban leadership. We try to stimulate the spinoff of professionals and effective urban clubs and networks that cater for Africans in Diaspora and at home on the continent. GIF4YES looks back on 14 successful projects for social youth enrichment and empowerment. At present we are pushing to establish a global network of exchange of skillbuilding around Civil Organizing as a new way to mobilize funds within poor black communities. The profession of Civic Organizer is needed to harness the potential of an educated yet unemployed army of black professionals. Some can seriously use better skills and chances to get those. The black community in the Netherlands is about to embark on a long walk to political and financial emancipation. The best way GIF4YES sees to do that is to organize ourselves around the care for our children and elders, where needed in joint effort with other ethnic minorities who are the majority in the Innercities of the Dutch metropolitan area. The coming of age battle is geared at the traditional Saint Nicolas celebrations which has unsettling racist Black Face traditions taken into school, the street, commercial shopwindows and broadcasting. Serious tensions have come to the surface and stir even more serious sentiments on all levels of society. A new surge of racist activity is taking place now.

These are our suggestions to the United Nations Human Rights Council regarding the Forum for People of African Descent during the UN Decade from 2015 till 2024.

On invitation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as Coordinator for the International Decade for People of African Descent, we as interested stakeholders, the individuals, Miss Hedy Jane Guds, from Amsterdam, The Netherlands joined by Miss Lena Jones (Minnesota, Minneapolis, US) as well as the GIF4YES organization do submit this information on our vision for the new Forum for People of African Descent. We connect with Ms. Shauen Pearce, USA.

In our submission we include our views on the following aspects:

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THE AFRICAN DIASPORA PROMISE

1. What should be the aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent, The Aim should be to realize a strong surge of empowerment and cooperation starting now to effectively launch this Decade and followup . For this 3 things should be upfront:

- A. A joint and shared visualization and focus of where we Africans, including those in Diaspora want to be by 2024. Like the Ubuntu Magazine -published by the SouthAfrican government for the commemoration of the late Mandela- shows on its last pages.
- B. A network of professional organizers & trainers for a joint African Reperations plan
- C. A UN goodwill recommending system and campaign to inform those willing financial beneficiaries among Africans in Diaspora and in Africa and others who are in favor of supporting crowdfunding initiatives the UN recommends.

2. Thematic focus.

In general I would like to suggest to build on facilities and possibilities that are already available but maybe not (yet) in use or not optimally used yet. For example I will mention the fact that the Dutch based 16 African Embassy's could hopefully assist the Dutch Afropean setup of a practical network informing Or the Kwaku Summer Festival in the Netherlands that will come back in the lap of Africans first for the coming 10 years. Or in the Human Rights city of Utrecht. With support on business and financial side of entrepreneurial we can use these opportunities optimally. And what about BoysGirlsClubsEurope for Afropean kids?

A. Educate all Africans (in Diaspora) with the **UNESCO African History Series**

B. facilitate **Social Organizing skillbuilding** to address the local adversities in win-win ways that also serve Africa and the Afropean population in building on the UN Decade programs goals as well. F.e. do support UK-NL-US cooperation!

C. I suggest to facilitate the preparation and **exchange of (young) leadership** between different continental zones with professionalism as the main goal (Artist John Legend has a great and hopefully usefull programm and Oprah could also hopefully build an extra adult wing on her RSA girls school for this purpose).

D. Core **Issues of Healing** to focus on are : finance, communication, oversized ego's, a self developed 12 step healing programm for Post Traumatic Slave Disorder, facilitation of the transfer of negative energy and behavior to positive formats for those who choose this.

E. **Middle Passage In Reverse** : a Sailtrip in honour of Elauda Equiano as a reality soap with Oprah as the producer on the City of Amsterdam deluxe Ship.

F. A **UN Decade dvd box** of documentaries regarding 150 years of Celebration of Freedom from Slavery with visions, messages, opinions and inspirational information from our leaders worldwide.

G. The UN could recommend artists to make a CD for fundraising like they did on Michael Jackson and Quincy Jones' initiative.

H. Facilities to prepare Africans in Diaspora in decent ways to get back to Africa even as elders. There should be an old peoples home for them in at least 5 African countries. Living jointly with other Africans (continental or diasporan) and being burried there!!!

3. the format and the agenda,

Build a **Calendar for the UN Decade** with some activities in each nation that can be visited. We already have a national one drafted with 15 items that can be locally adjusted. **UN Decade Radio Show** format on the Website with links from all nations participating. We'd love to start in Amsterdam too.

4. How to ensure wide participation in the Forum => A Bi-Annual UN Decade Award
To be collected at the end! Save part of the newly ramassed budget from Oprah, Beyonce and many others for this followup program.

5. What should be its outcomes?

The Goal: A great visualisation made in 2015 to carry the whole Decade. Check Ubuntu!
Write an Artist Competition for this purpose.

1. 2025 sees a good start of a redemptive path for healing of souls ripped from the continent.
2. Facilitation of an mobile academy for the GIF4YES Leadership training and Exchange including an effective program for instant boosting of damaged African self image/trust.
3. Creation of a young happy new generation of Africans and African Diasporans worldwide who are not afraid to take on the stage and do their thing and happy, united, complete and healed African families to be seen in Innercities world wide.
4. A growing group of >20% African Diasporans repatriated to the continent and being happy with it. Also footage added in the DVD Box.
5. A strong training offered in all African Embassy's to all Africans in need of Anti-racism and Diversity training also including practical info from the UNESCO series on Africa.
6. UN lobby to get all former Slave entrepreunering states to install agencies for DNA research, for Elders resident homes and for burrial grounds for formerly enslaved Africans. Many of us would want this.

Preparatory questions :

What is the CORE ISSUE AT STAKE here? How to fruitfully use these 10 years that will fly by as swift as any year presently does..... How to go about things to make the most of as little means there are. How to use the momentum of this UN Decade Declaration to spinn off more action that will sustain behind this brief period in time if more work will need to be done. Where are the miracle workers and financiers and approaches that can double or triple the available facilities and infra structures. How to instill more of the needed empowering thinking and coping strategies that will indeed erase the deepest tracks in our minds, souls and actually still also in many physical bodies (!). What intelligence, facilities and leadership do we need to put in place now? These are the navigating factors for my answering of the call for suggestions to be enlisted by NGO's on 02-25-2015 at the latest. In these suggestions we will address the Programme purpose, Position Paper themes; the Format for the Agenda and finally the Representation and Participation in the Forum.

Ms. Hedy Jane Guds, 1962 is a Surinamese native and lives in NL for 40 years. She holds a Masters from the Amsterdam University Law school (1989) and took post graduate learning in Training development. Recently she completed a 6 week practical study lab in direct action organizing. She believes this tool -used by Obama's campaign can be of help to effectively boost the resilience and pro-activity in realizing African Human Rights.

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Forum for People of African Descent

Submitted by Kamm Howard, National Legislation Commission Chair of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America N'COBRA ncobrachicago@gmail.com

The Chicago Chapter of NCOBRA and the Chicago Independent Human Rights Council, (CIHRC) have joined forces to create a the IDPAD – Chicago NGO-CSO Working Group-US. It is our intention to be a model and assist in formulating working groups in many cities in the United States (US). We see the Forum for People of African Descent as becoming a macro orientation stimulus of the micro structures of the various IDPAD NGO-CSO working groups internationally, as well as that of other important stakeholders.

Specifically, as with IDPAD-CWG-US, the following “strategic question” would be the central and directional focus of the Forum for People of African Descent: ***What programs, projects, and/or policies need to be created, developed, enacted, funded, enforced, and /or dismantled in order to halt and reverse the consequences of 500+ years of racial crimes against African humanity.***”

As such, the Forum for People of African Descent would be a place where information and work is shared for “education, mobilization and action” around the IDPAD theme of Recognition, Justice and Development. There would be five major sub-components of the Forum with the following tasks:

1. Educate – Education would be targeted toward the various working groups, NGO’s, CSO’s, state officials, policy makers and all other relevant parties. The themes of the education will be the IDPAD, its Program of Action, the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, the UN organs and covenants relevant to the IDPAD, strategies and models for recognition, justice and development and all other activities and best practices in regards to the IDPAD occurring among the various peoples of African descent.
2. Mobilize – Mobilization efforts by people of African descent will be an important component of the Forum. Here tools, tactics and practices would be shared to bring heightened awareness of IDPAD and bring skilled workers to the engage the process. On-line meetings and webinars, postings of teach-ins, town-hall meetings, programs and rallies would be shared. The unveiling of the IDPAD statue in New York and the holding of regional and local conferences would be encouraged and planned throughout the decade.
3. Action – Actions around recognition, justice and development in the context of the Program of Action can be developed and shared. The Forum would assist in calling for, determining, constructing and assessing special measures, initiatives and models that speak to the strategic challenge of halting and reversing the lasting consequences of racism.
4. Research – The Forum would be a place that identifies, defines, compiles and interprets research the necessary research in the pertinent areas that move people of African descent closer to the objectives indicated in the strategic question and the IDPAD Program of Action.
5. Public Policy – The public policy component of the Forum would allow for people of African descent to identify, define, debate, and craft new initiatives necessary to speak to the strategic question. In addition, Forum would also identify existing public policy that has the effect of “Black codes,” i.e., laws that may appear neutral but have either a negative outcome for people of African descent or an unfair advantage for non-people of African descent. Finally human rights monitors and defenders can share their efforts internationally via the Forum’s public policy component.

With this structure of the Forum for People of African Descent, would be a place where people of African descent, with assistance from the international community, can collectively work in an organized manner to achieve the goals of this decade of global attention.



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together for great goal
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Call for Participation

NEW FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Swiss Minorities Sports Culture & Integration is a Swiss and Minorities based organization headquartered in Biel, Switzerland.

- Our organization uses Sports and Cultural activities to support the integration of members in the Swiss Society.
- We also support Young Migrants to understand the two worlds they live in. Many are born in Switzerland and many a times forget their backgrounds.
- We wish to solve problems of Criminations and Racisms without confrontations.

During the course of our work, we have come to understand how serious Hate crimes are and the need to find solutions to reduce its occurrences. Therefore, we would be happy to be part of the debate to answer critical questions during the Forum for people of African descent.

It is imperative to understand the minds of Africans and Africans descent in Europe and in the Americans although they reflect many forms that affect the wellbeing of Africans. Africans particularly women face many challenges in their day to day activities for life and at times to survive.

The first type of hate crime is the racial hate crime which majority of us Africans have to deal with in our daily lives. Racial hate crime is the most dominant in the public order offenses in terms of the numbers and statistic as many Africans fall victims of this hate crime.

Post-colonial Africa

Today, Africa contains 54 sovereign countries, most of which still have the borders drawn during the era of European colonialism. Since colonialism, African states have frequently been hampered by instability, corruption, violence, and authoritarianism. The vast majority of African states are republics that operate under some form of presidential system of rule. However, few of them have been able to sustain democratic governments on a permanent basis, and many have instead cycled through a series of coups, producing military dictatorships. A number of Africa's post-colonial political leaders were military generals who were poorly educated and ignorant on matters of governance.

Instability, however, was mainly the result of marginalization of ethnic groups, and graft under these leaders. For political gain, many leaders fanned ethnic conflicts that had been exacerbated, or even created, by colonial rule.

We therefore, welcome the imitative of the UN to give Africans recognition we deserve to have the free will to contribute to the development of world in harmony and in peace.

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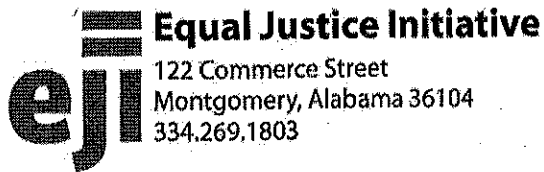
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ERITAS





Equal Justice Initiative

122 Commerce Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
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February 23, 2015

International Decade for People of African Descent
Anti-Racial Discrimination Section
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Sent via email to: africandescent@ohchr.org

Dear United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights:

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) welcomes the launch of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent. As a nonprofit human rights law firm based in Montgomery, Alabama, USA, EJI has worked to combat racial injustice and inhumanity in the American criminal justice system for more than twenty-five years. Our work combines legal advocacy with historical research and public education to highlight the links between past racial injustice targeting African Americans and other groups, and the widespread racial disparities and general inhumanity present in the nation's criminal justice system today.

We understand this story as one that spans four eras: In **Slavery**, Africans transported to America in the trans-Atlantic slave trade were subject to a system that subjugated them to chattel and justified itself through dehumanizing myths of racial inferiority; the abolition of slavery was followed by an era of **Racial Terror** that targeted African Americans for lynching, convict leasing, and other acts aimed at maintaining white supremacy and subjecting free black citizens to state control through criminalization; following WWII, widespread **Resistance to Civil Rights** activism and advances by individuals, police, and legal institutions undermined the efficacy of reform efforts; and the failure to meaningfully eradicate the belief systems undergirding American racial inequality now fuels a modern era of **Mass Incarceration** that gives the United States the world's highest incarceration rate and disproportionately impacts African Americans.

For the past several years, alongside our efforts to provide legal assistance to indigent clients on Alabama's death row and children sentenced to life without parole throughout the country, EJI has worked to document and commemorate America's history of slavery and racial terror – rarely discussed topics that we believe must be grappled with in order to move in a different direction. In 2013, we published a report documenting Montgomery's role as a critical hub in the 19th century domestic slave trade and erected three historical markers in the city. In February 2015, several years of research on lynching culminated in the publication and release of our report documenting nearly 4000 African Americans lynched between 1877 and 1950. The release of the report has generated wide coverage and fueled a national conversation about lynching in America. We are now working with communities where lynchings occurred to mount commemoration efforts.

The International Decade for People of Africa Descent, and its apt emphasis on the goals of Recognition and Justice, creates a valuable opportunity to promote efforts to identify history's continuing unjust legacies and consciously work toward a better future. We encourage the Forum for People of African Descent to embrace these goals, promote such efforts already being undertaken around the globe, and discuss ways to support those projects and connect them with those in need of similar campaigns. The African diaspora is a wide and diverse community; the UN's launch of this effort is especially powerful in its capacity to connect the diaspora and enable its members to learn from each other and further their common goals. By highlighting and endorsing varied efforts to identify and confront modern legacies of historical injustice against people of African descent, the Forum can serve as a first step in creating that connection.

We thank you for your leadership and look forward to the upcoming decade of dialogue and action.

Sincerely,



Bryan A. Stevenson, Director
Equal Justice Initiative
122 Commerce Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
USA
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bstevenson@eji.org

- Thematic Focus – Education; Arts and Literature.
- Agenda
 - Reimagine the ways in which “Africanness” is constructed.
 - Establish a team that connects with marginalized communities and provide alternative media sources to openly discuss both experiences of subjugation and opportunities for agency locally and globally.
 - Establishment of physical institutions to include those of African descent. Newly realized establishments could be in the form of museums (revitalizing forgotten histories) or libraries (recognizing African centered epistemologies).
 - Investment, economically and through support groups in creative innovations such as the arts, theater and music.
- Ensure Participation – events; festivals, conferences, work in schools, documentaries, media campaigns.
- Outcomes - To overcome the enduring negative, misrepresentation of people of African descent that continues to have real life consequences on access and opportunity.

Primarily we would like to see a focus on a re-evaluation of blackness. One of the greatest obstacles people of African descent face remain the enduring stereotypes that inform perspectives of them, and which contribute to the institutionalized racism produced within national institutions.

Such a re- evaluation will be achieved primarily through education. The forum for *People of African Descent* presents a unique opportunity to campaign for so called ‘black history’ integrated into national history. This would seek to examine the historical context that has resulted in the black populations that exist in respective nations. In the case of former colonies such as UK and France “*We are here because you went there*” (Stuart Hall, cultural theorist).

“Black history” is not an add-on, but is an integral part of world history. As long as that remains unacknowledged, it will be easy for vested interests to manipulate public opinion, framing black citizens as foreigners and outsiders who have no right to be anywhere outside the continent.

It is also imperative that African and African Diaspora cultures are afforded the status they deserve. For instance, in many cases, African languages are not taught to children in the Diaspora – a legacy of colonialism that deemed such languages worthless, or at the very least inferior to their European counterparts. Similarly indigenous African epistemologies, and ways of approaching knowledge are neglected and maligned. A strategy that attempted to restore African languages and systems of thought would be valuable in demonstrating not only that Africans had civilizations before the European encounter but moreover, that there remains much to be learned from them that might yet prove beneficial to life in the contemporary world. Scholars such as Achille Mbembe remind us that there is a pre-colonial African modernity that has not been taken into account in contemporary creativity, while Wole Soyinka asserts Africa's truest assets: remain "its humanity, the quality and valuation of its own existence, and modes of managing its environment—both physical and intangible (which includes the spiritual)" (2012).

UN Platform for people of African Descent

In anticipation of the Human Rights Council discussion, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as Coordinator for the International Decade for People of African Descent, invites interested stakeholders, individuals, groups and organizations to submit information on their vision for the new Forum for People of African Descent.

Such a Forum should aim at reducing the human rights violations that are pervasive in Africa at various levels of governance.

Its specific objectives should focus on reduction of the named violations by a set percentage by the end of the decade. This should involve work at National/governmental levels and at local community networks.

Since the nature of remittances is a matter of common knowledge, particularly the amounts given to Africa, we should harness some of these funds to work for the elevation of the rights of women and girls and the rights of access to education for all young people of both sexes.

We think that our finances and the power of them going to African communities can be used as leverage in various for in Africa.

A forum for people of African descent is best-placed to change communities that promote FGM/FGC, that can help in combating trafficking and its impact on prostitution in Europe and beyond.

This issue should involve specifically those of the Sub-Saharan area of Africa and should involve all language groupings.

Our exclusion of the North is because very often they allow religious geography to dominate the issue of physical geography.

Such a forum should look to have an impact among the various ages in the Diaspora in the West.

We should have a forum that is representative of the various European countries that have played a part in the colonisation of Europe.

Our general aim should be at reducing the abuse of the human rights of women and girls in Africa to single digits by the end of the decade.

We would like to become members of such a forum. We being Virginia Wangare Greiner- Executive Director of Maisha, an African Women Organisation based in Germany for African Women & their families .

Dr. Garnet A. Parris, coordinator of the African Diaspora in Europe (ADE). At Birmingham University he was the Director of the Centre for African Diaspora History and Religion.

Together we have documented various aspects of FGM, Trafficking, Prostitution and we recently launched a book of poems on FGM on Zero Tolerance day. All documents written are in the German National Library's Archives.

Best Regards,

Virginia Wangare Greiner

Maisha e.V.-African Women in Germany

Pfingstweidstr. 7

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email: maisha-african-women@gmx.de

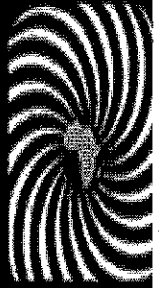


2015 - 2024

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF

AFRICAN DESCENT

RECOGNITION, JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT



FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

THEMATIC FOCUS

I believe that “self-determination” should be the thematic focus of the Forum for People of African Descent. Self-determination is defined as: free choice of one’s own acts or states without external compulsion. The theme of self-determination would also help further the outcomes of the World Conference Against Racism.

For far too long, people of African descent’s right to self-determine their lives has been impeded by racism, political oppression, and the stipulations and confinements of institutions — that in some cases purport to assist Afro-descendant communities.

Self-determination would center the dialogue of the Forum for People of African Descent in the work of grassroots human rights movements. Its aim would be to support the people and organizations on the ground and provide them with the resources needed to protect the rights of those in their respective communities.

FORMAT AND AGENDA

I advocate that instead of creating the structure of a traditional conference filled solely with panel discussions and plenaries, the Forum for People of African Descent should be a working conference geared towards collaborating, networking, and producing tangible solutions.

In order to achieve actionable outcomes, the agenda should include working sessions categorized by region and cause. For example, organizations working on civic participation in the Middle East would have the opportunity to meet, discuss, and work on their issue to create overarching, unified strategies for change. Additionally, there should be cross-regional and cross-cause breakout sessions in which human rights practitioners are able to share information and discuss best practices and winnable strategies. At the conclusion of the Forum, these groups would report back the outcomes of the collaborative work, which would be written, recorded, and shared.

GLOBAL PARTICIPATION

To ensure active global participation, the Forum for People of African Descent must employ a dynamic and far-reaching grassroots mobilization and digital strategy.

First, it must create a database or log of organizations of Afro-descendants in each region of the African diaspora: the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. Second, it must identify human rights influencers within each region and employ them to conduct outreach to the communities and provide them with information and materials about the Forum — whether they be written in native languages or via word of mouth.

Finally, after laying the groundwork for global participation the Forum must inform communities via the world wide web. It should create social media profiles on each platform — Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram being essential — and follow and promote each of the organizations listed in the database with a social media presence. Using these mediums, the Forum would be able to promote the gathering and amplify the causes and work of organizations all over the world. Furthermore, it could through these channels, keep those unable to attend informed about the discussions and actions taking place during the conference.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

RENCONTRE INTERNATIONALE POUR LA PAIX ET LES DROITS L'HOMME

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24th February 2015

International Decade for People of African Descent

Anti-Racial Discrimination Section

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(OHCHR), UNOG – OHCHR

CH – 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Excellency,

NEW FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENTS

Following the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/16 establishing a Forum for People of African Descent to serve as a consultation mechanism during the International Decade for People of African Descent and other relevant stakeholders from 2015-2024 (Resolution 68/237), International Gathering for Peace and Human Rights, a conglomerate of peace and human rights organizations hereby strongly endorses this laudable initiative by proposing these recommendations for the advancement of the New Forum for People of African Descent.

The transatlantic slave trade was declared a crime against humanity during the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. This transatlantic slave trade, which took place across the Atlantic Ocean from the 16th through to the 19th centuries resulted in the ill-fated displacement of more than 15 million able men, women and children of African descent to the Americas in what recorded as one of the darkest chapters in human history.

By re-affirming the importance of education, a key objective highlighted by the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/16, International Gathering for Peace and Human rights has created an interactive and educative card game, magazine and some other materials, which features some great African leaders who have left enduring legacies for their people, courtesy of their struggles to emancipate them from the last clutches of slavery and thus, restoring their dignity. Taking into account the need to put African history in its proper perspective and harness this towards rebuilding the global African family, we deem it dignifying to promote the positive roles these Pan-African Leaders played in fighting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Orshia Di. Childress A. OGBU (Chairperson) : +27 11 0662 2400, Roy. Michael. Spenst (General Secretary) : +27 11 0662 2400
Ms. Annace-Juana M. +27 11 0662 2400, Mrs. Aobany. PRINCE : +27 11 0662 2400, Mr. M. Mawandira. BAHAMU : +27 11 0662 2400

Though the pains and agonies of those experiences are yet to be swept away, People of African Descent deserve reparations through a rightful recognition of these heroes. We thoughtfully put forward these recommendations below as a tribute to these Heroes:

- Honoring the Apostles of African Descent. These are men and women who have made huge sacrifices by contributing to the freedom, liberty and advancement of the People of African Descent. Some are fallen heroes, while others are living legends. In the world today, people enjoy some freedoms and rights because individuals had fought for them and some had even laid down their lives for these causes.
- Establishing Historical Centers for African Descents across the world to serve as museum for the preservation of African and African Descents history.
- Establishing a University Institute for African Culture and Skills Acquisition amongst the People of African Descent.

International Gathering for Peace and Human Rights strongly affirms its disposition to help the General Assembly in actualizing these noble objectives by tapping into the diverse experiences and skills of its conglomerate organizations and individual members from various indigenous countries with diverse cultural and religious background; to promote these efforts and kindly counts on the acknowledgement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to this regard. This way, we shall proactively partner with you in the New Forum to represent People of African Descent.

May we use this opportunity to inform your Excellency, that on the 11th of April 2014, International Gathering for Peace and Human Rights celebrated their heroes whom we call the "African Twelve Apostles" in- Nigeria. The International Gathering for Peace and Human Rights plans to honor the "Apostles of African Descent" in celebration of the decade of the People of African descent in Barbados on December 10, 2015. This event, which has been scheduled between the 28th of November and 11th of December 2015, will focus on Recognition, Justice and Development -- an historic opportunity to galvanize efforts towards the eradication of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, marginalization, stigmatization, xenophobia, afro-phobia and related intolerance faced by people of African descent in celebration of the International Decade of the African Descent.

We thank you Excellency, in anticipation for considering our proposals for the New Forum for the People of African Descent.

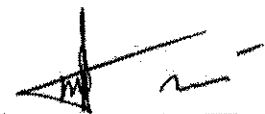
Yours faithfully,



Bishop Dr. Chidiebere Anelechi Ogbu

Global Chairman

Cell: +27788462440



Rev. Michael Steele Esq.

General Secretary

Cell: +12462314294



From: Cameroon Association of Vantaa Finland – CAVFI ry

Hiirakkokuja 3 A 5, 01200 Vantaa Finland.

Email:cavfivantaa@yahoo.com Tel: +358407284742, +358445644493

To: International Decade for People of African Descent, Anti- Racial Discrimination
Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR), UNOG- OHCHR, CH-1211-Geneva 10, Switzerland

Date: 6th of March 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

An Answer Call for Submissions New Forum for People of African Descent

We the people of Cameroon Association of Vantaa-Finland abbreviated as CAVFI are pleased to give an answer to your request. CAVFI is a non-profit making, non-political, non-racial, non discriminatory, social and development association with interest to promote and expose our diverse cultural heritage from Cameroon while embracing that of other nations based in Vantaa-Finland.

We find interest in the above topic because it directly concerns us and are pleased to write and give our modest contribution. A Decade Dedicated to People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development can only be uphold with a common base that includes equality and mutual respect of human beings irrespective of race, colour, sex, and other prejudice to humanity.

Looking at the United Nations chartered in article one of chapter one, one of its major objective is “to maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace” (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter1.shtml>).

As it is written in the rules that UN member states have equal right, no discrimination among member states, we find it contrary to what is happening today at the UN Security Council. We believed with the presence of veto right, it is contrary to the rules. Veto powers almost always dominate in decision making. Talk less of Africa which as we write now still not represented in veto right.

Quoting the case of Rwanda genocide in 1994, the United Nation Security Council failed to act because of the hidden vetoes of the United States and France. It was later realized the united states were interested in saving money while the French on the other hand were interested in saving their ally. This sad incident led to loss of lives, about 800,000 people is believed to have died. This was so because permanent members considered an earlier UN intervention contrary to their interest. (Celine Nahory, 2005)

We believed if the United Nations is out to promote democracy in the world, it needs to practice it as well. The criterions for veto power are unfair and rather create tension which is resulting today into creation of more groups of countries lined behind the Nations who have veto power. Today the world is encountering global unrest from North Korea opposing the entire world due to her dissatisfaction.

As people from African descent, decision should be made on the basis of prorate your contribution to the UN budget. Each member states contribution to the UN budget should be based on say 5% of the GDP of each member states to the UN. A country vote to the UN is a percentage of the member's contribution to the total budget of the UN. In this way each member state participate fairly to the charter of the UN and the decision making process. This approach is more democratic than what is existing now.

Member's contribution to the UN can take various forms (Human resources, and others) with monetary values attributes. The UN must have its own enforcement mechanism for its laws independent from states and under the full control and mandates of the UN. In doing so, the UN will be standing on its feet than being a watch dog. No state interest enforcement mechanism works better than that of a universal one for a universal cause. We are open would there be need for detailing the above.

Kind regards

CAVFI President: NJILA JUDE

Vice President: Patrick Jiogo

Secretary General: Ngang Roland.

Treasurer: Felix Atabe Nzume

Football Team Captain: Tom Johnson

Members

Ndikum Melvin

Ndikum Emiliene

Victor Jomo

SUBMISSION
Forum for People of African Descent

Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/16, to establish a *Forum for People of African Descent* to serve as a consultation mechanism during the *International Decade for People of African Descent*, this viewpoint is inspired from over two decades of documenting and archiving social trends within African and African descendant communities.

Below provides brief methodological considerations for segmenting topical frameworks, in the form of committees or monitors that may be tasked with the discussion and review of comprehensive investigations that forge a shared conception of African identity, and that are universal in value. There is a high preference for program developers to access "project support" for the implementation of projects.

- **Steering Committee (or monitor) for historical preservation sites and cultures -** Whereas, the current state of archives, languages and cultures cannot be understated. Assessing deteriorating circumstances of archives in marginalized communities of African descent in general, and in Africa in particular, reveal largely damaged or obliterated archives in regions recovering from war, conflict or natural disasters. The committee would be positioned to receive appeals about their current status and possibly identify new sites and collections with the oversight of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization and International Council for Archives. This would include reviewing recommendation that support the advocacy for the return of art and artifacts to their place of origin wherever possible as well as monitoring the requests for new sites of interest.
- **Cultural Practices and Discourse Committee -** A steering committee on preserving traditional scientific methods language, indigenous science technologies, and education systems as a contribution towards strengthening collective memory for people of African Descent. This includes receiving recommendations of relative projects for the realization of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action.
- **Decade Projects Committee (or monitor) Database Monitoring -** A database that will serve as a clearing house for projects of accredited NGOs and institutions seeking funding support. The database would include detailed information of each project showing the regions of projects, project duration, costs of project, institutional affiliations. This could be useful in offering a visualization graph as well showing activity trends for development within regions.
- **Donor Committee -** The committee would field questions from NGOs, institutions, and donors that have taken an interest in contributing to the Trust Fund for the Program for the Decade Funding.

(Ms.) Iman Drammeh
Director
The Drammeh Institute, Inc.
P.O. Box 558
Bronx, NY 10475
Telephone: 646-872-1232

25 February, 2015

What should be the aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent

Ensure that the issues for African Descendants become fully integrated into the global SDG conversation and that the Principles of the Decade: "justice", "recognition" and "development". Concept, piloting, results and implementation should dictate as process.

Thematic focus, the format and the agenda

Technology: Developing plans to ensure funding and targeted strategies for ICT technical capacity, literacy and implementation is available in Afrodescendant communities and that they are used for the benefit of ethno-education, cultural dissemination, political participation and financial empowerment

Census: Develop plans for financial investments/grants as necessary that each country includes Afrodescendants in their Census counts as quickly as possible. Civil society must: a) have a minimum of 30% representation in all development and implementation of inclusion efforts, b) must be able to reasonably object, c) be given a public forum to raise objections). Immediate support must be given to Census campaign development efforts to minimize number of "census rounds" missed ie Peru, Mexico.

Criminal Justice: 1) Address gender based violence and ensure womens groups are supported in existing efforts and receive assistance in developing measures to combat such violence, 2) Address police violence targeted at Afrodescendant communities on a hemispheric/regional level (working groups) including race and skin color based profiling, excessive use of force, lack of public accountability and a clear plan for implementation for each region of structural reforms coupled with public awareness campaigns (if not be on a country by country basis) and 3) Address issues within criminal law systems which are biased against Afrodescendants including burdens of proof, sentencing guidelines, prison overcrowding.

How to ensure wide participation in the Forum and what should be its outcomes?

1) Make sure website and material is available in relevant languages not only UN languages but in a timely manner. Hire someone to make sure social media is done well. Take note of the efforts of the SEPPIR in Brazil. Make sure you are on all relevant platforms specific to a given country/region/market. Develop analytics based outreach, campaigns etc to ensure success. Privacy and data protection efforts must be first-rate and publicly disclosed.

3) 50 million AfroBrazilians and there is no material in Portuguese. This has been raised before and it remains so. To exclude 1/3 of the Afrodescendant population in the Western Hemisphere creates unnecessarily problematic optics which will remain problematic if not rectified.

4) Explore technology use in dissemination. Support and assist in development of research in ICT use , in existing platforms and efforts at technology capacity building on a regional basis.

SUBMISSION FOR FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

AIM & OBJECTIVES

In order to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation, one of the aims of the forum should be to *create an inter-cultural cross-country discourse* on one of the identified areas of focus – CULTURE. The objectives of this are;

- To connect each country to the cultural heritage and survivor stories of another.
- to charge African writers(custodian of history and culture)to shape Africa's projection
- To forge cross-country unity at the table of strategic dialogue.

THEME: *Inter-cultural Dialogue: Bridging the Divide; Forging Sustainable Peace and Development*

FORMAT

The forum should utilize both offline and online platforms. Projects should be carried out online and in person in at least 35 nations throughout Africa. Organized events subsumed under projects should be advertised and run by capable organisations that are skilled in advertisement & marketing, can create post-event material, and publish stories the attendees of events should create as some sort of documentary of the events. The target groups for the forum should mainly be Young Africans, African Leaders, officials & stakeholders in Africa's development and subsequently Africans in the diaspora, members of the media, teachers/professors & professionals who study the region.

AGENDA

- The riches of culture: (literature, dressing, religion, leadership, social structures)...to share, learn and relate stories and lessons
- Learning from each other's difficulties and triumphs: a two-way path to forging a better Africa for peace and sustainable development.
- Inter-cultural Dialogue: Literature embodies history, lessons and culture. Organize a dialogue between African writers to talk about their views of Africa and writing to project these before the world.

HOW TO ENSURE WIDE PARTICIPATION

- Advertising on Social Media like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and partnerships with Mashable, Plus Social Good, UNIC etc.
- Host Summit Saturday: run events in as many countries as possible in Africa, asking each group of attendees the same conversation starting questions.

OUR VISION FOR THE FORUM: It is our vision that a united Africa is forged through strategic discourse and the image of Africa shaped to reflect her glory through the projection of her culture and writing.

AUTHORS / CONTACT DETAILS

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Founders, Write Paragraphs (UN Observance Community)

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Aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent

We propose that the aims and objectives for the forum align with the General Assembly's resolution 69/16.

1. Advocate for the role of People of African Descent in the diaspora, pointing out their contribution to the creation of cultural diversity, academia, and the economic value they create both historically and currently.
2. Provide organizations in the diaspora with a national and international platform to exchange information, develop positions and provide support for the issue of rights for People of African Descent.
3. To promote awareness and understanding of the detrimental effects of racism on all people, in particular the role that discrimination plays in economic loss and cost of supporting institutions that have institutional barriers to equality.
4. Build a consensus based on the value of equality and diversity within the education system to ensure that children of African descent are not exposed to indirect and direct discrimination.

Thematic Focus

A thematic focus for the forum within Asia and Asia Pacific will consider the unique forms of racial discrimination and profiling that occur within an international context. For employment and education opportunities, people of African descent can be treated differently, based on nationality and country of origin. Another challenge people of African descent face in Asia is the negative perception towards those of darker hues. Historically, in Asia, darker skin is viewed as undesirable. This stigma can carry over to people of African descent which can lead to discrimination.

Format and Agenda

The forum format should include an effective platform of engagement amongst Asia and the Asia Pacific that connects various consulates, business, NGO's, and individuals that have a desire to promote the aims of the international decade of people of African descent.

Ensuring wide participation in the forum

Engage relevant stakeholders, reach out broadly across Asia and the Diaspora, achieve wide and balanced representation. Engage universities, businesses and individuals.

What should be the outcome of the forum

The outcome should be quantitative and qualitative. Measurable statistical data is necessary to gauge the extent of discrimination that people experience. At the same time, understanding how People of African Descent cope with such discrimination while living abroad requires qualitative study. Dialogues with governments, organizations, stakeholders and individuals about the state of people of African descent in the countries where they reside and work would benefit all people involved, the forum can demonstrate that racism impacts everyone's lives negatively regardless of color.

Working Party for People of African Descent - Asia

Gail Burrowes

LLM SOAS University of London

Steering Committee Sistas in Hong Kong

Planning Committee International Black History Month

Keisha Siriboe

MA, Comparative Education, Beijing Normal University

PhD Candidate, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong

Anthonia Ezekiel

BA (Hons), Management Studies, University of Toronto

The Association of Certified Chartered Accountants

Jayne Jeje

University of Miami, Business Administration

Marketing and Branding Strategist

Presented To: The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
as Coordinator for the Decade for People of African Descent
Presented By: Ajeane A. Knibye, Director of African American Forerunner Alliance
at International House of Prayer Eastern Gate 950 Raritan Rd. Cranford, NJ 07016
Phone: 609-789-2337; Email: ajeane@ihopeg.org

Vision for a New Forum for People of African Descent

JUBILEE!!

[Hebrew *yōbhēl* ram's horn, used for the proclamation of the year of jubilee; influenced by Latin *jūbilāre* to shout for joy]

Jubilee - a year of emancipation and restoration provided by ancient Hebrew law to be kept every 50 years by the *emancipation* of slaves, *restoration* of alienated lands to their former owners, *cancellation* of debts and *omission* of all cultivation of the land

To advance the promotion and protection of human rights, people of African Descent should be given the *freedom and resources* to establish themselves when and where needed as independently functioning communities and states whereby they may *determine their own identity, purpose, destiny and function within the global community*.

Aims & Objectives: Emancipation and Restoration

2015 not only marks the beginning of the decade for people of African Descent, but all marks the **150th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery in America - JUBILEE!** People of African Descent should thus be rewarded their Jubilee rights as stated through **Emancipation-freedom from systemic racism and discrimination** and **Restoration- possession of land, resources and dignity of inalienable human rights**.

Thematic Focus: Possessing Inheritance and Fulfilling Commission

People of African Descent particularly those outside of the African Continent are in most cases completely *disconnected from their historic, ethnic and cultural roots*. **Reconnecting People of African Descent to their heritage** will allow for many to *overcome the obstacles and labels placed on them in society, and fulfill the legacy of previous generations*.

Format & Agenda: Education & Empowerment

Politics - Select, equip and challenge highly effective leaders to amend, reconstruct and institute laws and policies that undo unjust burdens and inflictions and upon people of African Descent

Academic - empower educators to redesign the paradigms and curriculums of schools and universities to teach the historical backgrounds of African history in a positive light

Economic - Create Incentives for Entrepreneurship and business development that will also provide funding for projects in third world countries and communities of African Descent

Social - Realizing opportunities for social interaction and advancement in organizations that provide such opportunities

Spiritual - Restore the position and status of Faith-Based organizations influence and the ability to affect communities through programming initiatives

Participation & Outcomes: Selective Inclusion & Evidence-Based Data

To ensure wide participation, specific individuals from various organizations in strategic locations should be selected function in a democratic and participatory manner to ensure all areas and locations housing people of African Descent should be equally represented. Outcomes should include evidence-based racial, social and cultural equality and justice economically, academically and politically and other area of development and improvement.



Black Heritage Amsterdam Tours

history legacy culture

Forum for People of African Descent -
International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)

February 25, 2015

Dear Distinguished Members,

My name is Jennifer Tosch, founder of Black Heritage Tours and the newly formed foundation: Black Heritage International Education. As an interested stakeholder, individual, and founder of my organizations, it is with great pleasure and honor to submit to the United Nations General Assembly and members of the organizing committees my proposal for inclusion in the Forum. The following are brief descriptions of what would be further developed if selected.

My vision for the Forum is it will be used as a platform to work towards eradicating institutional racism and replace with equal justice. I understand that you will decide in the near future the criteria on the mandate and modalities. I welcome the opportunity to sit on the forum or any other committee that would serve the purpose of developing the programs in the near and distant future.

Thematic Focus: Ten (1 per year) '**Reconciliation Projects**' that produce **IMPACT** (International Mobilization Pacts) to ensure sustainability beyond 10 years.

The objectives should be action-oriented with clear deliverables that are also measurable. The Forum's mission should align with the ideals of the United Nations to raise the global consciousness and awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing people of African Descent.

To ensure wide participation I suggest the following strategies and tactics be incorporated in the overall plan:

- Create a platform to promote economic development and sustainability
- Establish a scholarship for students and researchers to advance education
- Access and incorporate where feasible global initiatives that align with the 10 year plan. (e.g., I am a member of the 'Mapping Slavery Worldwide Project' a newly developed platform that at its core is used for research and educational purposes connecting each continent to a global narrative about the slavery past).
- Encourage research projects and academic pursuit to advance the knowledge production from the perspective of the Diaspora, that will act as a bridge for reconciliation of the past and progress to a realized 'shared future'.
- Establish an 'virtual university' where people around the world can access new and existing research.
- Use the power of social media to ensure wide participation that will create global links
- Recommend new UNESCO heritage sight dedicated to Trans-Atlantic Slavery.

The Forum has the potential to be a powerful tool in addressing the issues facing people of African descent. In Amsterdam, Netherlands, where I live and work, there is one UNESCO heritage sight dedicated to Trans-Atlantic Slavery when in fact there are several other locations that should be included, which would raise the collective consciousness of the impact and importance of addressing this shared colonial past and in redressing the challenges facing the present and future generations. I respectfully ask to be selected to join The Forum where I would work tirelessly to advance the causes of not only people of African descent, but for humanity

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Tosch

Jennifer Tosch, Founder

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**FUNDACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL
CREACTIVA**
NIT 900382264-5

Propuesta

Foro para los Afrodescendientes:

**“Promoviendo el reconocimiento, justicia y desarrollo de los
Afrodescendientes”**

Presentada a:

**El Consejo de Derechos Humanos del Alto Comisionado de las
Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos.**

Coordinador del Decenio Internacional de los Afrodescendientes

Cali , Colombia. 23 de febrero de 2015

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Propuesta

Foro para los Afrodescendientes:

**“Promoviendo el reconocimiento, justicia y desarrollo de los
Afrodescendientes”**

1. Presentación de la Organización:

La Fundación Para el Desarrollo Integral CREATIVA es una organización no gubernamental sin ánimo de lucro especializada Promover iniciativas, acciones y proyectos Sociales, Turísticos, Culturales, En Derechos Humanos especialmente en la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo. En este momento esta dirigiendo la Escuela de Liderazgo Juvenil Mackandal, El Centro Cultural Mayéutica y La Escuela de Emprendimiento Cultural.

Los fines de la asociación son:

- Promover iniciativas, acciones y proyectos Sociales, Turísticos, Culturales Y En Derechos Humanos, entendido éste como un instrumento para el desarrollo integral sostenible, el diálogo intercultural y la cultura de paz.
- Brindar apoyo y asistencia técnica a instituciones y organismos públicos y privados para poner en marcha estrategias Sociales, Turísticas, Culturales, Y En Derechos Humanos como factor de desarrollo económico y social; como instrumento de lucha contra la desigualdad, promoviendo así la equidad de género, sostenibilidad ambiental, cultural y económica.
- Promover el turismo cultural justo como forma diferente de creación de productos turísticos bajo el principio de participación comunitaria o de comercialización de productos turísticos bajo los principios del comercio justo con unas ciertas garantías que contribuyan a la mejora de las condiciones de

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vida de la población local y al respeto, conservación y valorización de los recursos culturales y naturales.

- Promover y dar apoyo a programas de investigación y/o formación en los ámbitos social, turístico, cultural, y en derechos humanos.
- Dar apoyo a proyectos, acciones e iniciativas Sociales, Culturales, De Turismo, Derechos Humanos, donde la equidad y cohesión social sean factores claves para el desarrollo, favoreciendo de las iniciativas juveniles y grupos vulnerables por medio de alternativas de desarrollo creativas, respetando la identidad y la diversidad cultural y étnica.
- Dar apoyo a iniciativas de emprendimiento, en especial de jóvenes y población marginal, a partir de proyectos de fomento, creación de empresas, industrias e instituciones culturales, artísticas, creativas de turismo cultural y productivo (como principal enfoque el rescatar prácticas tradicionales de producción), que estimulen una alianza estratégica entre lo autóctono, lo turístico y cultural.
- Impulsar los procesos de reconocimiento de los derechos fundamentales, sociales, culturales. Se pretende reforzar la sensibilidad en la sociedad por temas relacionados con el desarrollo integral del "Ser". En especial se fomentará la realización de estudios y proyectos sobre este tema, tanto desde aspectos legislativos como en procesos de fortalecimiento social.
- Fomentar la cooperación Universitaria a nivel nacional e internacional y el papel de las universidades en programas y proyectos de cultura, desarrollo social sostenible, Derechos Humanos y turismo: asistencia técnica, investigación aplicada capacitación, formación y gestión de proyectos.
- Fomentar el trabajo en red con otras organizaciones y redes para favorecer la cooperación, la complementariedad y la subsidiariedad.
- Favorecer el intercambio de información y la movilidad entre profesionales afines con los objetivos organizacionales.
- Promover acciones de sensibilización enfocadas en los ámbitos social, turístico, cultural, y en derechos humanos, dirigidas a la población en general o a segmentos específicos de la misma.
- Impulsar la creación de publicaciones en diferentes formatos siguiendo una línea editorial propia.

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2. Objetivos de las mesa Afrodescendiente:

Ante la convocatoria la Organización se permite proponer los siguientes objetivos para el evento.

- Realizar un foro dirigido a las personas de ascendencia africana que sirva como un mecanismo de consulta durante el Decenio Internacional Afrodescendiente (2015-2024).
- Promover el reconocimiento de la población de ascendencia Africana en el Mundo.
- Generar acciones que promuevan la defensa de los derechos de la población de ascendencia Africana en el Mundo.
- Propiciar estrategias de desarrollo que permitan disminuir la pobreza extrema en la población Afrodescendiente en el mundo.

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3. Enfoque temático

El enfoque temático debe ser coherente con los elementos del Decenio descritos a continuación:

El Reconocimiento

Este concepto es entendido como una acción política envuelta en terminología jurídica. Técnicamente dos teorías dominan esta materia, la constitutiva que establece que el nuevo sujeto no tiene derecho hasta no ser reconocido y la declarativa que propugna la existencia de los derechos y obligaciones internacionales desde el momento que el nuevo Estado o Gobierno cumple los requisitos mínimos del derecho internacional para ser considerado como tal, relacionados a continuación:

- Controlar el territorio y la población en cuestión.
- Poseer una administración gubernamental organizada.
- Tener la capacidad de actuar efectivamente para concertar obligaciones internacionales y cumplirlas.

En cuanto a la población Afrodescendiente estos elementos se ven obstaculizados por la vulneración de los derechos humanos, encontrando un panorama en el que existe del desplazamiento forzado y los gobiernos no garantizan los derechos de sus ciudadanos

Aunque algunos países se han comprometido con respetar la Carta de Naciones Unidas, a fomentar un Estado de Derecho, a instaurar la Democracia, a respetar las fronteras internacionales y los derechos humanos, a no crear armas nucleares o a realizar elecciones prontamente.

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La Justicia

Aproximadamente 200 millones de personas de descendencia africana viven en las Américas, de estos, cerca de 10 millones viven en Colombia, principalmente en las costas del Pacífico y del Caribe.

Enfrentando una serie de dificultades como la violencia en manos de grupos al margen de la ley, la pérdida de los territorios, el desplazamiento forzado, el impacto de los monocultivos y la existencia de grandes proyectos empresariales.

Los gobiernos deberían garantizar la protección de los territorios ancestrales de los descendientes de africanos e invertir en su desarrollo económico y proteger su identidad cultural y derechos civiles. Sin embargo esto no es una realidad; simplemente se encuentra un escenario de injusticia e inequidad que se sustenta con las altas cifras de muertes, desplazamientos y casos de vulneración de los Derechos Humanos.

El Desarrollo

Es muy común que las comunidades Afrodescendientes sean propensas a vivir en estado de pobreza, por múltiples razones estructurales, sociales e históricas.

Se debe iniciar por entender que el desarrollo humano es mucho más que el incremento de los ingresos de una nación. Además de ello pretende que los seres humanos puedan desarrollar sus capacidades y potencialidades de forma integral, teniendo en cuenta aspectos como el medio ambiente y el fortalecimiento cultural.

Esta forma de ver el desarrollo se centra en ampliar las opciones que tienen las personas para llevar la vida que valoran, es decir, en aumentar el conjunto de cosas que las personas pueden ser y hacer en sus vidas. Así se deduce que el crecimiento económico es tan solo un medio que complementa este fin.

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4. Formato y metodología a implementar en el foro:

Participar es un ejercicio de articulación y expresión en conjunto, es decir se requieren otros individuos, otros puntos de vista y otras visiones para poder entender y comprender las ideas del otro y expresar abiertamente las propias.

Para esta mesa de trabajo se propone una metodología participativa en la que los asistentes, de forma coordinada puedan expresar lo que piensan y conocen en cuanto al Decenio Afrodescendiente.

A continuación se describen las actividades a realizar durante el foro:

Exposición formal de la Resolución: Para cumplir dicho objetivo se propone empezar con una exposición de la resolución 68/237 de 2013 mediante la cual se declara el Decenio Afrodescendiente. Dicha actividad deberá ser guiada por alguna organización internacional que este adscrita al Consejo Social de la ONU, y que este planificando acciones al respecto.

Mesas de trabajo por tema: De acuerdo a la propuesta formulada mediante la resolución 68/237 de 2013 se deben crear tres mesas de trabajo en donde se discutirán los conceptos, las situaciones y las propuestas de fortalecimiento de cada área, a continuación las mesas:

- Mesa: Reconocimiento
- Mesa: Justicia
- Mesa: Desarrollo

Plenaria: Después de los trabajos grupales se realizará una plenaria donde cada grupo hará de forma creativa y participativa una exposición de los resultados por área. Seguido a esta actividad se debe iniciar un proceso de consolidación de las propuestas.

Consulta colectiva sobre el enfoque que se le debe dar al Decenio: Después de realizar este trabajo grupal se requiere que se genere una propuesta colectiva que articule la línea de tiempo de todos los procesos previos a la resolución del Decenio, los hallazgos del ejercicio y las proyecciones de lo que se debe sugerir a los gobiernos para la respectiva implementación.

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5. Orden del día

A continuación se hace una propuesta de orden del día

1. Presentación del evento.
2. Presentación de los asistentes.
3. Exposición de la Resolución 68/237 de 2013 Mesas de trabajo por tema:
 - Mesa: Reconocimiento
 - Mesa: Justicia
 - Mesa: Desarrollo
4. Exposición de las propuestas de las mesas de trabajo y discusión de las mismas.
5. Consolidación de las propuestas temáticas.
6. Consulta colectiva sobre el enfoque que se le debe dar al Decenio
7. Despedida

6. La forma de garantizar una amplia participación en el Foro:

La forma más efectiva es a través de una convocatoria abierta a las organizaciones del mundo, por otra parte se debe garantizar que representantes de los gobiernos asistan al evento.

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7. Resultados esperados:

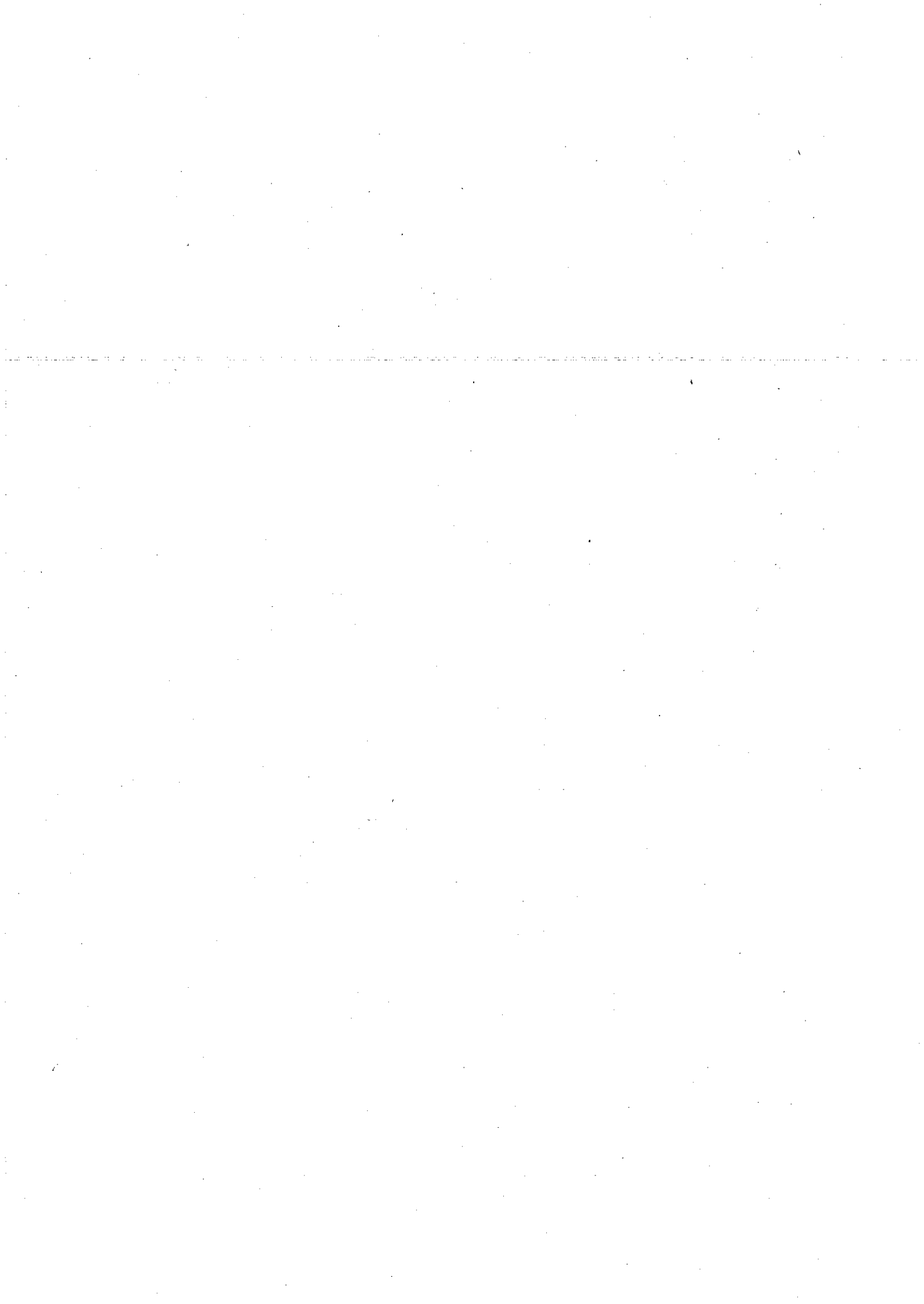
1. Diagnóstico de la situación de los pueblos afrodescendientes asistentes al evento
2. Divulgación de la Resolución
3. La creación de un grupo mundial interdisciplinario que aporte al Decenio mediante la participación en la consulta
4. La consolidación de propuestas importantes para la implementación del Decenio Afrodescendientes.
5. La generación de una plataforma de encuentro anual que permita hacer seguimiento al Decenio Afrodescendiente.

8. Contactos del Autor:

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CLAF - Consejo Laboral Afrocolombiano
Nit 900-611648-9
Matricula 90044276

PROPUESTA ENCUENTRO DE MUJERES AFROCOLOMBIANAS DEL PACIFICO EN EL MARCO DE DECENIO DE LA AFRODECENDENCIA

El Consejo Laboral Afrocolombiano **CLAF**, asociación que agrupa en Colombia a sindicatos de sectores donde la mayoría son trabajadores y trabajadoras Afrocolombianos/as como son los Puertos, Corteros de la caña de azúcar, sector Mineros, palma de aceite, Trabajadoras Domésticas y otros como Salud, Educación y Servicios Públicos, teniendo en cuenta que la proclamación del Decenio Afrodescendiente 2015 2024, nos proponemos realizar actividades que visibilicen la situación de las mujeres y las niñas Afrocolombianas en del pacifico Colombiano la región con mas pobreza y exclusión social del país, situación que se presenta por la discriminación racial, arraigada desde los tiempos de la colonia, cuando se terminó la esclavitud donde se indemnizó a los esclavizadores y no a esclavizados

ANTECEDENTES

Siendo Cali la ciudad capital con mayor población negra, después de Salvador de Bahía en Brasil, e igualmente como ciudad de destino de los habitantes del Pacífico Colombiano que un 90 por ciento es población negra, esta migración ha hecho que actualmente Cali tenga casi el 60 por ciento de su población Afrocolombiana, en su mayoría mujeres cabezas de hogar desplazadas por la violencia que llegan con más de 4 hijos/as, las cuales han sido estigmatizadas y segregadas geográficamente en el llamado distrito de Aguablanca.

Buenaventura el principal puerto de Colombia en el pacifico por donde entra y sale más del 80 por ciento de la carga del país y donde la población es el 98 por ciento Afro tiene los índices más altos de país en pobreza, educación, salud, vivienda y precariedad laboral, donde ni siquiera tienen acceso al agua potable, lo que demuestra el grado de discriminación racial existente el país.

La población Afrocolombiana es la más golpeada por el conflicto armado en Colombia con el mayor número desplazados de sus tierras ancestrales.

PROPUESTA

Realizar encuentros con mujeres Afrocolombianas empezando en Cali, Buenaventura, Tumaco, Quibdó, donde las mujeres podamos a través del método de reflexión experiencia un análisis de nuestra situación, visibilizarla y darla a conocer al mundo, pero que a la vez permita que de allí salgan propuestas para el alto gobierno de Colombia, que nos permitan empezar a cambiar esta situación de exclusión y marginalidad.

Enseñar, capacitar y promover el desarrollo auto sostenible de estas mujeres cabeza de hogar, para lograr su desarrollo económico personal y familiar.

Que dentro del proceso del posconflicto se reconozca a la población Afrocolombiana y como una de los grupos mas golpeados por el conflicto armado en Colombia, para que desde el acto gobierno se busquen la medidas de reparación y retorno a sus tierras en condiciones de seguridad y dignidad, a través de programas que garanticen una calidad de vida libre de discriminación racial.

Fecha

Cali: 13 y 14 de junio 2015
Buenaventura: 10 y 11 de julio 2015
Quibdó: 25 y 25 de julio 2015
Tumaco: 14 y 15 de agosto 2015

Costo del evento: US 150.000.00

Resonsable: Consejo laboral Afrocolombiano CLAF

Cordialmente

AGRIPINA HURTADO CAICEDO
Presidente Consejo Laboral Afrocolombiano CLAF
Miembro Consejo Nacional de Paz Afrocolombiano
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Propuesta para la celebración del decenio afrodescendientes: 2015 -2024

ANTECEDENTES:

La población afrodescendientes ha formado parte de la historia panameña desde hace más de quinientos años.

Musicalmente hablando, los afrodescendientes le han legado a la música panameña, prácticamente la base rítmica de la mayoría de los géneros musicales folclóricos del país.

Hubo desigualdad desde sus inicios ya que no se le dio la oportunidad de diseñar por sí mismo un camino a seguir, conforme a sus intereses y según sus capacidades y potencialidades. Los ciudadanos afrodescendientes en la trayectoria de su historia han sido afectados adversamente, excluyéndolos y negándoles la oportunidad de participar plenamente de forma igualitaria en la sociedad panameña.

Con el pasar de los años, la discriminación ha disminuido drásticamente sobre todo con el nuevo mestizaje que se dio entre algunos grupos de la sociedad panameña, sin embargo aún existe una discriminación débil pero latente.

Existe un índice preocupante de desempleo, pobreza y desigualdad en la población afrodescendientes. Uno de sus mayores problemas es que muchos viven en áreas de difícil acceso con problemas serios de vivienda, educación y servicio de salud, sumándose la desintegración familiar.

El prejuicio racial siempre está latente, únicamente por su color de su piel se les prejuzga indiscriminadamente en muchos sectores de la sociedad.

Se debe invertir más en educación, orientación, capacitación, y dar alternativas a corto, mediano y largo plazo que llegue a este sector en específico.

Necesitamos integrar más a la comunidad afrodescendiente para que participen en el ambiente político y social. En la historia panameña nunca una persona de raza negra ha ocupado la presidencia de la república, sin embargo sí han ocupado este cargo mestizos y mulatos con ascendencia Africana.

La presente y futuras generaciones necesitan ser instruidas, tener la noción y el conocimiento sobre su descendencia étnica, de esta manera se podrá hacer sentir más el legado que sus antepasados dejaron a la sociedad panameña.

PROPUESTA PARA LA POLITICA GUBERNAENTAL

- Se reconoce que los afrodescendientes llevan más de quinientos años de formar parte fundamental e integral de la sociedad panameña. Debe resaltarse la importancia del aporte que la población afrodescendientes ha dado a la sociedad panameña desde sus inicios hasta el presente en todos los sectores del quehacer humano.
- El estado panameño se compromete a erradicar toda acción de discriminación racial, con el fin de salvaguardar los derechos de todo ser humano sin distinción de etnia, raza, religión, género o condición socioeconómica.
- Se realizaran acciones para que a la población afrodescendientes se proporcione más facilidades para participar en el ejercicio pleno de sus derechos políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales, en definitiva derechos humanos.
- Para la realización de estas acciones se tendrá en cuenta la ubicación de la población afrodescendiente, haciendo hincapié en las áreas donde ésta esté más concentrada.

PLAN DE EJECUCION DE LA PROPUESTA

- El Estado Panameño garantizará a la población afrodescendiente, participación de forma igualitaria y equitativa en los procesos sociales de desarrollo del país.
- Ejecutará proyectos y programas de desarrollo sostenible, tomando en cuenta la participación de líderes comunitarios. Se buscara como guía de referencia especialistas afrodescendiente en el tema, con el objetivo de garantizar resultados efectivos en vía de alcanzar un estatus satisfactorio.

-
- Promoverá el desarrollo de la micro, pequeña y mediana empresa de la población afrodescendiente, brindándole orientación y capacitándolo para que puedan desarrollarse como empresarios en la sociedad.
 - Fortalecerá el desarrollo turístico y eco-turístico promoviendo el legado cultural, la religión, la danza y la influencia musical que hemos heredado de la comunidad afrodescendientes. Promoverá eventos, ferias y otras actividades para realzar, promover y sostener el legado cultural que los afrodescendientes han aportado a la sociedad panameña.

TENENCIA DE LA TIERRA

- Fomentará el cuidado de las tierras de la población afrodescendientes, ofreciéndole orientación e información para proteger su propiedad y la importancia que desempeña en la vía de su desarrollo como comunidad.

AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO

- Promoverá y elaborará el diseño de planes, proyectos y programas para concienciar a la población afrodescendiente de la importancia que tiene el cuidado del ambiente en su entorno natural
- Realizará propuesta para distribuir fondos del estado en la ejecución de programas de desarrollo sostenible en producción agropecuaria y forestal autóctona tradicional.
- Fomentará el desarrollo de cultivos y la producción natural resaltando los beneficios que pueden obtenerse si se utiliza los recursos naturales en forma adecuada.
- Implementará subsidio para mantener el estado natural vegetal y preservar la flora y fauna sin tener que alterar en forma inadecuada sus recursos, disminuyendo con este subsidio la deforestación practicada por el hombre históricamente.

GENERACIÓN DE EMPLEO

-
- Crear programas educativos para capacitar a la población afrodescendiente, de esta manera el que no ha tenido facilidad de formarse profesionalmente pueda hacerle más fácil el acceso al mercado laboral.
 - Desarrollará programas específicos de capacitación a las mujeres de las comunidades afrodescendientes rurales, orientándola en la manipulación y cuidado de alimentos, aseo e higiene todo ello fundamentado en el ámbito familiar, social y laboral en que se desenvuelve.
 - Creará programas donde se les pueda brindar capacitación sobre el uso de los recursos disponibles, tales como son sus artesanías, confección de trenzas, comidas, música, para que se puedan integrar a un sector de la economía nacional.

INTEGRACIÓN DE LA VIDA POLITICA Y SOCIAL

- Estimulará la formación de la comunidad afrodescendiente para que participen como dirigentes políticos y pueda representar en el futuro a la población afrodescendiente, accediendo a cargos electivos, políticos o gubernamentales.
- Impulsará a los afrodescendientes para que tengan acceso a medios de comunicación, tales como radio, televisión prensa y redes sociales, para la promoción cultural y su integración plena en la sociedad.

DISCRIMINACIÓN

- Promoverá la capacitación y sensibilización de la sociedad civil, para utilizar con mayor eficacia los mecanismos de protección y defensa, para la eliminación de la discriminación racial en la sociedad.
- Creará un espacio específico para recibir denuncias de discriminación, de esa manera se dará una respuesta más rápida a la víctima.
- Fomentará la igualdad racial en los centros educativos de todos los niveles, promoviendo su diversidad.

ABUSO Y USO EXCESIVO DE LA AUTORIDAD

- Capacitará a los agentes de orden público y privado, para evitar el abuso de autoridad contra afrodescendientes, por prejuicio racial
- Estimulará a los medios de comunicación a sumarse al compromiso de lucha y combate contra el racismo.

EDUCACIÓN Y CULTURA

- Promover en el planeamiento curricular del sistema educativo una propuesta para incluir en las materias escolares, la cultura, la historia y geografía de los afrodescendientes en Panamá, desde sus inicios hasta la actualidad.

MEDICINA NATURAL

- Promover ordenadamente la práctica de la medicina natural-tradicional (botánica) como cultura afrodescendiente en áreas rurale.

RELIGIÓN

- Promover y divulgar los ritos y creencias religiosas de los afrodescendientes, como aporte histórico-étnico a todas las generaciones.

VIVIENDA

- Promover la historia cultural del diseño de las viviendas afrodescendiente, haciendo énfasis en sus formas y colores vivos, producto de su herencia.

DERECHO ELECTORAL

- Implementará el sistema para el ejercicio del derecho al voto en los diferentes países donde resida población afrodescendiente panameña.

FINANCIAMIENTO

- El Gobierno Nacional panameño, evaluará la presente propuesta con la facultad de agregar o modificar la misma y destinará los fondos necesarios para su evaluación. Debemos tener en cuenta que este plan contempla dos períodos presidenciales: 2015-2024.



Fundación para el Desarrollo y Reivindicación
Etno-Cultural de las Comunidades
Afrodescendientes - DRECCA.

**II FORO DE JOVENES
AFRODESCENDIENTES.
FORJAFRO**

**Inclusión Laboral para la Juventud Afrodescendiente
en el decenio de la Afrodescendencia**

Responsable:

JUAN GABRIEL GIRALDO HURTADO

Representante Legal

Fundación DRECCA

Lugar: Cali, Valle del Cauca

Fecha: septiembre 11, 12 y 13 de 2015

Sitio web: www.fundaciondrecca.org

E-mail: contacto@fundaciondrecca.org **Tel:** +57 441 7432 cel +57 318 6048295.



**Fundación para el Desarrollo y Reivindicación
Etno-Cultural de las Comunidades
Afrodescendientes - DRECCA.**

Información de la Fundación DRECCA

Nombre de la Organización solicitante: FUNDACION PARA EL DESARROLLO Y REINVIDICACION ETNO CULTURAL DE LAS COMUNIDADES AFRO DESCENDIENTES – DRECCA

NIT: 900692600 – 2

Dirección- Ciudad, Departamento: Carrera 11 # 62-26 , Cali, Valle del Cauca

Teléfonos de contacto: 441 74 32 – 316 845 75 58

Correo electrónico institucional: contacto@fundaciondrecca.org

Página web de la organización: www.fundaciondrecca.org

Fecha de constitución: 14 de Junio 2011

Nombre de la persona contacto para esta propuesta: JUAN GABRIEL GIRALDO HURTADO

Teléfono Fijo: +57 (092) 441 74 32

Teléfono Móvil: 318 6048295 - 316 8457558

Correo electrónico: jgiraldo@fundaciondrecca.org

Fecha de entrega de la propuesta:

Nombre del representante legal: Juan Gabriel Giraldo Hurtado

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Fundación para el Desarrollo y Reivindicación Etno-Cultural de las Comunidades Afrodescendientes - DRECCA.

QUIENES SOMOS

La Fundación para el Desarrollo y Reivindicación Etno-Cultural de las Comunidades Afrodescendientes DRECCA, es una organización social colombiana sin ánimo de lucro, que promueve el desarrollo de las comunidades raizales, palenqueras, negras y afros a partir de la valorización de sus activos culturales y la reivindicación de los derechos humanos, que contribuyen al posicionamiento y reconocimiento académico, cultural, científico y social de las comunidades afro descendientes.

Fundación DRECCA, inició a raíz del paro que los corteros de caña de azúcar llevaron a cabo en el año 2008 en el Valle del Cauca. Inquietos por la problemática de estos hombres humildes y de precaria formación académica, - muchos de ellos con origen Afrodescendiente-, fue así cuando un grupo de jóvenes afrodescendientes profesionales nos dimos a la tarea de formar un movimiento que pudiera ayudar a estos trabajadores que por derecho propio reclaman justicia y equidad laboral.

En vista de ello, empezamos nuestro trabajo haciendo acompañamiento en esta iniciativa, de cara a denunciar la violación de los derechos humanos y laborales de estos hombres humildes.

Los escritos de denuncia, sirvieron para que organizaciones nacionales e internacionales, como la Escuela Nacional Sindical y ACTRAV oficina de trabajadores de la OIT, con sede en Turín, Italia, tuvieran conocimiento de lo que estaba sucediendo con la problemática socio laboral del momento con los corteros de caña de azúcar en nuestro país.

Una vez terminado el paro este grupo de jóvenes decidió conformar la Fundación para el Desarrollo y la Reivindicación Etno-Cultural de las Comunidades Afrodescendientes DRECCA. La cual llevó como primer proyecto de trabajo la sensibilización y capacitación de derechos laborales, realizada a los corteros de caña de azúcar y sus familias en los municipios de Palmira, Cerrito, Pradera, Puerto Tejada y Florida, ubicados dentro del Departamento del Valle del Cauca.

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Misión

Nuestra Misión es promover la reivindicación y desarrollo de los derechos humanos de la población Negra, Afrocolombiana, Raizal y Palenquera, con la formulación, planeación, implementación y ejecución de programas y proyectos de alta incidencia social que atiendan las necesidades de la población en condición vulnerable, con la implementación de buenas prácticas de responsabilidad social empresarial, resaltándose nuestra riqueza cultural, reconociéndose e incluyéndose la identidad afro a nivel Nacional e Internacional y promoviendo la defensa de los derechos ambientales y el empoderamiento sostenible de los activos culturales que tienen las comunidades Afrodescendientes en Colombia.

Visión

Fomentar durante ésta década y las siguientes, el reconocimiento, respeto, deber de garantía y protección de los derechos humanos de la población Negra, Afrocolombiana, Raizal y Palenquera por parte del Estado y de los demás actores sociales, a través del impulso de propuestas con un enfoque social incluyente y emprendedor hacia la construcción de un nuevo tejido social no solo en Colombia sino también de orden internacional.

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JUSTIFICACIÓN

En la actualidad es indiscutible que el desarrollo humano no depende solo de la reducción de la pobreza, existe consenso de modo creciente que este objetivo requiere también aumentar la equidad y proporcionar la disminución de las desigualdades de todo tipo.

En los últimos años, los(as) afrodescendientes en Colombia se convirtieron en actores sociales y políticos que reivindican sus derechos, siendo que la historia de la población Afrodescendiente se expresa en un continuo de resistencia y fuerza, que marcan los últimos siglos de la historia de los países de la región.

Según los datos estadísticos, la población Afrodescendiente presenta los indicadores más bajos de exclusión social. En contrapunto a esa dura realidad, existen algunos marcos que apuntan para la potencialidad de las diversas juventudes afrodescendientes organizadas, tales como las redes, movimientos y organizaciones; además del diálogo con el poder público que tiene algunos avances a favor de la equidad racial en los últimos años.

Los gobiernos, organizaciones sociales y organismos internacionales, trabajan junto con las poblaciones Afrodescendientes en la lucha contra el racismo, la discriminación racial, y por la inclusión de esta población en los espacios de toma de decisiones y definiciones de políticas públicas. En ese marco de actuación política, la juventud afrodescendiente siempre ha protagonizado una serie de momentos socio políticos en los países, fortaleciendo y valorando la lucha del movimiento social afrodescendiente en el mundo, y reconociéndose como parte de él.

Ese movimiento indica la construcción de un nuevo papel para las juventudes afrodescendientes, que vista de modo participativo y pro-activo, construir un nuevo panorama social para la juventud, valorando las distinciones y superando las desigualdades.



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ANTECEDENTES

En el primer foro de jóvenes tuvimos la oportunidad de reunir estudiantes Afros de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, el cual realizamos en la sede de la ciudad de Palmira Valle del Cauca, este foro nos permitió identificar las dificultades que enfrentan los/as jóvenes Afros, para acceder a la educación superior, también se evidenció que en una universidad pública la cifra de estudiantes afros no llegaba a 100 de una población de casi 2000 estudiantes, teniendo en cuenta que Palmira esta rodeada de municipios como Florida, Pradera, Cerrito, Guacari, Candearia, donde la actividad principal gira en torno a los ingenios azucareros (Manuelita, Mayagüez, Providencia Riopaila Castilla etc) , los/as hijos e hijas de los corteros de la caña y madres trabajadoras domésticas, o vendedores informales o por cuenta propia, en su mayoría migrantes de la zona pacifico, no tienen posibilidad de tener una educación de calidad, por las precariedad de estos trabajos y los jóvenes terminan en delincuencia y pandillas y las jóvenes con embarazos no deseados o en la prostitución.

OBJETIVO GENERAL

El II foro de Juventud Afrodescendientes busca generar y promover la organización, visibilización social y política de la comunidad Afrodescendientes y servirá como plataforma para el análisis de los avances, oportunidades empresariales y desafíos sociales hacia el desarrollo integral de este importante sector; enmarcados en el fortalecimiento de su articulación política y el empoderamiento de los liderazgos jóvenes Afrodescendientes a municipal, regional, nivel nacional e internacional

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OBJETIVOS ESPECIFICOS

- Promover espacios de discusión, debate y diagnóstico entre las organizaciones de afrodescendientes.
- Elaborar de un plan de acción e incidencia para la implementación de políticas públicas y acciones afirmativas hacia la comunidad afro.
- Fortalecer capacidades estratégicas en temas de relevancia para jóvenes líderes afrodescendientes.
- Facilitar el intercambio de mejores prácticas, experiencias y acciones políticas y sociales.
- Empoderar el liderazgo joven afrodescendiente y fortalecer sus articulaciones y canales participación.
- Promover discusiones políticas entre participantes, activistas y expertos nacionales.
- Definir alianzas estratégicas y oportunidades de cooperación.
- Conformar una Plataforma departamental de Juventud Afrodescendientes, como espacio permanente de análisis, intercambio y cooperación entre organizaciones y líderes jóvenes Afrodescendientes del país.
- Proponer la elaboración técnica de proyectos productivos y/o empresariales que permitan el apalancamiento económico de los jóvenes y buscar su promoción y donantes a nivel municipal, regional, nacional e internacional.

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Afrodescendientes - DRECCA.

INFORMACIÓN GENERAL ACERCA DE LA PROPUESTA

Título de la Propuesta:

II FORO JOVENES AFRODESCENDIENTES "FORJAFRO"

Duración del Foro: 3 Días

Localización y Zona donde se Realizara el Encuentro: Cali

Departamento: Valle del Cauca

País: Colombia

Costo Del Foro: 100.000 US

Departamentos Participantes: Valle del Cauca, Choco, Cauca y Nariño.

Comunidad: Jóvenes Afrodescendientes

METAS

- Reunir 100 jóvenes de la Región del pacífico Colombiano y Empoderar el liderazgo joven afrodescendiente y fortalecer sus articulaciones y canales participación.
- Crear una Red Juvenil Regional con los jóvenes asistentes del encuentro que impulse, asesore, acompañe los procesos juveniles de la región que permita un mayor fortalecimiento de estos.
- Crear una Agenda de actividades que permita realizar seguimiento y cumplimiento a los compromisos, planteamientos y propuestas generadas por los jóvenes en el encuentro que garantice la continuidad del proceso "FORJAFRO" bajo el lema "*Inclusión laboral para la Juventud afrodescendientes*".

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ACTIVIDADES

- Realizar convocatoria e invitación formal a las instituciones educativas y organizaciones juveniles de los departamentos del Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Choco y Nariño para que participen del encuentro lo jóvenes de 16 a 29 años de edad.
- Grabar cuñas radiales promocionales para promocionar el encuentro en los medios locales y emisoras comunitarias de los municipios del Sur del Valle del Cauca.
- Realizar convocatoria e invitación por los medios de comunicación como radio con las cuñas, para que los jóvenes se enteren de los procesos y practicas organizativas propuestas por DRECCA.
- Taller de identificación de problemáticas y propuestas de los jóvenes para la elaboración de diagnóstico y mapeo de los procesos y prácticas organizativas.
- Conformación de la Plataforma juvenil.

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TEMATICAS PROPUESTA DEL PROCESO JUVENIL

Las temáticas principales identificadas a tratar en el encuentro “FORJAFRO” se presentan a continuación como resultado de otros encuentros y reuniones realizadas donde participaron jóvenes de los diferentes municipios de la región de Valle del cauca, quienes a gritos plantearon que es importante y urgente hacer una fuerte ilustración para poder comprender y entender más sus dinámicas participativas y su papel fundamental en la sociedad.

- Política Publica de juventud municipal y Departamental del Valle del –cauca, Cauca, Choco, Nariño
- Liderazgo y participación juvenil.
- Concejos Municipales de juventud.
- Participación democrática de los jóvenes en el País.
- Emprendimiento juvenil e inserción laboral para la generación de ingresos económicos.
- Orientación Vocacional, fuentes de acceso y permanencia en la Educación Superior.
- Conocimiento y auto reconocimiento personal desde el Ser Joven Afro.

SEGUIMIENTO Y EVALUACION

En el desarrollo del encuentro se hará el seguimiento permanente a cada una de las actividades propuestas, lo que permitirá recopilar la información necesaria para realizar la evaluación y la reorientación de algunas actividades del encuentro que asegure el impacto final del mismo.

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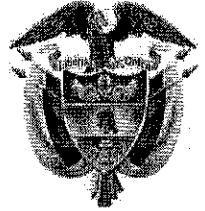
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REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA

CENTRO DE AUTORECONOCIMIENTO AFROCOLOMBIANO

Res. 0339 de 2010 Dir. Comunidades Negras, MIJ



VISIÓN CENAFRO, PARA EL NUEVO FORO DEL DECENIO DE PERSONAS DE ASCENDENCIA AFRICANA

Por medio del presente compartimos algunos puntos de vista que consideramos pueden ser el prioritario enfoque del decenio de las personas de ascendencia africana:

Antecedentes: Es evidente que aun en el presente, las personas de ascendencia africana siguen siendo víctimas de las secuelas históricas y modernas de la esclavización vivida por nuestros ancestros, lo cual ha llevado a la multiplicación y dispersión de la Diáspora por todas las naciones del planeta, en búsqueda de oportunidades, pero a pesar de todo el dinero que se ha logrado se invierta, las condiciones sociales, académicas y económicas no les varían demasiado a lo que históricamente se conoce, más se percibe que las pocas (relativamente) personas que han logrado superar esas barreras o secuelas, tienen como punto comunes, el haberse vinculado a estructuras organizativa, el concretar sus intereses de formación académica, el implementar sus propias iniciativas productivas, e incursionar en política, por ello como organización de población afrocolombiana, proponemos que en el marco de los lineamientos base del Decenio, se consideren las siguientes recomendaciones y observaciones, como temáticas centrales del próximo Foro para Personas de Ascendencia Africana.

Fines y objetivos: Tomando como ejemplo lo comentado en los antecedentes, el objetivo del Foro, debe ser el concertar y trazar una agenda pública y una estrategia endógena de estructuración organizativa u organizacional para la consecución del posicionamiento o desarrollo político, académico y económico, que dé buen uso las realidades, potencialidades, expectativas y el compromiso de avance social, del recurso humano calificado, no calificado y en formación, que compone la Diáspora en el mundo.

Enfoque temático: Las Personas de la Diáspora, deben observar el ejemplo de cómo algunos congéneres y parte de las personas del resto de la sociedad, han logrado superar las múltiples barreras o secuelas que nos son comunes, y el cómo la sociedad se rige por estructuras organizacionales, por ello el Foro debe enfocarse en el tema de Estructuración Social y Organizativa, de la Perspectiva Política, la Educación y de Generación Autosostenible de Ingresos en las personas de Ascendencia Africana.

Esto no significa que se asuma que han desaparecido o se deben dejar de lado las secuelas o barreras cualitativas (Racismo, Discriminación), pero con éstas se disiparían la mayoría de las secuelas y barreras cuantitativas (Pobreza, desigualdad, etc), igual unas y otras deben ser tema de Foros independientes, para buscar y evaluar luego, los mecanismos más eficientes para articular lo resultado, como posible forma de solución y su abordaje en el marco del Decenio, y hasta que maduren en la sociedad.

Formato: Es indispensable que se tomen en cuenta las voces de las bases, sin embargo debe considerarse que esta población mundialmente tiene factores comunes de afectación, muchas veces vedados, obstruidos, manipulados y censurados por los Estados y agentes privados internos y externos, a causa de sus necesidades y vulnerabilidades.

CALLE 08 # 10 - 063, URBANIZACIÓN SAN MARTIN II

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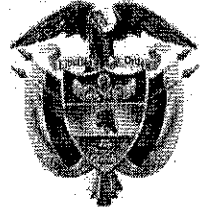
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REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA

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Orden del día: El orden del día puede ser el que se considere pertinente, mientras analice, evacue y logre consensos de fondo, respecto a la temática propuesta.

Garantía participación: Se deben perfilar las personas a asistir, según los temas a tratar, la trayectoria, la pertinencia y los precedentes positivos alcanzados, según el contexto de los distintos continentes, países y/o regiones.

Resultados: En base a lo anterior, como resultado del próximo Foro para Personas de Ascendencia Africana, deben por lo menos concertar, trazar y adoptar los siguientes puntos:

1. Una agenda Institucional pública, multilateral, intersectorial e interdisciplinaria, con lineamientos básicos propios, respecto al posicionamiento o desarrollo político, académico, económico y otros, de las Personas de Ascendencia Africana en las Naciones.
2. Una estrategia endógena (mundial) de estructuración, posicionamiento y desarrollo político, académico, económico y otros, de las Personas de Ascendencia Africana, con sus respectivas cuantificaciones económicas de ejecución.
3. La implementación del Banco o Fondo de inversión económica del Decenio, la Agencia para el desarrollo de las personas de ascendencia africana, y/o el Foro permanente de las personas de ascendencia Africana de la ONU, como órganos visionarios de los mecanismos de abordaje del Decenio, y asesores a las Naciones respecto a esta población.
4. Un mandato respecto a la no transversalización de las realidades, potencialidades, expectativas y el compromiso de avance social, de la Diáspora de Personas de Ascendencia Africana en las Naciones.

Cordialmente,

JOSÉ FERNANDO TAPIÁ ACUÑA

CC 88'231132 de Cúcuta

Director Nacional Cenafro

Celular: 320 868 4582

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Cúcuta - N de S, Colombia

Submission for Forum for People of African Descent

María del Pilar Ramírez Gröbli
PhD, University of St.Gallen

Organización y fortalecimiento de redes transnacionales de Afro-descendientes: reconstrucción de la memoria afro y regulación social

Los procesos locales de organización de afrodescendientes en América Latina constituyen simientes esenciales de reconstrucción de la memoria etno-histórica y se convierten en núcleo del empoderamiento afro-continental.

Los movimientos afrolatinoamericanos demandan la restauración y reivindicación de sus conocimientos, prácticas, saberes, cosmovisiones, formas de organización, para reconstruir la identidad afrodescendiente. La concepción de los proyectos etno-políticos se instituye en la memoria e identidad étnicas y propone la elaboración de directrices de inclusión que tengan incidencia en estructuras de justicia social, medioambiental y participación democrática. El fortalecimiento en la construcción de redes afrodescendientes -locales, nacionales y transnacionales- debe ser uno de los propósitos centrales. Existe una extensa red de afrodescendientes en Sur y Centro América, con una amplia gama de temáticas y objetivos. Es pertinente, investigar exhaustivamente cómo y qué patrones de organización optimizan el funcionamiento de las redes y promueven la cohesión social. Además, es necesario promover el avance y desarrollo de los temas-eje *bottom-up* del trabajo intra-redes. La reconstrucción de la memoria afro a nivel transnacional no sólo es un reconocimiento de siglos de exclusión de las comunidades negras, sino que se puede convertir en un mecanismo cultural de transformación de los sistemas que regulan la participación social, y a que su vez modifican la cultura política. La lucha contra la exclusión étnica y el racismo necesitan no solamente un marco jurídico, sino que deben estar soportados por un sistema de valoración cultural que promueva la convivencia y la igualdad. Existe una complementariedad entre normas legales, normas sociales y normas morales; estos tres sistemas deben retroalimentarse, para avanzar hacia el establecimiento de la equidad como norma social de cohabitación pluriétnica, en el continente Latinoamericano.

Short CV

María del Pilar Ramírez Gröbli has completed her PhD Studies in September 2014 in the Doctoral Program "Organization und Culture" at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. From January 2010 to 2014 she worked as Department Assistant and as a Teacher Fellow at the Department of Spanish Language and Literature at the same University. In 2007, she graduated as Lic. Phil I in Spanish and Political Science at the University of Zürich. Mrs. Ramírez obtained a Licentiate Degree in Spanish and English Literature and Linguistics at the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Bogotá, Colombia, in 1994, and a Master in International Relations at the Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia, in 1999. Her doctoral project deals with culture and conflict; she analyses narrative and musical production composed by

Colombian rural communities that were uprooted from their territories as a result of large-scale palm oil plantations. Two of her recent publications are: *Itinerarios líricos de la inclusión: el hip-hop y el rap en Colombia*, y *la representación entre el yo y el nosotros en cantos y relatos del desplazamiento en Colombia*

Foro Década Afrodescendientes

¿Cuál debería ser los propósitos y objetivos del foro para personas de ascendencia africana?, su enfoque temático? el formato y el orden del día?

Los propósitos y objetivos del foro deben estar distantes de las campañas y discursos superficiales que suelen utilizar los gobiernos que poco ayudan a atacar los estereotipos raciales y la discriminación estructural incluida la política. Ya que no nos quieren REPARAR por el sufrimiento y explotación de nuestros antepasados y las consecuencias que aun soportamos los afros en el mundo por el crimen más horrible de la esclavitud y la trata, y teniendo en cuenta que los pilares de la "Década" son el Desarrollo, la Justicia y el Reconocimiento, pues que se note y así hacemos que esta efeméride valga la pena.

Resulta imperioso y necesario que el foro se **enfoque en:** 1) La educación y salud de calidad, la vivienda digna para los afrodescendientes, no como políticas públicas que a veces parecen paños de agua tibia en países como Colombia con muchas buenas intenciones pero pocas realidades, pero como obligaciones reales del Estado que garantiza derechos. ¿Cómo hace el Foro para que los Gobiernos se comprometan? 2) hay que focalizarse en los jóvenes y los problemas de violencia, despojo y desplazamiento que viven los afros en los territorios ancestrales debido megaproyectos como la minería. ¿Cómo se hace para tratar este tema cuando países como Colombia están comprometidos con el "desarrollo" a toda costa sin importarle su propia gente y lo que ellos consideran como desarrollo? 3) En los países y en Colombia hay necesidad de llamar la atención (mediante campañas fuertes) a la sociedad toda sobre la necesidad de eliminar la discriminación (esa de cuando a un afro no se le arrienda una habitación solo por ser afro, esa que no le permite el acenso laboral o acceso a cargos y dignidades altas dentro del Estado, esa que le impide a una mujer recibir trato digno o a un joven negro y campesino vivir en su territorio sin ser reclutado y con posibilidades reales de tener educación de calidad y empleo digno, etc.)

El formato y el orden del día. Muy pocas conferencias magistrales pero varias mesas de trabajo-temas puntuales y temáticas de interés de la problemática de los afros (6-8 mesas). Un par de talleres (ej. Temas relacionados con los currículos escolares o cátedra afro) con jóvenes afros líderes en sus regiones y países y un par de eventos culturales. El orden del día, en todo caso, poco protocolo y mucho tiempo para compromisos serios y realizables adaptables a las realidades generalizadas de los afros en el mundo y en los diferentes contextos. En el caso de Colombia habrá que dialogar de la "agenda Pacífico XXI y ordenamiento territorial regional, ahí está la propuesta para la década sumándole la respuesta estatal a la crisis humanitaria y de desplazamiento.

¿Cómo asegurar la amplia participación en el foro y lo que deberían ser sus resultados?

Para que se dé amplia participación, debe buscarse mecanismos de subsidio para que los afros que resisten en los territorios puedan tener la oportunidad de acceder a este Foro tan importante. Esos subsidios de asistencia al foro y para el fortalecimiento de las organizaciones afros-durante el Decenio-que se vincule todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y las organizaciones aliadas.

Este no debe ser un espacio de los de siempre ni solo de los académicos, hay que vincular a los jóvenes y no necesariamente a los privilegiados en las grandes ciudades pero a los jóvenes menos favorecidos que son y pueden ser agentes de cambio social para la comunidad negra. Es importante que se desarrolle una estrategia mediática que permita una amplia difusión para que las organizaciones (no las de siempre en los diferentes países) puedan inscribir sus delegados al "Foro". Utilizar, por ejemplo, a las redes de defensores de los derechos humanos, entre ellos los becarios del Programa del Alto Comisionado de los derechos Humanos, para sugerir organizaciones de base en sus países que les permita el subsidio y la asistencia al Foro.

Los resultados del Foro deben buscar la integración de los afros en el mundo, visibilización de las experiencias, estrategias de organización y fortalecimiento de los procesos organizativos. Los resultados del Foro tienen que vigorizar el compromiso y la tarea de trabajar para lograr la justicia, el reconocimiento y el **DESARROLLO**, así como lucha frontal contra la discriminación y el racismo partiendo de la Declaración y Programa de Acción de Durban y la Conferencia de Examen de Durban.

Cordialmente,

Elsi Angulo

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NEW FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

People of African descent have for centuries been victims of racism, racial discrimination, enslavement, colonialism, want of education, adequate housing, health care and denial of their rights. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action specify that a victim-oriented approach is an important tool to eliminate racial discrimination. Specific reference is made to Africans and people of African descent. History reflected the legacy of the very injustices suffered by Africans and their descendants. Now it should be the integral part of thematic focus and principal aims and objectives for the people of African Descent to be observed from 2015 to 2024 constitutes an auspicious period of history and side by side the UN General Assembly proclaimed in its resolution 68 /237, the theme to establish "Recognition, Justice and Development" in the region.

In many cases people of African descent suffer from multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination based on other related grounds like age, sex, language, religion, property, birth, disability, social origin, political, etc.

The main objective of the international decade should be to promote respect. Protection and fulfillment of all Human Rights and fundamental freedoms and it shall focus on to strengthen national, regional and international action and cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, to promote greater knowledge and respect for the diverse heritage, by people of African descent with national, regional and international legal frameworks in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Study the measures, propose measures to ensure full and effective access to the justice system, submit recommendations on the design, implementation and enforcement of effective measures, make and elaborate short, medium and long-term proposals for the elimination of racial discrimination against Africans and people of African descent in all parts of the world.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination invites States parties, United Nations bodies and specialised agencies, United Nations human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and other relevant organizations and individuals to participate in the thematic discussion, information presented during the day of thematic discussion, including the submissions of the panelists, and to share their experience and express their views.

The outcome of the forum are to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of discrimination; to promote the visibility of the diverse heritage and culture; and to collect lessons learned in this regard, will systematize and study the information obtained, proceed to debate and decide further actions, including issuing recommendations in relation to the elimination of racial discrimination against people of African descent.

In the present era the United Nations to maintain parity between all states, to fulfill their demands, establish the Indigenous Rights, maintain peace, Law & Justice and to restrain any discrimination against people of African Descent is going to start a successful Forum. In my view African community can have a platform to raise their voice and demand throughout the world and solve their problem.

..... Samir Kumar Das-IMAECSED.

Forum for People of African Descent

UN should promote the basic fundamentals principle of human rights that every human being has right to acquire education and open door towards people of Africa to have access to higher education as we know for centuries Africans have been denied right to learn, despite the effort which have been conducted by many governments in recent years, to build schools and other educational institutes but still there is need of doing more.

The concern authorities are needed to inform and arrange some campaigns which will attract youths in pursuing high education, in order to be competitive in labour market, and be ready for any available opportunities.

Building of networks, associations as well organization among people of African descendants to learn and share views over different aspects concerning preservation of human dignities.

In long run Diasporas communities around the World could in some ways make connections with ancestors back in Africa and share their experiences. This platform will connect Africans descendants and Africans who live in Africa to have dialog.

, Internationl community has to acknowledge Africa communities to readjust their mind-set for the better future and avoid conflicts which lead to violence against humanity.

In order to understand the very nature of racial discrimination, inhuman degradation and their consequences. It is in fact the international community has to take responsibility by stopping any kind of inhuman activities by looking very far ahead into people environments. It is very important for the politicians to amend legislations which will fit to change people's mind which base on racial aspects. By looking the history, social media the pictures of Africa is always miserable, hunger, wars and full of conflicts. All of these images automatically reflect on nation that Africans are ignorant, poor and weakest human-beings. These are contributing factors towards racial discriminations.

The other phenomenal is has been used for centuries is that categorize people skin complexion, this mean Africans with light skin complex will be treated different from darker skin, this customary create conflict among many Africans and outcome of it Africans form some kind of inequality within their own communities, for example some family member they might put darker skin child to serve as housemaid, despise and abuse the child constant. Personally I would like to inform UN to pressurize African countries and other nation to abolish this practise. UN should continue to emphasize its policy of protecting children from working.

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2015 FORUM - AFRO-DESCENDANTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

By: Leonardo Reales, Ph.D.(c)¹

Aims and Objectives

Given the evident need for human rights awareness, this Forum should aim to educate people (both Afro-descendants and those who are not) on Afro-descendant-related issues. The institutionalization of training programs focused on political, cultural, women's and minorities' rights is paramount. To achieve this, the Forum's objectives should be:

- Educate leaders and teachers on the meaning and use of human rights frameworks.
- Share tools to increase the ethnic-oriented process of participation / mobilization.
- Empower Afro-descendant organizations at both national and international levels.
- Help secure resources for the sustainability of these would-be training programs.

Thematic Focus, Format and Agenda

Both the Forum and its participants should work on the five following topics in accessible language:

- 1) Afro-Descendant History, Ethnic Identity and Participation
- 2) International and Regional Human Rights Frameworks
- 3) The Rights of Afro-Descendant Women and Children
- 4) Social Development Projects and International Cooperation
- 5) Afro-Descendant Leadership, Mobilization and Empowerment

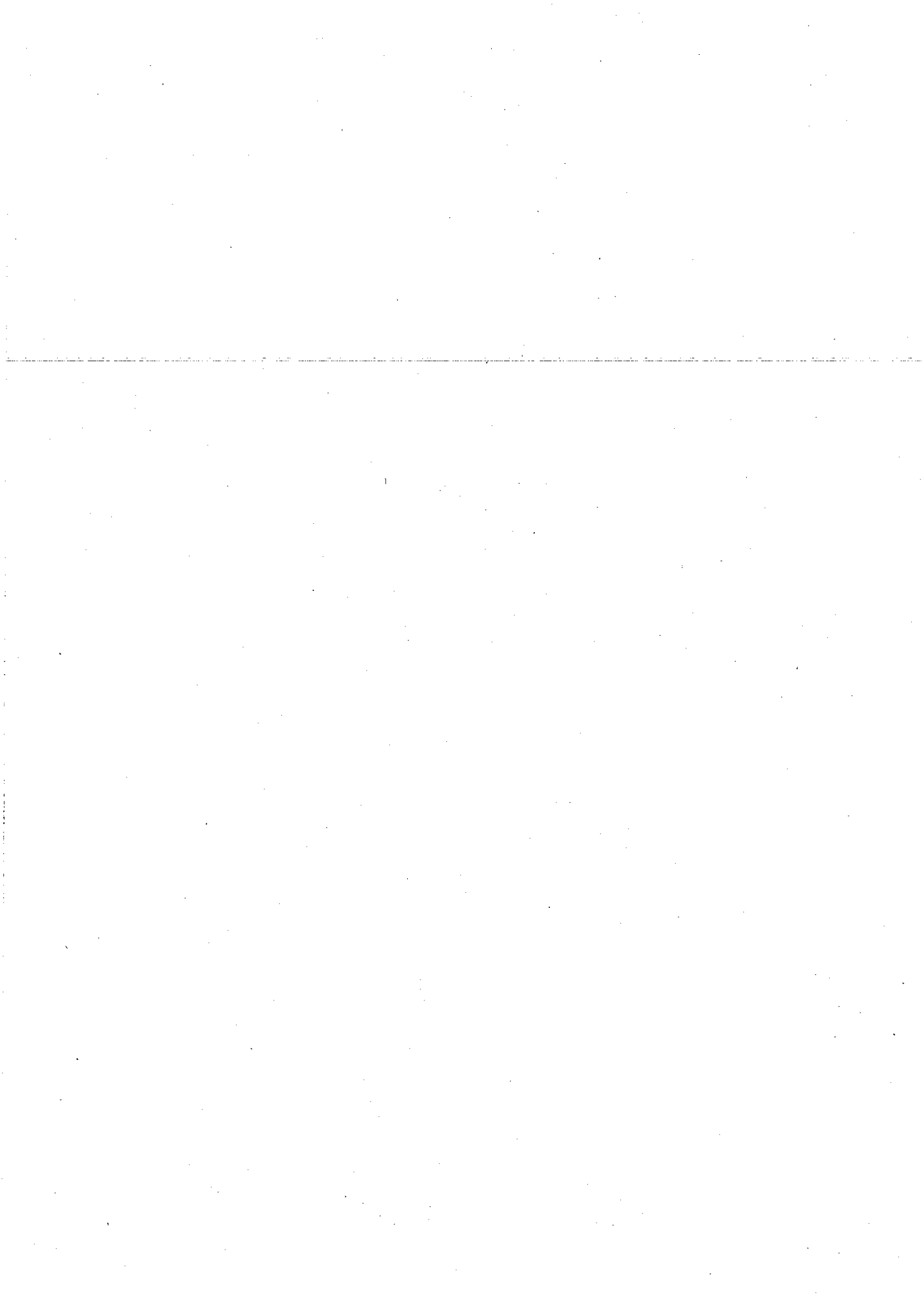
Trainees would learn by observation, listening and speaking. Photographs and videos have proven to be effective materials for demonstrating key concepts and spurring guided roundtable discussions.

Outcomes and Feedback

A significant impact - in the field - would be a shift in the language of participants. Trainees would undergo a change in consciousness, from racialized and internalized self-doubt to dignity, pride and self-respect. With new awareness, alumni would return to their communities to secure resources and support for the creation of ethnic-oriented (education and citizen) campaigns. It is important to also consider the multiplier effects of educating those who will train others in human rights.

In addition to individual impacts, outcomes would also be produced at the organizational level. Both the Forum and the proposed training programs should create a high degree of synergy that would be unparalleled in the economic, social and political history of Afro-descendants in Latin American and the Caribbean. By raising the awareness of Afro-descendants, additional projects of importance can be launched. Feedback would be welcomed throughout the process, which would facilitate dialogues with trainees on the main topics and agenda. All actors involved in the process would surely take into account suggestions and innovative ideas in order to enhance the trainings at all levels.

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Forum for People of African Descent

The concept of Human rights is normally carries a broad meaning, with politician, leaders of civil society and philosophers always debating questions surrounding human rights for generations. What are human rights? How can we promote and protect human rights? What is the moral grounding of human rights? Why believe in human rights? What are the limits of human rights?

Human rights affirm that, as human beings no matter the race, we are all entitled to equal treatment and opportunities, despite our origin, gender, economic situation, ethnicity, etc. The term 'human rights' refers to a set of rights that each human is entitled to equally. Rights can be civil, religious, cultural, social, economic or political.

It is fundamental to note that can hold if a state takes the obligation to oversee the practice meanwhile we the individuals emphasize upon practicing the rights. It is important to always note that despite of the fact that you may have rights over something or to practice something they should not counter or antagonize the rights and freedom of a third party.

For instance, the right to eat, the right to shelter, the right to practice any religion and the right to free expression, are all fundamental human rights. They mean that we, despite our background, must have equal access to each of these rights. The concept of human rights therefore underlines that all human beings are entitled to certain standards of treatment and freedoms, affirming our moral equality.

To simplify the idea of human rights, some scholars have broken human rights up into three generations. The first generation encompasses all civil and political rights set forth the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These rights encompass freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of peaceful assembly and association; the right of all to take part in the government of their country; equal access to public services; and, periodic and genuine elections.

The second generation of rights refers to economic, social, and cultural rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These rights often refer to the right to social security; the right to work and to protection against unemployment; the right to rest and leisure, including periodic holidays with pay; the right to a standard of living adequate for the

The second generation of rights refers to economic, social, and cultural rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These rights often refer to the right to social security; the right to work and to protection against unemployment; the right to rest and leisure, including periodic holidays with pay; the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of self and family; the right to education; and the right to the protection of one's scientific, literary, and artistic production.

The third generation of rights refers to communal and group rights, as laid out in Article twenty-eight of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There are six rights encompassed within the third generation: the right to political, economic, social, and cultural self-determination; the right to economic and social development; the right to participate in and benefit from the common heritage of humanity; the right to peace; the right to a healthy and sustainable environment; and, the right to humanitarian disaster relief.

It is important to note that these rights are indivisible and interdependent. No right, under law, is more important than another is. All must be upheld equally. The term "three generations" does not imply any order of importance or hierarchy of these rights.

Conclusion

From a human rights perspective, I believe that all people no matter their background have rights to social, economic and political arrangements that secure them a life of freedom and dignity and protect them from deprivation and harm. From this assumption, it is obvious that improving, promoting, and safeguarding human rights is the key to the well-being and a bright promising society future.

As a person of African Descent I commend the UN for taking this initiative and I hope that it will bring the envisaged recognition, justice and development of PAD across the world.

I have the following to include in my submission

1. Aims and objectives

- To ensure that there is widespread awareness of the decade
- To ensure that member states are held accountable in terms of what they should be doing per the programme of activities
- To request and monitor individual state programme of activities

2. Thematic focus

- Progress report from the Durban Conference, Geneva Conference and progress from the International Year as well as progress on the activities within the decade
- Fundraising initiatives to assist organisations wishing to make a contribution
- Public Private Partnership initiatives (particularly multinational companies with footprints in Africa and the Diaspora)

3. Format and Agenda

- The format of the forum should be inclusive and be a broad representative of UN member states, UN organisations, civil society, people of African descent and interested individuals
- I would suggest mini forums in member states
- The agenda should cover the programme of activities as outlined by the UN with clear follow up sessions and report back mechanisms
- The agenda should also provide for submissions on an ongoing basis

4. How to ensure wide participation

- Social media platforms must be used extensively, the current Facebook page for IDPAD is not very informative and has information on there not really relevant to the decade, twitter campaigns and hashtags are a great tool to get the message to the masses. Also using state news agencies as information disseminators
- I would propose that all member states should have at least one public event where they commit to the decade and it should all be done in 2015
- The mini forums can also be a great tool to get wider participation from communities across the world
- Online surveys can also be a feature on the website or facebook page

5. Outcomes of Forum

- I envisage that the forum should plan as one of its outcomes to exist beyond the decade and ensure ongoing activities in line with the themes of the decade.
- The forum should attempt to be a real grass roots platform and not get bogged down with bureaucracy
- The forum should actively campaign for the economic freedom and liberation of PAD as a tangible indicator of eroding the lingering effects of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism

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Anastasia Nkhalamba

Vision for the new Forum for People of African Descent Submission

The aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent should be to promote ongoing dialogue among interested parties throughout the International Decade for People of African Descent and widen participation among citizens and organisation across UN member states.

The thematic focus of the decade, as proclaimed by the general assembly is recognition, justice and development. It follows then that the format and the agenda should be inclusive of all aspects of this theme.

Wide participation in the Forum can be achieved by a good level publicity within member nations, clearly communicating to citizens the fact the International Decade for People of African Decent exists and that there are opportunities to get involved in the Forum.

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What should be the aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent?

The aim of the forum is to have a concise and open dialogue on the various injustices affecting people of African descent. Once the aims are fully outlined and agreed upon, the objectives can be integrated. It is crucial that the various topics and themes outlined for the forum are directly aimed at the people of African descent. It is important to acknowledge that there is still work to be done regarding racism towards people of African descent and its impact economically, socially and psychologically.

Thematic focus

Racism and racial disparities socially and economically, should be one of the topics of discussion and its impact on the affected population. The impact of poverty, discrimination and the lack of social inclusion, results in negative outcomes usually manifesting itself in a surge of violence, migration and instability overall. The full participation of governments, international organizations, NGO's and civil society is imperative to encourage a solution and results based approach to the various injustices experienced by the marginalized community.

The format and agenda

Laws have already been passed and at this point we need to evaluate the progress, (whether positive and or negative) the lessons learned and encourage a result but mostly a solution based approach. Delegates, individuals and organizations may offer testimonials of experiences by providing a concrete approach on how to involve the higher stakeholders, in implementing and reaffirming laws targeted to improve the lives of the affected populations. Advocacy, open dialogue and accountability should be the main themes on the agenda. We cannot continue to ignore the various injustices surrounding people of African descent and it is our responsibility as advocates to continue and ensure that economic and social equality become a reality. Absence of true and transparent equality strips nations of economic, social and historical growth. A plan of action, a proposal with a results based approach should be the final outcome, to share with governments, stakeholders and international organizations.

How to ensure wide participation and its eventual outcome?

In order for the forum to be a successful and action focused event, the participation of all (from civil society, the youth to governments) should be of priority. Views from all perspectives are instrumental to the progress achieved and to collectively find solutions to the work that is yet to be done.

**FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (FFPAD) --
Made in Africa**

The Vision for the FFPAD is to have a constant developing, multicultural, harmonious and prosperous Africa. An Africa that is committed to loving and anticipating the needs of each citizen – An Africa that caters to its people for its people.

This aims and objectives of this forum is not only to formulate ideas but also make ideas a reality and encourage citizens to become practitioners of social change. By leaving the past in the past, Africa and the people of Africa can finally move forward to make Africa a continent that is not only dynamic, forward moving, integrated, but also a competitor in many areas, such as the technological, academic, economic, moralistic and political arena. It is time for Africa to help and liberate Africa.

The mission for the FFPAD will become a well-organized, resourceful and value-adding society that will drive/deepen African integration and development in every country within the continent.

Some values will include:

Compassion

Respect for multiculturalism and cooperation;

Establish and develop products with the seal and stamp, "MADE IN AFRICA";

Transparency and responsibility;

Integrity and fairness;

Competence and professionalism;

Information, Communication and sharing of knowledge

All in all, it is good to get people of African descent interested and encouraged to work and be part of this forum. From my personal experience and knowledge, this group of people has a wealth of knowledge, ideas and compassion for the African continent.

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Forum for People of African Descent

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The **vision** for the “Forum for PAD” is that it will serve as a means to collecting, processing and disseminating ideas and input that will contribute positively to the “Decade Initiative’s” implementation. The Forum’s **aims and objectives** could be, but not limited to serving as “information central”, categorizing activities and aligning efforts. Another Forum **objective** could be to “demystify” the various UN resolutions to contribute to a better understanding the IDPAD Initiative.

The Forum’s possible “**themes**” can revolve around the complexities (Recognition, Justice, Development and multiple aggravated discrimination) as they relate to the Initiative and challenges faced by PAD. Other possible **themes** could include accentuating the focus on sectors (education, healthcare, infrastructure, technology, etc.) as they impact the complexities faced by PAD.

Thematically, one of the author’s focus areas is on how to personalize (IDPAD4U2) the Initiative. The idea is to create the opportunity for “individual” involvement. That is—to enable grassroots’ participation. As a Quality Management System consultant, the **theme of Quality** for PAD is being explored. Pursuant to this theme we are contemplating involving the International Standards Organization (ISO) as 75% of its members are from developing countries. Perhaps the PAD Forum might want to consider a theme that networks with other pertinent forums.

A possible “**format**” (layout) for the Forum could revolve around the Initiatives focus on the residual and lingering effects of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism as they relate to racism, prejudices, discrimination, and xenophobia that creates the complexities for PAD.

The **agenda’s** overall goals should revolve around collecting, unpacking, processing and sharing information that will enable a clearer understanding of the challenges faced by PAD. A specific agenda item should be to explain and/or demonstrate how the decade’s success will benefit not only PAD. That is—how the Initiative will impact the world and other cultures. The **agenda** could include but not be limited to:

1. Explaining and clarifying who PAD includes.
2. Researching and Identifying colonizing and non-colonialist countries that benefitted and are benefitting from past and present practices that victimize PAD
3. Identifying entities (organizations, companies, associations, etc.) that appear to be oblivious to the challenges faced by PAD
4. Creating “scorecards” and/or “indicators” for the entities’ performance relative to obliging PAD
5. Identifying laws, policies, and practices that adversely impact PAD
6. Developing a database of/for PAD
7. Developing and weighting criteria to highlight and target the most distressed PAD (women/youth)
8. Creating strategies for PAD to “internalize the externalities” of our complexities. {Externality is when someone admits a behavior that was unintended and unknowingly caused harm. Internalize simply means making them aware of the behavior’s impact.}
9. Creating a “video communication network” as a component of the Forum

Wide participation should allow for and enable PAD and non-PAD use of the Forum. The electronic, communication and print Medias should be used to accommodate reaching Africa, The Diaspora and all parts of the world. Special attention should be given to developing countries considering their challenges with ICT. All of the embassies of the world should be able to access and participate in the Forum.

The **expected outcome** for the Forum should be to garner input and participation as measured by “hits”, “postings”, “inquiries”, “referrals” and “downloads.” The Forum should contribute to raising awareness, explaining and advising on implementing the Initiative’s activities. It should also aid in creating processes for M&E strategies for the Initiative.

Forum for People of African Descent

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Wide participation in the Forum can be enhanced through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Specifically, audio and video conferencing (AVC) is proposed to make the Forum more dynamic and robust. It (AVC) will allow for more of the “human factors” as they relate to facial expressions, body language and voice tone.

The idea is to make the Forum more personable in relation to communicating for a better understanding. It's also designed to allow the Forum to work from anywhere, and yet allow participation to be as productive and socially connected as when in the office. The Forum's AVC concept and feature are based on a deep understanding of the nuance of building trust over video. This makes the Forum's remote (field) work a trivial and an instantaneous affair.

The underlying idea behind a Forum wide area and somewhat secured network is to facilitate drilling down and keeping in touch with the Users. The envisaged setup for the Forum will also greatly enhance recording and documenting communication exchanges.

Naturally, the envisaged AVC feature will facilitate language translation and interpretation via existing software applications like “translate” for smartphones, tablets and PCs'

This forum should be as inclusive as possible of the African diaspora. It should also hold each and every country or territory responsible for the mistreatment and murder of people of African descent and make sure it stops and holds national and international consequences.

One main objective should be to find the best ways to use schools across the world already in place to teach the true history of Africa and the diaspora to lessen the negative connotations people have with the continent and its people.

This will allow for more of the diaspora to openly accept their heritage. A key way for the people of the African diaspora to succeed is for them to band together and help themselves. This will be impossible if people of African descent deny their heritage and look down on those who accept it. This causes grave division within these communities.

Another objective of this forum should be to economically empower people of the diaspora.

The thematic focus of this forum should be bringing together and empowering all people of the African diaspora. It is best to make sure to include individuals from every place possible to get multiple perspectives.

The agenda for this forum should include a true history of the initial things that caused these communities strife. With a comprehensive document that lists the background for each community involved that is required reading for the group. This will educate them on the issues faced in the past and now and the ways that have been tried to better the communities. It is imperative that the issues as well as past "solutions" be studied so the group is properly educated and the same problems don't persist when the ground work starts.

After this is studied a document should be put together that includes possible solutions for each community as well as suggestions for neighboring or other communities to support or stand in solidarity with. This planning part will be the most essential as there should be no new ground work started before a plan is put together and agreed upon.

Now more than ever before people are becoming more conscious of the issues these communities are still facing and starting to connect the dots between how they are treated and how other people in the diaspora are treated. The best way to ensure wide participation is to get teams together to do ground work and discover the community organizations or groups that are already committed to the cause and are working to change their communities regardless of grant money or some type of personal benefit.

The outcomes of this forum should be a legitimate plan to benefit people of African descent and empower them to help their own communities grow and flourish. It should also be for them to focus more on empowering their own communities than looking for other people to accept them. If this forum is successful the plan will be laid for the true community change to begin.

Individual submission: New Forum for People of African Descent

I salute the initiative of this OHCHR, as Coordinator for the International Decade for People of African Descent, in calling such submissions in preparation for the Human Rights Council discussion about the new Forum for People of African Descent. This brief and individual submission attempts to summarize some ideas I believe express aspirations of many. I have just seen the call for submission four hours before the deadline, and I have had only a few minutes to draft it. There was no chance to discuss it with colleagues, groups, communities or government representatives, making it into a collective or multi-institutional submission.

What should be the aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent and its thematic focus?

Its aims and objectives should include those of the International Decade for People of African Descent, yet the new Forum must be conceived beyond the ten-year mark, avoiding being coopted or lost in the specific agenda of the Decade. The Decade must enjoy a wider reach through the UN programmatic action, though being self-limited in time. The Forum, as a permanent body, may become narrower in spectrum of action but its incisiveness must be deeper and transformative within the UN system. Its aims and objectives should reflect that vision.

The format and agenda?

This would be a hybrid format, combining different aspects adopted by the Forum for Indigenous People and by the other permanent bodies structured as Permanent Forum. The realities of People of African Descent do not fit completely into the logic that guides the format of the Forum for Indigenous People, although there are some specificities of the diverse experience of People of African Descent that are similar to that of the Indigenous People. However, the Forum for Indigenous People has missed some important aspects that are common in other Fora, which should be considered for the Forum for People of African Descent.

How to ensure wide participation in the Forum, and what should be its outcomes?

Regarding membership, it could be composed in three modalities, including membership segments distributed into 1) one third composed by permanent membership, 2) another third composed by rotating temporary membership, and 3) a third composed by specifically invited (incidental) membership. This format could then also foster other wider participation initiatives and practices.

Regarding outcomes, it should include but not be limited to the post-2015 development agenda. It should rather consider Durban and Durban Review processes as unfinished agendas for all, but in particularly important to be implemented for the sake of People of African Descent, and the new Forum must take it on as its guide.

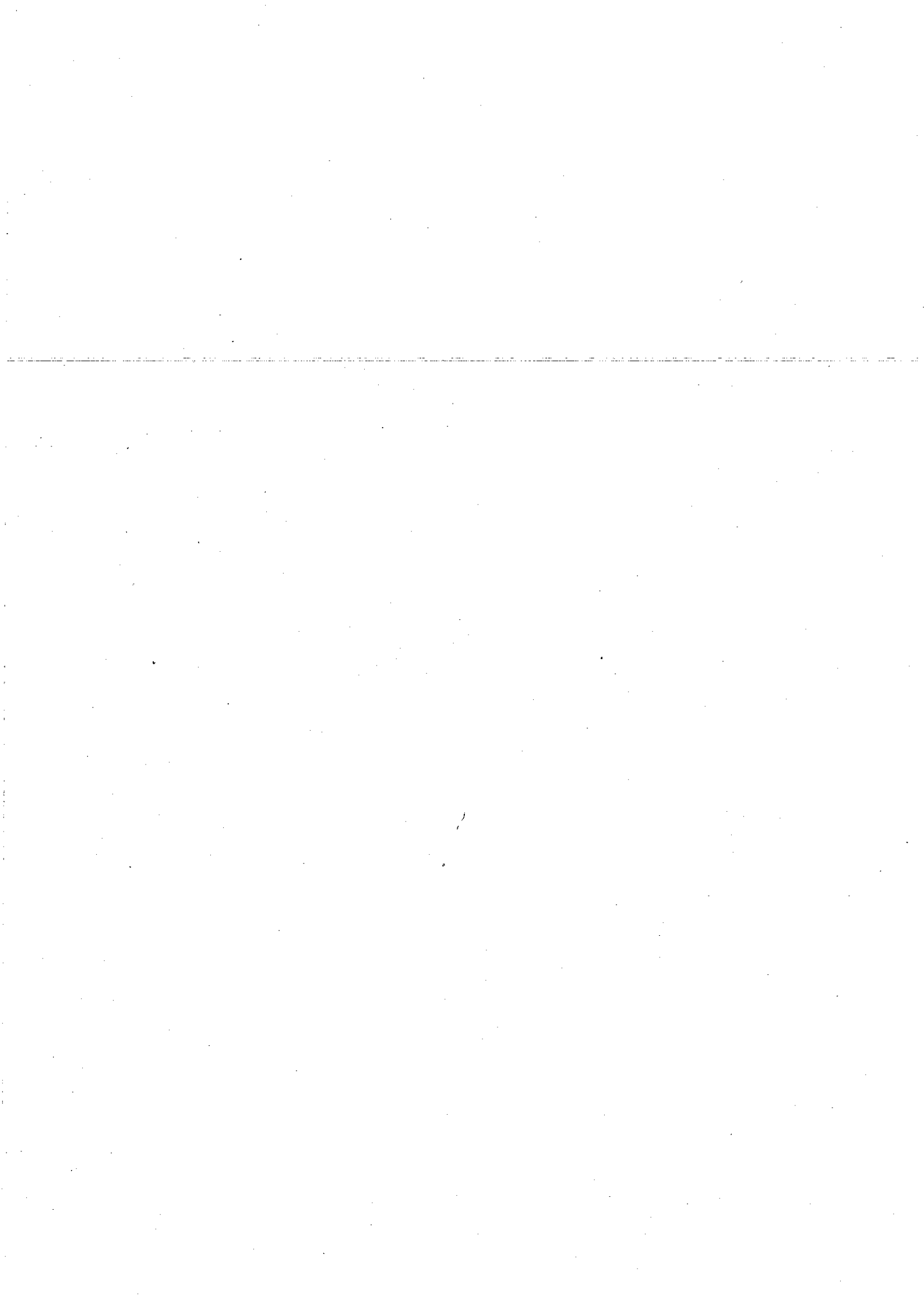
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The objective and aim of the Forum for People of African Descent should be to include people from the African diaspora presenting their perspectives and solutions to the problem of the global white supremacist-capitalist-patriarchal structure and ideology that has oppressed and prevented the development of people of African descent for hundreds of years. The acknowledgement that this ideology has created profound psychological, social, economic, and political problems for people of African descent is fundamental to the Forum for People of African Descent goals of "strengthening national, regional and international cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society."

The agenda should focus on the role of spirituality and religion, with an emphasis on Christianity, in sustaining people of African descent throughout the centuries; the impact and legacy of colonialism on the underdevelopment of Africa; discussions of alternatives to the capitalistic model of business with an emphasis on cooperatives and the concept of economic democracy; addressing the widening global income inequality; bridging any generational divides between people of African descent; the mass incarceration of African-Americans in the United States and its connection to slavery and convict leasing; and the global oppression of women of African descent.

The outcome of this agenda will be the decrease in economic, social, and political inequality of people of African descent which will lead to freedom of all people of color throughout the world.

Best Regards,

Lisa Sewell

6 Village Circle Wake Village, TX, USA 75501

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*To the High Commissioner for Human Rights
As Coordinator for the Decade for People of African Heritage/Descent*

*My name is Sirelda Jackson-van Agt, a woman of African Descent born in Aruba, the Caribbean and living in the Netherlands, entrepreneur, empowerment and motivational speaker and visual artist with 36 years of experience in the field of social work and education and mainly concerned with everything African.
I am also member of the Decade Coördinating Working group the Netherlands .*

I most gladly wish to contribute to the content of the new to be held Forum for People of African Descent by sharing my concerns and visions.

Due to the 5 hours difference in time zone between Geneva and Aruba, I do hope that my submission will still be validated and included.

Therefore I will present my concerns and visions in a concise manner.

- 1) A major theme should be the recognition, thorough research and accounts of Post Traumatic Slavery Syndrome and its serious psychological and physical effects on health and wellbeing of people of African Descent;*
- 2) How to adress and heal the effects of Afrophobia manifesting trough widespread and deeply ingrained predudice, negative stereotypical racially profiling imagery and treatment;*
- 3) How to re- write educational curriculum i.e. undo educational curriculae of Eurocentric points of view;*
- 4) How to develop proper training for all from the parents to the professionals in restoring original African- centered values*
- 5) How to effectively take control of and adress overall negative (self-) imagery on African Descent as manifested in widesread Afrophobia in media;*
- 6) How to stimulate and empower economic development and entrepreneurship.*

Looking forward to actively participating in everything concerning the Decade for People of African Descent

My Information:

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NEW FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENTS (NFPAD) AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

- NFPAD members selected from the submissions sent to OHCHR should contemplate a diverse cross-sector of African Descendants from around the globe, with a higher percentage of representation from the Americas. Brazil should have a large delegation since it has the largest population of African Descendants in the world. Therefore, the Portuguese language as an official language of NFPAD is imperative.
- Theme: NFPAD THE GLOBAL VOICE, AGENCY AND ACTION OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT
- NFPAD members first working meeting should adopt a think tank format. It will be the opportunity to design, elaborate and implement a plan of action and delineation of tasks by region, country, state and cities and the timeline to fulfill them. The aims will include representing and attracting a large number of African Descendants to the objectives and programme of activities delineated by the UN General Assembly.
- To ensure success, NFPAD members will be denominated consultants and receive appropriate fees, infrastructure and support to accomplish the established tasks & goals.
- Convene a minimum of two work meetings of NFPAD in 2015 (April & August) and possibly the third meeting (end of November) to firmly ground the group's identity, mission, plan of action, distribution of tasks and goals. Bi-Annual Meetings in subsequent years of the decade to monitor and evaluate its own efforts as well as the goals established by the UN General Assembly for The International Decade of People of African Descent.
- NFPAD work meetings should take place in eminent and diverse African Diaspora locations.
- NFPAD structure: Global Leader, Regional Leaders, Country Leaders, State Leaders, City Leaders, and Grassroots community leaders. Each will have a responsibility of researching their local needs, disseminating to and including a large and diverse representation of African Descendants from their society and report progress in accordance with the objectives and programme of activities.
- Dissemination should include all use of traditional (television, billboards, newspaper, magazine, and radio ads) and alternative media (Facebook, twitter, Instagram, and community: TV, radio and print media). Regional and Country leaders should identify and engage African Descendant artists that can act as ambassadors for the International Decade for People of African Descent and promulgate its objectives and activities.
- NFPAD primary objects should be to contribute to, assess, enhance, and implement the UN General Assembly's Goals for the International Decade of People of African Descent; and to call forth the Ghanaian principle of SANKOFA, which evokes the image of a bird with its talon firmly gripping the soil, one talon placed forward toward the future and head turned backward. This could be NFPAD's legacy (outcome): Engaging vast numbers of African Descendants and supporters to look at the past, acknowledge and pay homage to the painful history, then stand firmly and proudly in the present and look forward to our collective empowered future.
- NFPAD principle outcome would be to concentrate its energy for the decade to create great strides toward an equal, peaceful, empowered, just and abundant world for all people but especially for the traditionally marginalized, exploited and victimized African descendant populations dispersed throughout the world. It is not only about and for those now seen as People of African Descent. It is for all of humanity given that the cradle of civilization is Africa. This makes all humans descendants of Lucy. Consequently, the collective of her descendants should have equal rights and share of the wealth and abundance of the planet.

Alicia M Sanabria, MPS

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Alicia M. Sanabria is of African-Ascent. She was born in Havana, Cuba raised in New York City, N.Y. United States and lives in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. She is a multi-national, multi-cultural and multi-lingual Africanaist with focus on people of African descent in Latin America; an Ifá and Candomblé advocate; an African Matrix cultural producer; a psychologist; a writer and photographer; and acts as a cross-cultural consultant amongst global Africans. She is the founder of African Matrix C³: Africa-Brazil-Cuba-United States. Her vision is to promote human and economic development strategies amongst Africa and the African Diaspora. This is championed by: generating innovative approaches to grassroots community development; connecting global partnership in programs that empower disenfranchised women and children; advocating for human and cultural rights; lecturing on African Matrix cultural production and sustainable human development in Cuba and Brazil; providing cultural diversity and tolerance trainings; facilitating education and research exchanges; exploring spiritual healing alternatives of the collective wound that is the legacy of enslavement and the Transatlantic Enslaved Trade.

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Aims, objectives and thematic focus. I suggest that the international Forum focus on: (1) political measures for people of African descent (in accordance with A/RES/69/16); and (2) empowering and mobilizing people of African descendent civil society actors (especially towards effecting (1)).

Regarding (1), the Forum could promote: (a) National Action Plans to combat Racial Discrimination against people of African descent (for the full enjoyment of their universal human rights, and also the implementation of the DDPA and ICERD); (b) reparative justice for colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade, including (international as well as national) appropriate and effective measures to halt and reverse the lasting effects of these, especially with respect to people of African descent; (c) a UN Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent.

The Forum could act as a consultation mechanism for the contents of Action Plans (e.g. by offering a detailed catalogue of guidelines and possible measures) as well as devising and executing plans to persuade States to implement such Action Plans. The Forum could consult on ways in which the UN and its member states may expand the international human rights framework to include matters of reparative justice (e.g. by implementing the DDPA). The Forum could also develop a UN Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent which could give extra political weight to the objectives of the Decade and see to it that they continue to be relevant beyond the Decade.

Regarding (2), the Forum could serve as a hub for civil society activities around the Decade by: (a) being a meeting place for developing and coordinating civil society (including lobbying) strategies and campaigns; (b) developing an online civil society platform that can connect international, regional and national networks of civil society actors, raise awareness and promote campaigns.

Format and agenda. The Forum could meet annually (or bi-annually) in a 2-3 day conference organized by the Human Rights Council and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. In-between such conferences there could be regular online or telephone conferences.

The international Forum could be organized into thematic Working Groups on e.g. international coordination, regional coordination, national action plans, reparative justice, a UN Declaration, civil society strategies and campaigns, an online platform, etc.

The Forum could also have online discussion forums for members (perhaps in connection with the international online civil society platform) where members can share ideas, documents, etc., and news and other notices about the Forum can be posted.

Ensuring wide participation. To ensure wide participation the Forum could ideally include activists, researchers, political representatives as well as representatives of the UN, for instance, from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. An online civil society platform (which could include e.g. a possibility to submit comments, and with news letters about the work of the Forum as well as civil society activities around the Decade) could also serve to widen the participation.

2/24/15

FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Sandra Cox, Consultant
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AIMS

To improve the economic, political and social plight of black people of African descent

OBJECTIVES

To educate, empower, uplift (black people of African descent)
To educate, challenge, inform (others)
To partner and hold accountable (both)

THEMATIC FOCUS

Connectivity, Consciousness, Culture

THE FORMAT AND AGENDA

Hybrid of Universal, geographical and cultural segments

HOW TO ENSURE WIDE PARTICIPATION

Create a two pronged process where you engage with a smaller group of individuals who have already been involved in this issue by using the work that they have already done to help leverage the full scale inclusion.

Note: I would like to participate in such a panel because I believe I can greatly contribute to the success of the forum. For the past fifteen years, I have been helping to develop a museum exhibit that speaks to critical aspects of the African Diaspora. I am currently working to establish the exhibit in the museum. Through this process, I've done much critical thinking, research and creative development. I look forward to helping make the United Nations forum a success. Much of this work has already contributed to many works related to the diaspora. I look forward to collaborating with you.

Forum for People of African Descent
Women of African Descent – Human Rights Symposium
Proposal Submitted by Angelique Westerfield
akwlaw2@yahoo.com/ (p) 312.489.7636

OBJECTIVE:

Women of African Descent – Human Rights Symposium is a 3-Day Symposium of workshops and panels addressing human rights violations against women and children. The symposium is proposed to be at the offices of the UN in New York City in March 2016.

PRELIMINARY EVENTS:

Several preliminary events/ actions leading up to the symposium are designed to raise awareness of specific human rights violations toward Africana women and children, educate the public on specific incidents in communities of African descent, engage the public, encourage attendance to the symposium, and encourage networking opportunities. These preliminary events/actions include Google hangouts, Facebook posts, Twitter feeds, and video and slide presentations.

EVENT – WORKSHOPS/ PANELS:

Over the course of the 3-day event, participants may engage in multiple workshops and panels designed to educate, raise awareness, and promote resolution to specific human rights violations against Africana women and children.

Proposed Panels: 1) Children/ Young people killed by Police Officers; 2) Children Militia; 3) Rape as a Tool of War; 4) Sex/ Human Trafficking; Women and Education

Proposed Workshops will be designed to allow participants to train how to short and long-term resolutions to human rights violations. Proposed workshops include: 1) How to Effect Policy Change; 2) Local Relationships with Policy Makers; 3) Navigating Pitfalls; 4) Using Video and Social Media as Tools for Social Activism

GUESTS/PARTICIPANTS:

A distinguished line-up of guest panelists and facilitators will be asked to join the conference including politicians and policy makers, government representatives, educators, media/ journalists, activists, business and corporate leaders, and people who have experienced human rights violations first hand. This line-up will include representatives from the African Diaspora. The symposium will be open for public attendance.

NETWORKING/ CULTURAL AWARENESS:

The symposium is not just a series of workshops and panels. The event is designed to build relationships among participants, the public and human rights leaders. There will be several networking receptions throughout the course of the event. It is also important for the event to bring about cultural awareness and the diversity of communities of African descent. This will be demonstrated in food service, performances, and workshops.

(Initial) Symposium Partners: RealTime Leadership Solutions, SuSu Cultural Business Incubator

February 25, 2015

Regarding: Programme of Activities for The Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent

From Baba Wesley Gray: 549 Hancock St, Brooklyn, New York 718-573-8730

In anticipation of the United Nations Human Rights Council as it decides on the content of the Forum for International Decade For People of African Descent, I dutifully submit what I think should be considered and hopefully included in the aims and objectives for the new forum for People of African Descent.

As an African and Jazz drummer, I would like the forum to include music with a specific emphasis on the African drum...It was some forty years ago at my godsons school fund raiser that the late Ossie Davis, who was the keynote speaker, said that he only wanted to talk about the Drum...He stated that it was important that all people of African descent become acquainted with the drum and its history, and how he felt that it would provide a mode of healing and connection with all African throughout the African diaspora.

As a former chairman of the New York chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators (1991-1994), the late Richard Jennings, who was then president of the United Nations Jazz Society became friends and at times discussed the importance of bringing the history of how African music could be a healing and unifying force within the community of people of African Descent. The New York Chapter subsequently produced a Jazz band led by Tyrone Jefferson, performing at a concert sponsored by the United Nations Jazz Society with rave reviews. We have also produced concerts at churches such as The House of The Lord in Brooklyn, NY, which is led by the internationally known minister Rev Hubert Daughtry. He also played a major part in have President Nelson Mandela make a trip to Brooklyn, New York when he became President of South Africa. That resulted in Rev. Daughtry and Baba Jeitu Weusi others, sending a Jazz delegation to the first Jazz exchange concert in South Africa. I have performed alone and with other African drummers including the Late Baba Micheal Olatunji at the House of the Lord Church.

It is my desire to have an African Drum in every household of African Descent, and to have a drummer perform at all important and major events that take place in the home and village (Community)..Such as birthing ceremonies, weddings, rites of passage, birthdays, funerals and other significant events.

This will provide a sense of connection with our ancestors and our positive and uplifting African history, thusly reducing conflict, crime, disrespect of our spouses, children and elders and other related intolerances.

As the former Ambassador of Global Day of the Drum in 2011, I was instrumental in forming an alliance with drummers in the United States and the African Diaspora...unfortunately, the founder decided that he wanted to monetize the holiday by charging a fee for one to form a drumming group associated with the holiday...I would like to discuss with the participating members of the forum a creation of a similar holiday initiative to be celebrated within the African Diaspora.

Web Site...www.drumsforchange.com

African Drum Call for President Barrack Obama <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4i66iobfk8>

Suggestions for the New Forum for People of African Descent

1) Aims and objectives of the Forum for People of African Descent:

- (a) Advise the Coordinator for the International Decade for People of African Descent (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) in:
 - (i) formulating and fine-tuning assessment/evaluation/accountability frameworks
 - (ii) monitoring implementation of the Decade's Plan of Action
 - (iii) reviewing of annual, mid-term and final reports by the Coordinator
 - (iv) promoting expert/practitioner/academic research during and after the Decade
- (b) Multi-Stakeholder Liaison (national/state/regional focal points; civil society organizations)
- (c) World-wide promotion/publicity/ awareness raising
- (d) Exchange of best practices
- (e) Motivate/inspire/catalyse effective implementation of Plan of Action
- (f) Establish base for sustaining/protecting gains made (post-Decade)

2) Forum's thematic focus, format and agenda:

- (a) **Focus:**
 - (i) Development of assessment/evaluation frameworks
 - (ii) Ongoing monitoring of states performance (legal, political, financial/budgetary commitments)
 - (iii) Review of civil society performance with respect to implementation of the Decade and identification of aspects in need of support and civil society capacity building
 - (iv) Monitoring the role of mass media in supporting the Decade
 - (v) Periodic reviews of the Coordinator's reports
 - (vi) Backlash against (and protection of) supporters of the Decade
- (b) **Format:**
 - (i) Face-to-face annual two- week meetings of a core number of forum members from each geographic region (funded by the United Nations)
 - (ii) Annual E-Conference (open/free; annual themes consistent with how the Decade unfolds)
 - (iii) Workshops & seminars/webinars
- (c) **Agenda:**
 - (i) Annual agendas for the first 5 years:
 - Monitoring/assessing and supporting implementation of Plan of Action
 - Progress review
 - (ii) Post-midterm annual agendas:
 - Monitoring performance & course corrections/remedial actions/measures
 - Exploring measures to ensure gains made are not reversed

3) Ensuring wide participation in the Forum:

- (a) The e-conferences should be widely publicized to ensure world-wide participation
- (b) Establish an accessible database of resources that relevant stakeholders and other interested parties can tap into during and after the Decade

4) Outcomes:

- (a) Forum advisory reports
- (b) Production and distribution of promotional materials about the Decade
- (c) Building of sustainable/enduring networks of supporters of the Decade
- (d) Establishment of sustainable (digital) globally accessible resource repository

African Descent Forum
Daniella Henry
2/23/15

As an Afro-Latina I can attest to the tendency in Latin countries to deny and dilute African heritage. Young people are taught early on that being of Afro-descent is bad and other. Nevertheless, Afro culture permeates throughout most cultures. Therefore suppressing Afro-ness, creates this schizophrenic environment of celebrating culture that is strongly steeped in African roots while not identifying it as African. This disconnect fosters shame. It fosters embarrassment in youth and perpetuates this feeling of removing oneself from an African core.

In order for a forum on African descent to succeed it must focus on youth empowerment. It must focus on education and instilling a sense of pride in how intertwined African culture is with Latino culture, American culture, European culture and beyond.

An agenda for the forum should include a history of how African culture became a bedrock of cultures around the globe, how racism and being of Afro-descent affects individuals, with an emphasis on African migration in the past and present and finally, what the influence of Afro culture looks like around the world today.

The forum should focus on being widely accessible. Technology, and the use of technology to create a dialogue, should be central to this objective. Mobile phones have saturated the market of the developing world and is the essential tool used to connect young people to the rest of the world. For example, Facebook hit 100 million users last year on the African continent.

Individuals should be able to share their thoughts, fears and sources of pride through technology, like Facebook chats, Google hangout and other online forums. For the Forum for People of African Descent to be successful the maximum amount of people should be included in the dialogue. All opinions should be valued and included.

The outcome of this forum should be ongoing programs and discussions that can occur between youth around the world who can create a network of individuals impassioned to preserve the importance of individuals of African descent.

TOPIC:

"The Global Health & Mental Health Legacies from the Colonization and Enslavement of Persons of African Descent"

FORMAT:

Panel Sponsored By: The Black Psychiatrists of America

CONTACT PERSON: Patricia A. Newton, M.D., MPH, M.A., CEO & Medical Director
Black Psychiatrists of America

EMAIL: Sebayit@aol.com

PHONE: 1-443-540-5040 (Mobile Number)

DURATION: 2 hours

This panel will include medical professionals from the Black Psychiatrists of America working in the USA, the Caribbean and Africa with patients who continue to be affected by the enduring impact of the psychological and clinical effects from the legacies of colonization and chattel slavery. Data analysis and clinical case histories will be highlighted to demonstrate both the similarities and differences across global populations of African descent persons in terms of morbidity and mortality rates from the continuing traumatic effects of then and now.

The failure of healthcare systems worldwide to address the impact of this problem with poor resource allocation and attention to this global threat thereby creating unnecessary financial and legal burdens in governments will also be explored. Solutions for healing both affected persons and systems of care will be offered.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES & SELF ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Furnished upon request

Thank you!

Dr. Pat

Sent from my iPad

Name: Rim Sabrina SASSI

Occupation: Researcher in political communication and civic engagement – Phd Candidate at Laval University (Canada)

Student researcher for CSDC (Centre for the study of Democratic Citizenship)

Student researcher for GRCP (Group of Research on Political Communication)

Email contact: sabrinassasi@gmail.com

Organization: Adyne; <http://www.adyne.eu/index.html>

Forum for People of African Descent

Aims and objectives:

- to help shape the life of young people with African background living abroad
- to impact policy makers and youth policies
- to promote access to equal rights and opportunities for people of African descent

Thematic focus: Unity in Diversity

Unity in Diversity is extremely relevant to all these communities and innovative models are needed in the context of African and Mediterranean diversity in Europe. For example, his youth has African background but is also developing a European identity. Actually they are part of the European identity. We need to help people look at diversity as a treasure. In my opinion this attitude stems from shared values that promote kindness towards human beings and most of all open-mindedness. When diversity is seen as an added value to a community or society it means that people bare in mind that there is foundation of shared values that brings people together so tightly that hostility is not needed. Common and shared values are the backdrop that helps see cultural and religious differences not as threats but as colorful and rich factors.

There is a need to empower and encourage responsible and inspirational young leaders and citizens as they exhibit bravery and positive image of youth from their cultural and religious background all around the world. My point is youth stands a tremendous role in promoting diversity, as they are excellent ambassadors of diversity through their own little diaspora. In addition to being ambassadors for the richness that is diversity, young people also are bridge-builders among communities. They can build ties in intercultural and multi-faith communities and therefore bring unity as well. Youth can promote unity in diversity through their migration flows but they can amplify and jumpstart this process through media as they have a great sense of media promotion.

And, I believe education is the solid foundation that enables youth to become such wonderful peace and mutual understanding ambassadors and bridge-builders in society. Education provides youth with open-mindedness ad a great set of communication skills to promote unity in diversity. Indeed, we aspire for positive change and excellence in mutual understanding and respect. I believe people of African descent can show the world that diversity strengthens unity as long as we learn to recognize humanity, accountability and mutual respect.

The format and the agenda:

Three axis of work:

- African heritage outside of Africa: diaspora, culture and humanity
 - Showcase how a lot African culture is lodged in the very concept of humanity. And humanity knows no boundaries or frontiers.
 - Mechanisms of promotion and protection of human rights
 - Advocacy, civic engagement and policy development for people of African descent
 - Example: People of African descent living in Europe are in need of new policies but many remain unaware of their rights to participate in the European civic life in order to make their requirements heard.
- As an academic, I can only advocate for a **workshop dedicated to using scholar recommendations on how to overcome the obstacles facing people of African Descent**. It is important that we harness the credibility of these reliable empirical works and studies to advance the promotion and protection of human rights. The recommendations should be showed in a graphic manner so that everyone can relate to this content.

How to ensure wide participation in the Forum? :

- The forum should be mirrored online so that people everywhere can send us their opinions and their questions.
- Harness the power of the media by sending an “infographic” report to outlets that are popular with generation Y and X (Buzzfeed news...etc)
- Involve public personalities (of African Descent or not) that support the cause. Send them a shout out so that it gets shared on Twitter
- Reach out to the networks of NGOs working on this field. For instance, for Europe Adyne can share the news to many relevant actors in Africa and in Europe. These networks work as bridges and their power should be recognized and used.
- Use universities as platforms to reach out to interested actors (academics, activists, professors...etc). In every university there is a program focusing diversity, equal rights, and development in Africa, diaspora dynamics. The students in these programs are dedicated and will probably be thrilled to participate to a Forum related to their field of study. These programs should be identified, and then contacted.

Expected Outcomes:

- Crystal clear and final plan of action (refined strategies) according to the objectives
- A Clear set of recommendations for the international actors and decision-makers.
- Give visibility to a generation of “third-culture” children/Put the highlight on the value of diversity of their identity; set a platform of intercultural dialogue
- Trigger a change in terms of communication/perspective on People of African Descent; lay the ground for strong advocacy.
 - Just like Dr Zuma’s “letter from 2063” was an eye-opener about global change, I believe we could benefit from a “letter from 2063” about young women, civic participation, leadership and promotion of human rights
- Engage NGO’s into a dynamic of partnerships and actions to promote the values in their respective fields.
- Show how African heritage is connected to the whole world and cannot be limited to a continent.

Proposal: Forum for People of African Descent 2015

Submitted by: Imara Ajani Rolston – PhD Candidate & Film Maker

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Phone Number: +4407794673024 (United Kingdom)

Date: March 6th 2015

The **2015 Forum for People of African Descent** can provide a rare opportunity for activists, researchers, political representatives, and UN bodies to collectively coordinate historically disparate and disconnected efforts to promote recognition and address racial discrimination. **The overall aim and objectives of the forum should be the following:**

- 1.1 Facilitate and support Collaboration:** The forum should create space along particular thematic foci (ie racial profiling, health disparity etc) for representatives from civil society, academia, activists, legal champions, government representatives and UN representatives to collaboratively *plan actions and engagements* while also finding ways to *ally and intertwine their ongoing work*. The forum should especially place emphasis on breaking down the barriers between these different groupings of people in order to build alliances that draw on the individual strengths and experiences of each (ie research, organizing and community action, legal advocacy, and policy) for the purpose of creating dynamic, innovative, and sustainable partnerships.
- 1.2 Constructing a more Interconnected story of people African Descent:** The stories we tell of the transatlantic slave trade are often regionally, continentally, and or culturally specific. The Forum should provide space to generate greater awareness of the interconnected influences and impacts of the transatlantic slave trade on people of African Descent and the peoples, politics, and economies that derived and continue to derive privilege from this period. This would mean facilitating opportunities for participants from Latin America, North America, Europe, the Caribbean etc to construct a more unified and interconnected memory of the past and in turn reimagine and produce strategies, public engagement initiatives, art, and advocacy that draws from this new knowledge. A process like this would more clearly illustrate the ways in which the current global political economy benefits from the history of the transatlantic slave trade while also highlighting the continued and interconnected struggle and resilience of people of African descent.

While there are a number of **themes and agendas** the Forum for People of African Descent should consider the following are in my opinion imperative:

- 1.1 Racial Profiling and Criminal Justice Systems:** Recent happenings in Ferguson, Missouri have reinvigorated discussions about the way violent over policing and racism in the criminal justice system continues to negatively impact people of African descent. The forum would be remiss if it did not create an opportunity for activists, civil society organizations, and advocates to discuss the state of racial profiling, violence, and unequal justice systems through the experiences of members from different member states. The forum under this theme could focus in particular on cultivating lasting relationships between young activists, policy makers, and UN representatives working on racial profiling and criminal justice issues in different countries. Relationships like these can ensure that the voices and perspectives of young activists are magnified through global policy, programming, and advocacy while also highlighting the global state of racial profiling and racialized criminal injustices.
- 1.2 Reparations & New Generations:** Reparations and the movement for reparative justice must reach new generations in order to survive. The Forum can create a space for generations of activists, civil society representatives, academics etc to discuss the future of reparations with a particular focus on exploring how new generations engage or do not engage with the subject of reparations. The Forum can create space for the presentation of new practical perspectives on the direction of the reparations movement.
- 1.3 Envisioning 2025:** Looking inward the Forum should create opportunities for participants to explore new possibilities for unified action and solidarity. This can in part be achieved by creating opportunities for participants to collaboratively envision new and interconnected futures alongside engaging in critical dialogue about the challenges we still face. Constructing new visions for the future provides a common and shared point of return that forum can return too throughout the decade. **This process could also contribute to the creation of commonly agreed upon outcomes for the decade.**

Finally the format of the forum must in form and function recognize the broader ethos and principles that undergirds the Decade for People of African Descent. With this in mind it is useful to consider ways to construct a forum that is anti-oppressive and decolonizing in form. This would entail moving beyond standard plenary and presentation models to explore forms of collective gathering, inquiry, and dialogue that are emancipatory. Facilitation rooted in emancipatory pedagogy can ensure that despite experience, station, education, or position voices are equally valued and acknowledged throughout the forum. Approaching the forum in this way can ensure that the forum takes a strong step towards being a pre figurative space that reflects the values and principles attendants aim to cultivate through their work.

Biography:

Imara Ajani Rolston is a PhD Candidate pursuing doctoral studies conjointly through the **Department of Social Psychology** and **Centre for the study of Human Rights** at **London School of Economics and Political Science**. As a researcher, facilitator, and filmmaker Mr Rolston aims to promote substantive dialogues that explore the intersection between history, racial injustice, health, and community organizing. Mr Rolston's recent film work – **An(other) Antilles**: -- aimed to excavate the untold and unheard histories of Black Caribbean immigrants activism that formed the foundation for the black consciousness movement in 1960's Montreal, Canada. Mr. Rolston sees the preservation and continual contemporisation of the historical experiences of people of African Descent as a critical element in the ongoing movement for racial justice and recognition. Mr Rolston spent a great deal of his early professional career working with young people of African Descent living in some of Toronto Canada's largest social housing districts as both a restorative justice youth worker and participatory action researcher and evaluator.