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As a result, my recommendation, following the Conclusions and Recommendations from the 2022 Geneva meeting, is that the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent develop and implement a plan of action to urge and help member states of the United Nations and other relevant institutions to respect the first theme, **Recognition**, of the UN Decade for People of African Descent such that **our educational systems begin to teach the truths** of, rather than lies about, the contributions of Africans and People of African Ancestry to the Americas, the Atlantic World, and Global Civilization.

We have **all** been obligatorily mis-educated by our **compulsory educational systems and the mass media** about the roles of Africans and African Descendants in the creation and development, or underdevelopment in the case of Africa, of all of the Atlantic World, and we have not been taught about the global nature of the African Diaspora.

To focus on the Atlantic world, our educational systems have not educated us about the basic demographics. During the first 300 years of the formation of what became the modern Americas — after the near genocide

of the original inhabitants — three quarters of the people who crossed the Atlantic from Africa and Europe came from Africa. Only one quarter came from Europe.

Given that the human foundation of the Americas was African, why have we all been taught that the Americas were a European creation?

We have all been led to believe that the massive, forced African migration of enslavement was of unskilled laborers. That neither makes sense, nor is it true.

Names Europeans gave to the African coast — such as the rice coast and the gold coast — tell us that European and Euro-American enslavers were specifically aware of the knowledge and skills that Africans they enslaved had to contribute, albeit involuntarily, to the creation and development of the Americas — and to the enriching of Europe.

We all need to be educated about the enslavement of Africans in the Americas as a **transfer of technology and brain drain from Africa to the Americas**. For example, Africans' specialized knowledge and skills in agriculture and gastronomy fed the Americas, and their specialized knowledge and skills in gold mining and metallurgy enriched European colonizers. The European and North American industrial revolution was based on commodities produced by centuries of unpaid African Descendant labor.

I had hoped we would have this knowledge by the end of this Decade. I know we do not based on surprised reactions to my documentary ***Familiar Faces/Unexpected Places: A Global African Diaspora*** that was shown at two side-events for this current event.

In conclusion, we must correct the reigning narrative from one of alleged Euro-superiority and alleged African/African Descendant inferiority by telling the truths of the contributions of Africans and African Descendants to the Atlantic World and Global Civilization.

I hope we will have a second Decade in which to rectify with accurate information this inherently Pan-African story. 10 years do not compensate for more than 500 years of enslavement and post-enslavement oppression and miseducation.