

DECLARATION DEL FORO PUEBLO TRIBAL AFRODESCENDIENTE DE COSTA RICA

2nd session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

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Thematic Discussion Transnational Migration

Thank you for this opportunity.

There are a few moments like this in the life of a person. Even fewer for people of African descent. To quote the very assertive words of Edwin Patterson, president of our association ATACS, Asociación Pueblo Tribal Afrodescendiente del Caribe Sur. in his intervention in Geneva 2022. “We are all Africans born outside Africa” and as such, we are here today with all the rights gained by birth but not heard for and or respected for many generations before us, in our Country of birth Costa Rica.

Today am here in person representing the voices of many who are no longer with us and others that today struggle daily for the basic rights to be recognized and respected. We have suffered too long from a systematic racism, planted in the core of our society that refuses to respect our cultural differences with equal rights as stated in our own constitution.

We have been kept silent and afraid for long enough. But our voices began to resonate and since it has empowered as all. That is the voice of an African woman born in Costa Rica that rose to become our vice president. The “first ever Afro costarrican women elected to such high position. I speak of madame chairperson of this permanent forum. Miss Epsy Campbell.

We are no longer afraid, we have gain hope, and we are ready, we are here. And

WE DEMAND TO THE COSTA RICAN STATE:

1. Immediately and permanently to cease all regressive actions and measures that affect Afro-descendants.
2. To Comply with the commitments acquired, and adopted in treaties, conventions and international instruments referring to Afro-descendants.

3. To Take concrete actions to regulate and implement the laws and decrees that favor affirmative actions to the Afro-descendant population.

WE REQUEST THE INTERVENTION OF THE FORUM, IN ORDER TO:

1. Fully guarantee the communities of African descent in Costa Rica access to the sea and its resources and land tenure, which allows an adequate claim of these marine and continental spaces and protection against violations by national and international courts.

2. Governance models in traditional Afro lands are recognized, which allows for the strengthening of identity and a fair and equitable distribution of benefits, in full compliance with what is defined in the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention 169, especially the implementation of free consent, prior and informed, which guarantees full approval of any measure of conservation and development in lands of people of African descent.

3. Initiate cultural, social and economic reparation actions for the Afro-descendant community that has been affected by national policies and projects developed or carried out in our territories.

We also support the motion for a second term for the International decade reparatory actions for people of African descent.

Many thanks