

PFPAD 1st Youth Declaration
3rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
Geneva, Switzerland 16 April to 19th April 2024

We, youth participants of the 3rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, come together in full unity within the African Diaspora, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as recommendations proposed by the Forum with our first Youth Declaration. We also thank the Permanent Forum, member states, and civil society for all that has been done, recognizing the contributions and aid given in support of youth.

We affirm the ultimate objective of the Forum is the upliftment of people of African descent, thereby creating a more prosperous and equitable world for all. We also acknowledge the effects, victims, and perpetrators of violent extremism across Africa and the African Diaspora. Therefore, the progress of our people, youth leadership and decision-making are vital elements to create productive change to our present and future. We are calling for youth participation at all levels of decision-making as we impact our communities daily, throughout history, and all across the Diaspora and the world.

We must commit to change for the betterment of our people.

We echo the continuation of the International Decade of People of African descent and to continue facilitating discussions between youth, civil society, member states, and the Permanent Forum, building on projects established that help our people, and also providing strategies on issues witnessed within our communities, with insight from youth perspectives.

We, youth of African descent, desire to uplift what was set forth by the Durban declaration. To achieve this end, we must be able to contribute fully, directly, and actively in decision-making structures. Therefore, we ask the Permanent Forum, member states, and civil society to provide their full and unequivocal support to prioritize youth leadership in all levels of your decision-making spaces. And as we push forward, we will continue committing to the implementation of solutions to issues that most affect the youth of African descent locally,

nationally, and internationally. We will continue to serve as mentors, sharing resources and knowledge of opportunities to foster collective growth.

Youth Recommendations:

1. We recommend the formal establishment of at least two youth seats among the Permanent Forum members, defined as age 35 and under, with at least one youth Civil Society Representative, to aid in diverse discussions and the development of the Forum.
2. We recommend the creation of a Youth Forum to cultivate leadership. This conference would serve as a liaison between the Forum, youth participants, and youth-serving entities, to develop strategies and policies that directly address the needs and concerns of youth of African descent. We echo a call for a Youth Secretariat, and fully support youth accessing spaces of leadership with our current and future communities at the local, national, and international levels.
3. We must support the development of a Pan-African Student Congress, a global mechanism to unify Black and African student university groups worldwide to interface with the PFPAD as a bloc.
4. We recommend and echo the support of Member States to increase their monetary support of the Forum and provide additional financial support for the Youth Forum through the development of cooperative economic systems based on our traditional structures.
5. We recommend and emphasize the call for reparations and uphold the right to self-determination as a core principle.
6. We recommend more global representation at the UN Security Council through a permanent African member-state to increase the power of youth's governments for influence on the international stage.
7. We recommend to hold the next Forum and future forums at UN Headquarters in Africa and locations across the diaspora.