

Joint statement

**From the International Civil Society Roundtable
People of African Descent**

Date: August 7th, 2021

On



<https://www.un.org/WCAR/durban.pdf>

**In perspective of the twentieth Anniversary of the
Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/237>

Organizers:

**The Pan-African Coalition on Durban+20
& the Europe Region Civil Society Coalition for the
Implementation of the UN International Decade for
People of African Descent**

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Uniting

On this seventh day of August 2021,

We

The Pan-African Coalition on Durban+20 and the European region Civil Society Coalition for the implementation of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent, Participating representatives of Pan-Africanists and People of African Descent, together with civil society, friends and people of goodwill, unite with the aim to realize this joint statement supporting the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA, 2001).

Our statement is made on behalf of global African people who share the residual effects and abhorrent impact of current and historical trauma by institutionalized racist systems, economic marginalization, and a planned underdevelopment.

1.We acknowledge and Jointly respect

The subsequent outcomes inspired by the DDPA and affiliated resolutions and call attention to:

- The Durban review in 2009,
- High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly in 2011 to commemorate the tenth years anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA,
- The UN International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 to 2024) and the Programme of Activities,
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030

As well as those resolutions that were driven exclusively by Civil Society Pan-African initiatives.

2.We declare

Our determination to uphold, defend and fully implement the DDPA which is the strongest universal document of the United Nations' programs to realize the rights of all victims of racism, racial discrimination, and reparatory Justice.

We know that the reason for the Major Western Countries opposition to the DDPA lies in its historic declaration that the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery were Crimes against Humanity for which reparations are due the

descendants of the victims. They deny the reality that these crimes are the bases for their own economic development and current position in the world. The campaign to “disappear the DDPA” is tied to their refusal to pay reparations.

3. We salute

All those who campaigned for the holding of the 3rd World Conference against Racism (WCAR) by ensuring the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action through a broad-based democratic process. Without the DDPA we would not have been as close as we are today in having a global platform positioned to recognize the unfulfilled rights of Africans and People of African Descent at the United Nations and globally society.

The establishment of the Durban follow up mechanisms at the UN in 2002 including, in particular, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent have made important contributions to implementing the Durban WCAR agenda.

4. We congratulate

The Human Rights Council for establishing an Expert Group to follow up on the High Commissioner's report on police brutality.

International Decade for People of African Descent

We had hoped that the International Decade for People of African Descent would have been actively promoted by the United Nations and its Program of Activities - as adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly in November of 2014. However, we are appalled that the adopted Program of Activities have not yet been published by the UN seven years into the Decade. In addition, the majority of Nation States have not translated the Program of Activities into other languages for broader access.

The International Decade's Mid-term Review panels, held by the Human Rights Council in 2020 and 2021, deeply offended People of African Descent by including anti DDPA propagandists among its panellists.

The timing of the Mid-term Review by the General Assembly on the 22nd July 2021 should have been held in 2019. This timeline has gone against the UN's traditional procedures for a Decade Review.

5. Whereas

It was held without any information disseminated to People of African Descent, and with a non-participatory, and unrepresentative selection of panellists that made any serious critical review impossible. Concurrently, a modalities resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on a Permanent Forum without the requisite consultations with People of African Descent. To this day, a great number of questions remain unanswered regarding its construction, role and consequences for the UN human rights Agenda, thus, distorting the real voice of People of African Descent and the accomplishments up to now.

We view the Permanent Forum resolution's denial of the DDPA as serious matter and as an alarming setback when the 2014 consensus Programme of Activities stated that its implementation is, "an integral part of the full and effective implementation of the DDPA".

Ten member States including Israel, the Netherlands, United States of America, Canada, UK, France, Australia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Germany have declared a boycott of the UN General Assembly High Level meeting that will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA in September 2021. Their positions are widely known and have skillfully generated a negative stigma on the WCAR and the DDPA - which undermines the work of the United Nations and for human rights as a whole.

The campaign to reject and undermine the DDPA has been successful largely because the United Nations has never made a recognizable and impactful effort to inform about the clarity of the DDPA and advocate for its full implementation despite many resolutions.

Our position is crystal clear, we will not accept any denial of the DDPA in the name of People of African Descent neither shall we settle for anything less than our birth right and our human rights.

To protect the DDPA, from further undermining, and for its full implementation for the Programme of Activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent to be implemented, we make the following call for global African society, Pan-African actors, and stakeholders to campaign in favour of the DDPA and claim the rights to be recognized:

1. Strengthen our campaigns for the implementation of the DDPA and raise awareness about the value of the DDPA for combatting racism against Africans and people of African Descent and especially in relation to the demand for reparations.
2. To the particular African Nation States, the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) States and Governments and all of the UN member States to support campaigns for the full implementation of the DDPA.
3. To the UN human rights council to finally and with the highest priority at its 48th session to adopt a well-resourced outreach programme for DDPA information and advocacy to be based at the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.
4. To the UN General Assembly to decide on a real transparent and participatory Mid-Term Review of the Decade.
5. To the UN Human Rights Council to organise in December 2021 a large International Forum for the implementation of the Programme of Activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent.

We sign this Joint Statement

- **AFRIDU (African Diaspora Union/International, South Africa)**
- **AV_NSDC (African Views The Netherlands, Suriname, Dutch Caribbean)**
- **AUADS_FWG (African Union African Diaspora 6th Region Facilitators Working Group EUROPE)**
- **Astrid Runs (Republic Suriname)**
- **A.T.I. (Afro Atlantic Theologies & Treaties Institute/USA/Benin)**
- **C.A.A. (Celebration of African Australians/Australia, Pacific)**
- **CPKCW (Centro Panafricano Kituo cha Wanafrika)**
- **CCACG (Central Council of the African Community in Germany)**
- **CRT (The Colonialism Reparation Team/UK)**
- **CSCMG (Civil Society Coordination & Monitoring Working Group)**

DURBAN+ 20/The Netherlands)

- **DECEMBER 12th MOVEMENT (USA, NYC)**
- **ENGOCCAR (European-Wide NGO Consultative Council on Afrikan Reparations/ Europe, UK)**
- **GC_IDPAD (Global Coalition for the implementation of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent/ International, Europe, USA)**
- **GASU (Global African SHEROES Union/International, USA)**
- **The Joseph KI-Zerbo Centre**
- **IAAT (International Association Against Torture, USA)**
- **LBOCSAAN (Foundation National Forum Civil Society of African Descent/The Netherlands)**
- **LPS (National Platform Dutch Slavery Past/The Netherlands)**
- **SOPHIEDELA (African European Women's Movement/International, Europe, The Netherlands)**
- **SRDC (Sub Region Diaspora Council WHS/The Americas including Brazil & Canada)**
- **SRDC-FCC (Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus French Caribbean Chapter, includes Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana)**
- **MEADUC (Middle East African Diaspora Unity Council/Israel-Dimona)**
- **NSARC (Non-State Actors Reparations Commission INC/Barbados)**
- **PAADN (Pan-African Australian Diaspora Network/Australia)**
- **PANAFSTRAG (Pan-African Strategic and Policy Group/International, Nigeria)**
- **PARCOE (Pan-Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe/UK)**
- **S.T.A.W.S.I. (African World Studies Institute/The Netherlands, Curacao)**
- **THE DRAMMEH INSTITUTE, INC (USA/Sierra Leone)**
- **TIYE INTERNATIONAL/The Netherlands**
- **UCF (Ubuntu Connected Front/ The Netherlands)**