

# The United Nations Permanent Forum of People of African Descent & International Civil Society

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# INTRODUCTION

In December 2018, UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/73/262](#),

agreed "to establish a Permanent Forum on people of African descent, which will:

- A. Serve as **a consultation mechanism** for PAD and other interested stakeholders, as **a platform for improving the quality of life** and livelihoods of PAD,
- B. & Contribute to **elaborating a United Nations Declaration**, which is the first step towards a legally binding instrument, on the promotion and full respect of human rights of PAD".





2015 - 2024  
INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF  
**AFRICAN DESCENT**

In August 2021, UN General Assembly Resolution [75/314](#),

operationalized PFPAD as “a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders” and “as a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent”.

... informed by evidence-gathering and programmes of action undertaken in the two decades since the UN General Assembly’s landmark Durban Declaration and Plan of Action, following the World Conference Against Racism 2001.

In 2013, anti-racism commitments, actions and recommendations arising from the DDPA 2001 were further reinforced by UN GA resolution 68/237, which designated the International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015-2024, and the failure of the International Year for People of African Descent 2011 to fulfil its mandate,

Current members of the PFPAD include human rights scholars, community advocates and anti-racism campaigners from the Bahamas, Colombia, Egypt, Kenya, Saint Lucia, the USA, and controversially China.

# THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (UN PFPAD)



The Permanent Forum's remit includes to,

- Hear the voices of people of African descent.
- Identify and analyse best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for improving the safety, quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent.
- Serve as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and wider United Nations, providing expert advice and recommendations for countering all forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances which impede people of African descent's full realisation and enjoyment of universal human rights
- Draft a collective declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.

# INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING GROUP FOR THE PERMANENT FORUM OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (ICSWG PFPAD)



## Mission Statement :

The ICSWG is a coalition of international organizations and individuals of African Descent,

whose Mission is to ensure the Forum's continued success, especially in terms of perpetually reflecting the will and vision of the African diaspora,

as represented by the individuals, grassroots organizations and movements that have and continue to mobilize our interests thus far.

The Working Group is currently comprised of seven subcommittees: Advocacy, Fundraising, Education & Outreach, Partnerships, Communications/Media, Youth, and Culture.

# ICSWG PFPAD - Functions

- **identifying key issues and ensuring a strong and effective Forum with broad civil society participation**, and continually works to develop strategies and operational plans to address outstanding issues in line with the Forum's vision and spirit.
- **participated in the election of PFPAD representatives from civil society.**
- **strategically engages in capacity building, including development of an online Pan African social media platform of over 200 members globally**, since commencing operations in September 2021.
- **representation at COP 27 and discussions held at the Vatican on the subject of reparations**, in 2022.
- **represented by an international delegation of over 20 activists, and academics at the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the PFPAD held at the UN Palais des Nations, Geneva, in December 2022**, where our delegates organised and participated at side events, in addition to making written and oral submissions.



2015 - 2024

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF

**AFRICAN DESCENT**

# 1<sup>ST</sup> Session Of The United Nations Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

- attended by 300 delegates, with 600 written submissions, from 900 registrants, chaired by the former Vice-President of Costa Rica, Dr Epsy Campbel-Barr

## THEME

- Fight against Afrophobia/Afriphobia, systemic racism, and other forms of discrimination
- Sustainable development and the case for climate justice
- A rights-based approach to reparatory justice
- Connecting the past and the future
- Equality for all – inclusive consideration of inequities affecting sub cultural minorities e.g. women, youth, LGBTQIA, PWD
- **Drafting the UN Declaration on Fundamental Rights of PAD**
- Future work of the PFPAD

# SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR'S SUMMARY OF COLLECTIVE PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS & COMMITMENTS AS BASIS FOR THE DRAFT DECLARATION

## THE PERMANENT FORUM OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

- recognises the importance of inclusive representation of global civil society
- **confirms the full and effective implementation of the DOPA 2001**
- recognises intersected experiences of racism impact differently for a diversity of PAD; inclusive of all sub cultural groups, e.g. women, youth, elders, lgbtqia, pwd, etc
- **will advance an instructive standard against Afrophobia and related intolerances against PAD**
- recognises specific issues and crises being experienced in Haiti, as well as its historic & symbolic role
- **Systemic, structural, and institutionalised forms of racism must be recognised, challenged, addressed, and eradicated.**
- Feature Migration prominently in its work.
- **Advocate fully disaggregated equality data to inform policy interventions to address Afrophobia.**
- Consolidate IDPAD 2015-2024 by extension to 2025, and by a 2<sup>nd</sup> Decade to 2035
- **Rally a consolidated effort for full restoration of the dignity of PAD by confronting the legacies of the past.**





2015 - 2024

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF

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## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum of People of African Descent**

Where: United Nations HQ, New York,

When: 30<sup>th</sup> May -2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023,

How: The ICSWG invites interested NGOs, activists, and other civil society stakeholders to join us in preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, with the option of extended Sessions and Working Groups beyond these dates to accommodate feedback, evidentiary research data, and recommendations.

# CONCLUSION

My thanks to the WGEPAD, the UN Fellows, and representatives of UK civil society for their invitation to participate.

Besides making country visits and accepting written submissions, the WGEPAD organises regional meetings and consultations with civil society advocating IDPAD 2015 -2024 thematic objectives.

The ICSWG looks forward to continued collaboration with WGEPAD to address diverse issues such as environmental racism, and police brutality, and we applaud their actions, following the murder of George Floyd and ensuing global outrage,

