



Draft Agenda*

REGIONAL MEETING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Hosted by the Government of Brazil
3 - 4 December 2015, Brasilia, Brazil

The International Decade for People of African Descent launched by the United Nations General Assembly (2015 – 2024) is an opportunity to analyze and improve the human rights situation and well-being of one of the population groups most affected by racism and discrimination. By combating racial discrimination, Governments will also strengthen democracy, the rule of law and equality in societies. In 2014, by its resolution 69/16, the General Assembly adopted a Programme of Activities, identifying the objectives and outlining specific actions to be taken within the three themes of the International Decade: **Recognition, Justice and Development**.

As part of the awareness raising campaign for the International Decade, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will organize five regional meetings. The **first meeting** will be for the Latin American and Caribbean region. The meeting will provide an opportunity for governments from the region, equality bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society, development agencies and regional organizations, to reflect on trends, priorities and obstacles at the national and regional levels to effectively implement the Programme of Activities for the Decade. The meetings will be also an occasion to exchange good practices.

The discussion will be structured under the themes of the Decade and will reflect the priority areas identified by the Programme of Activities for the Decade among others:

Recognition: a) awareness raising and education measures to promote greater knowledge of and respect for culture, history, heritage and positive contribution; b) adoption of anti-racial discrimination laws and public policies, including action plans; d) establishment and strengthening of equality bodies; e) undertake data collection for the promotion of racial equality;

Justice: concrete and effective measures: a) to ensure equal access to justice, equal treatment before tribunals and other organs administering justice, fair trial and effective protection and remedies; b) against racial profiling; c) to prevent and punish all human rights violations including violence, acts of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, including those committed by States officials; d) combat all acts of racism, in particular the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial hatred, violence and racist propaganda; e) special measures, such as affirmative action policies to overcome persistent or structural disparities.

Development: concrete and effective measures to: a) guarantee active, free and meaningful participation in development and decision-making process and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom; b) give effect to free primary education and access to all levels of quality education; c) protect children from direct or indirect discrimination; d) ensure racial equality in the workplace and equality before labour law; e) equal access to quality health services and adequate housing; f) actions to protect ancestral groups; g) adopt or strengthen national programmes for eradicating poverty and reducing social exclusion.

Compounded discrimination faced by women and girls of African descent will be a crosscutting issue.

Experts from the Durban follow-up mechanisms and CERD have been invited to participate in the Meeting and will initiate the discussions on each of the three themes.

* Subject to adjustments

THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER

OPENING:

11:00 – 11:15	Opening statement by an official of the Government of Brazil
11:15 – 11:30	Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
11:30 – 11:45	Statement by Afro-descendant civil society representative
11:45 – 11:55	Election of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur
11:55 – 12:00	Adoption of the agenda
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	General remarks

TOPIC ONE: DEVELOPMENT

14:30 – 14:45	Presentation by Edna Santos Roland, independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
14:45 – 18:00	General debate/interventions of participants

FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER

TOPIC TWO: JUSTICE

09:00 – 9:15	Presentation by Pastor Murillo, Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
09:15 – 12:00	General debate/interventions of participants
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch

TOPIC THREE: RECOGNITION

13:30 – 13:45	Presentation by Mireille Fanon-Mendes-France, Chairperson of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
13:45 – 17:00	General debate/interventions of participants

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

17:00 – 17:30	Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
17:30 – 18:00	Closing remarks