




THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 December 2013

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith a letter by the Facilitator for the Informal consultative preparatory process for the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, H.E. Mr. Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa, transmitting a draft procedural resolution and inviting members to two informal consultations to be held on Friday, 13 and Monday, 16 December 2013.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


p.p. John W. Ashe

To All Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers
To the United Nations
New York



10 December 2013

Excellency

Consultations on Draft Resolution on Proclamation of International Decade for People of African Descent

Following my appointment by the President of the General Assembly on 28 October 2013 as facilitator to lead the informal consultations with Member States, relevant United Nations programmes and organizations and civil society, with a view to proposing the arrangements for the proclamation of an International Decade for People of African Descent, in keeping with paragraph 79 of General Assembly resolution 67/155, time constraints has not allowed for the finalisation of the process leading to the proclamation of the Decade in complete fulfilment of my mandate.

In this regard, consultations with member states and other stakeholders will continue in the first half of 2014 as part of a process of developing a programme for the International Decade for People of African Descent.

On the basis of consultations held with regional groups at the ambassadorial level and the agreement to proclaim the Decade before the end of December 2013 through the adoption of a procedural resolution, in compliance with paragraph 79 of resolution 67/155, please find the facilitator's text for a draft procedural resolution entitled, "Proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent".

In this regard, I will convene open consultations with Member States on Friday, 13 December 2013 and Monday, 16 December 2013 to this end. Please check the UN Journal for details on the times and venues for the consultations as indicated.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mamabolo', with a large, stylized flourish extending downwards and to the left.

H.E. Kingsley Mamabolo
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of South Africa

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

Agenda item _____

68/____. Proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

PP1. *Recalling* its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, by which the General Assembly decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and its resolutions 56/266 of 27 March 2002, 57/195 of 18 December 2002, 58/160 of 22 December 2003, 59/177 of 20 December 2004 and 60/144 of 16 December 2005, which guided the Comprehensive Follow-Up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

PP2. *Emphasizing* its resolution 64/169 of 18 December 2009, by which the General Assembly proclaimed 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent,

PP3. *Recalling also* paragraph 61 of General Assembly resolution 66/144 of 19 December 2011 encouraging the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, and in this regard takes note of Human Rights Council resolution 21/33 of 28 September 2012 that welcomed the Draft Programme of Action for People of African Descent and the recommended transmission thereof to the General Assembly with a view to its adoption,

PP4. *Appreciates* the work undertaken by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent in producing a Draft Programme of Action that is comprehensive and covers a wide range of areas which could serve as a broad framework for the Programme of Action for the International Decade for People of African Descent,

PP5. *Recalling further* its resolutions 3057 of 2 November 1973, 38/14 of 22 November 1983 and 48/91 of 20 December 1993, by which the General Assembly proclaimed the three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and conscious of the fact that their objectives are yet to be attained,

PP6. *Underlining* its resolution 67/155 of 20 December 2012 by which the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations programmes and organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to launch an informal consultative preparatory process for the proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, with a view to proclaiming the International Decade in 2013,

OP1. *Decides* to proclaim the International Decade for People of African Descent commencing 1 January 2015 and ending 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African Descent: recognition, justice and development” to be officially launched on 10 December 2014, on the occasion of International Human Rights Day;

OP2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly through the facilitator to continue consultations with Member States of the General Assembly and other stakeholders, with a view to develop a programme for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, with a draft programme developed by the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts as its basis, to be finalized and adopted during the 68th Session of the General Assembly and not later than 30 June 2014;