



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 April 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Ammo Aziza Baroud, Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Rodrigo A Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, the co-facilitators to lead consultations on the modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent

The co-facilitators, via the aforementioned letter, forward herewith the zero-draft resolution on the modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent and hereby invites you to the first virtual informal consultation on Monday, 19 April 2021 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., during which an overview of the draft resolution will be presented.

I encourage you to continue to extend your full cooperation throughout this process.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir', written in a cursive style.

Volkan BOZKIR

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



15 April 2021

Excellency,

We have the honor to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the process for the establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.

At the outset, we would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for conveying us with this highly important responsibility. We are committed to fulfilling this duty through an open, inclusive and transparent process.

In line with the Roadmap and timetable of the negotiations circulated on 24 March 2021, we have the honor to transmit herewith the zero-draft resolution on modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, taking into account all inputs received by Member States, civil society and other interested stakeholders, which we hope will contribute to the process ahead and guide our efforts towards a consensual outcome.

With this goal in mind, we have the pleasure to invite you to the first virtual intergovernmental consultation on Monday, 19 April 2021 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. via Cisco WebEx platform, during which we will present an overview of the draft resolution. Connection details for the meeting will be circulated by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in advance of the meeting. Delegations are kindly invited to provide general views and ideas on the matter, in order to shape, enrich and advance a document to achieve together the establishment of the Permanent Forum.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Ammo Aziza Baroud

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Chad to the UN
the UN

Rodrigo A. Carazo,

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to

ZERO-DRAFT UN GA RESOLUTION
Establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

PP 1 *Recalling* its resolution 69/16 of 18 November 2014, in which the General Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, decided to establish a forum as a consultation mechanism for people of African descent and other interested stakeholders and that consideration be given to the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent; **[based on op 29 (h) and (i) 69/16]**

PP 2 Recalling its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, and emphasizing the opportunity for achieving important synergy in the combating of all the scourges of racism through the effective observance of the Decade, and in this regard contributing to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action **[pp1, 69/16]**

PP 3 Recalling its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, by which it decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and noting its previous resolutions on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

PP 4 *Recalling also* its resolution 75/237 of 11 November 2020, whereby it was decided to define the modalities, format and substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent, with no further delay, at its seventy-fifth session,

PP 5 *Taking into account* its resolutions 73/262 and 74/137, and Human Rights Council resolutions 30/17 and 34/33, which also elaborated on the mandate, modalities, format, substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent

PP 6 *Welcoming* the contributions submitted by interested stakeholders, individuals, groups and organizations to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in March 2015 on their vision for the new forum for people of African descent; welcoming the constructive discussions held in Geneva on the modalities of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent on 10 May 2019, and *further welcoming* the Chairperson’s report (A/PFPAD/2019/1) resulting from the one-day consultation on the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent,

PP 7 *Reiterating* that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies, and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and

dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races,

PP 8 *Committed* to upholding human dignity and equality for the victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, in particular people of African descent in the African diaspora [pp 5 69/16]

PP 9 *Noting* that 2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling that 2020 marked the midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent and its programme of activities,

PP 10 *Wishing to finalize* the modalities, format and substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum before the mid-term review of the International Decade for People of African Descent as one means of furthering the objectives of the International Decade in partnership between Governments and people of African descent,

PP 11 *Bearing in mind* that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community,

1. *Decides* to establish the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent in the diaspora and other interested stakeholders as a platform for improving the quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent, as well as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council¹, in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 29 (i) of the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent², with the mandate:
 - (a) To seek full political, economic and social inclusion of people of African descent in the societies in which they live as equal citizens enjoying substantive equality in terms of their rights;
 - (b) To provide expert advice and recommendations to the Human Rights Council, the Main Committees of the General Assembly, and organs, programs, funds, and agencies of the United Nations aimed at addressing challenges of all the scourges of racism confronted by people of African descent in the diaspora and that impede the full and effective realization of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - (c) To contribute to elaborating a United Nations declaration, on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent³;
 - (d) To identify and analyse best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for the further implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action relevant to people of African descent in the diaspora;
 - (e) To monitor and review progress on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent, and to this end to gather relevant information from Governments, United Nations bodies and organs,

¹ A/HRC/30/17 para 3

² A/RES/69/16 para 29 (i)

³ A/RES/69/16 para 29 (h)

intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant sources;

- (f) To mandate the preparation and dissemination of information on issues relating to people of African descent;
 - (g) To raise awareness and promote integration and coordination of activities relating to people of African descent within the United Nations system;
 - (h) To support the coordination of programmes aimed at human development indices among the communities of people of African descent in the diaspora with indicators directly relevant to their development needs,⁴ and,
 - (i) To offer advice and recommendations on urgent matters concerning the protection and promotion of human rights of people of African descent, and to undertake any specific task as requested by the Human Rights Council or the General Assembly.
2. *Also decides* that the Permanent Forum shall consist of sixteen members, eight members to be nominated by Governments and elected by the General Assembly, and eight members to be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council on the basis of broad consultations with people of African descent. Membership shall take into account the diversity and geographical distribution of people of African descent in the world, ensuring gender parity as well as the principles of transparency, representativity and equal opportunity for all people of African descent, with all members serving in their personal capacity as independent experts on people of African descent for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or reappointment for one further period.
3. *Further decides that* States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies, academics and experts on issues related to people of African descent and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may participate as observers; other organizations of people of African descent, including grassroots and community-based organizations may equally participate as observers in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Human Rights Council, which will provide for the timely information on participation and consultations with States concerned;
4. *Decides* that the Permanent Forum shall submit an annual report to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly on its activities, including recommendations for future thematic subjects; the report shall be distributed to the relevant United Nations organs, funds, programmes and agencies as a means, inter alia, of furthering the dialogue on issues affecting of people of African descent within the United Nations system
5. *Also decides* that the President of the Human Rights Council shall appoint for each session, on the basis of regional rotation, and in consultation with regional groups and organizations of people of African descent, a chairperson of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent selected among members of the Permanent Forum. Candidates should be nominated by regional groups, after being proposed by members and observers of the Council. The chairperson, serving in his/her personal capacity, shall be responsible for the

⁴ Sub paras b-h are based on A/HRC/30/17

preparation of a summary of the discussion of the Forum, to be made available to all participants of the Forum;

6. *Further decides* that the Permanent Forum shall meet annually, rotating between the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Headquarters or at such other place as the Permanent Forum may decide in accordance with existing financial rules and regulations of the United Nations, for three working days allocated to thematic discussions;
7. *Decides* that the Permanent Forum will contribute to the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve the cooperation among United Nations mechanisms, the Universal Periodic Review, the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum, treaty bodies, special procedures and specialized agencies, funds and programmes on activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of people of African descent, including at national and regional level ensuring that there is complementarity and non-duplication;
8. *Requests* that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights provides all the necessary support to facilitate, in a transparent manner, the convening of the Permanent Forum, the organization of its sessions and the participation of relevant stakeholders from every region in its meetings, giving particular attention to ensuring broadest possible and equitable participation, including, in particular, the representation of women;
9. *Also requests* the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to contribute to the work of the Permanent Forum including in the substantive preparation of its annual meetings, based on consultations with organisations of people of African descent;
10. *Decides* that the financing of the Permanent Forum shall be provided from within existing resources through the regular budget of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and through voluntary contributions as may be donated;
11. *Further Decides* that, five years after its establishment, an evaluation of the functioning of the Permanent Forum, including the method for selection of its members, shall be carried out by the Council in the light of the experience gained;