



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 May 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 leading 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, and in follow-up to their letter circulated on 20 May, forward herewith, the second revised text (Rev.2) of the draft resolution on the modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent and further reminds of the invitation to an informal consultation on 26 May 2021.

This meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. via the Cisco WebEx platform. Connection details for the meeting will be circulated by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in advance of the meeting.

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'.

Volkan BOZKIR

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



24 May 2021

Excellency,

We have the honour to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators to lead consultations on the intergovernmental process to define the modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.

Following the letter circulated on May 20, 2021, we have the honor to transmit herewith the Rev. 2 of the draft resolution on modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent. This revision reflects all views by Member States, expressed during the past three informal consultations and subsequent bilateral discussions. We hope the current text will bring us closer to consensus.

To continue our discussions, we have the pleasure of inviting you to the fourth and hopefully last informal consultation on Wednesday 26 May 2021 from 10 am to 1pm and from 3 to 6 pm, via Cisco WebEx Platform, with the objective of advancing towards agreement on paragraphs and discuss ways to finalize the adoption of the resolution.

We continue to rely on your support and cooperation to achieve the establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.

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

Ammo Aziza Baroud, Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Chad to the UN

Rodrigo A. Carazo, Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN

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

Rev.2

UN General Assembly Resolution
Establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

PP 1 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 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 and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, **[pp 1 68/237]**

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”, to be officially launched immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and to this end 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, **[pp 1 69/16]**

PP 3 *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 to serve 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 4 Reaffirming the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial discrimination,

PP 5 *Noting* the contributions submitted by relevant 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; noting the constructive discussions held in Geneva on the modalities of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent on 10 May 2019, and *further* noting the Chairperson’s report (A/PFPAD/2019/1) resulting from the one-day consultation on the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent,

PP 6 *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 2 68/237]**

PP 7 *Noting* that 2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling that the midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent and its programme of activities was supposed to take place in 2020,

PP 8 *Committing 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, people of African descent and relevant stakeholders,

PP 9 *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,

PP 10 *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]**

1. *Decides* to establish the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent including the diaspora and other interested stakeholders, as a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of Africans and people of African descent, as well as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, in line with paragraph 29 (i) of the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and in close coordination with existing mechanisms, 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 in coordination with existing mechanisms, 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 Africans and people of African descent including in the diaspora 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, protection and full respect of human rights of people of African descent, from an intersectional perspective;
 - (d) To identify and analyze best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives to address, as appropriate, the issues highlighted in the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action relevant to people of African descent;
 - (e) To monitor and review progress on the effective implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent, and to this end gather relevant information from Governments, United Nations bodies and organs, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant sources;
 - (f) To request the preparation, monitoring and dissemination of information on issues relating to people of African descent and promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies;
 - (g) To raise awareness and promote integration and coordination of activities, agencies, funds and programmes relating to Africans and 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 Africans and people of African descent including in the diaspora, with

- indicators directly relevant to their development needs, and examine the urgent global need to establish adequate channels to obtain disaggregated data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts **[based on 17.18 A/RES/70/1]**, conducive to the better execution of public policies, being part of the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by people of African descent,
- (i) To offer advice and recommendations on matters concerning the protection, promotion and respect of all 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 fifteen (15) members: five (5) members to be nominated by Governments, with equitable geographical distribution, and elected by the General Assembly, five (5) members to be appointed from existing expert mechanisms, and five (5) members to be nominated by the President of the Human Rights Council from members of relevant civil society organizations on the basis of broad consultations with people of African descent and in consultation with regional groups. The members from existing expert mechanisms shall be appointed without prejudice to their respective mandates and functions they already assume, and specifically including (1) the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, (1) the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, (1) the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and two (2) members of the Working Group of Experts on 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* the Permanent Forum shall be open to the participation of 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; the Permanent Forum shall also be open to other non-governmental organizations, including grassroots and community-based organizations, whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure 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 advice and recommendations for future thematic subjects, and engage in the interactive dialogue; the report shall be distributed to all Member States and the relevant United Nations organs, funds, programmes and agencies as a means, inter alia, of furthering the dialogue within the United Nations system on issues affecting people of African descent;

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 and vice chairperson of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent selected among members of the Permanent Forum. The Permanent Forum shall appoint the rapporteur from among the two members of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to support the work of the Permanent Forum, who may retain this role for successive sessions without rotation. Candidates shall be nominated by regional groups, after being proposed by members and observers of the Council. The chairperson, vice chairperson and rapporteur, serving in their personal capacities, shall be responsible for the 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 five working days allocated to thematic discussions, and decides that the Forum be organized, to the extent possible, back-to-back to a session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent or one of the annual sessions of the follow-up mechanisms of Durban ;
7. *Decides* that the Permanent Forum will contribute to and promote 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, protection and full respect of all human rights of people of African descent, including at the national and regional level, ensuring that there is complementarity and non-duplication;
8. *Requests* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the necessary support to facilitate, in a transparent manner, the convening of the Permanent Forum and the participation of twenty-five (25) representatives of relevant civil society organizations in its meetings **[based on A/C.3/73/15/]**, giving particular attention to grassroots and community-based organizations of people of African descent, ensuring broadest possible equitable geographic distribution and diverse participation, including in particular, the representation of women ;
9. Requests the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the Forum with all necessary resources, including services and facilities, to fulfil its mandate, including through voluntary contributions and by establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations **[based on OP10 A/HRC/RES/6/13]**;
10. *Further Decides* that the Permanent Forum shall convene its first session the following year after its establishment, and that four years after its establishment, an evaluation of the functioning of the Permanent Forum and the method for selection of its members, including its Chairperson, shall be carried out by the General Assembly in light of the experience gained.