



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 July 2021

Excellency,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter dated 21 July 2021 from H.E. Mr. Ammo Aziza Baroud, Permanent Representative of Chad and H.E. Mr. Rodrigo A. Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, in their capacity as co-facilitators to lead consultations on the modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

The co-facilitators via the afore-mentioned letter, inform delegations about the steps undertaken after silence was broken last Friday, 16 July and transmit the final draft of the resolution, which will be submitted for issuance as A/75/L.119. The plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider the draft resolution will be announced in due course in the *United Nations Journal*.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Ammo Aziza Baroud, Permanent Representative of Chad and H.E. Mr. Rodrigo A. Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, for ably facilitating the consultations on the draft resolution and to all Member States for their engagement in 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



21 July 2021

Excellency,

As co-facilitators to lead consultations on the modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, we have the honour to share with you the final version of the draft resolution entitled “Establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent”.

Referring to the letter circulated on 14 July 2021 in which the Rev. 3 of the draft resolution, entitled “Establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent” was put under silence procedure until end of business on Friday, 16 July 2021; we would like to inform you that two delegations broke the silence on the operative paragraph 1c. After discussions with the co-facilitators in consultation with other delegations, the two delegations have decided not to request an informal discussion on the paragraph. An oral amendment is therefore not expected.

We would like to reiterate that the draft resolution attached to our letter dated July 16, 2021, has been drafted and balanced with careful consideration of the views of the Member States, expressed during the informal consultations and subsequent bilateral discussions.

In this regard, we wish to commend to you the attached draft resolution for further action by the General Assembly.

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

His Excellency
Mr. Volkan Bozkir
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

Draft resolution
Establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

PP 1 *Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter,

PP 2 *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 3 *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 4 *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 relevant 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 ;

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,

PP6: *Taking note with appreciation* the statement of the High Commissioner for Human Rights that the Permanent Forum will join other similar mechanisms under the Human Rights Council who have all proven to be vibrant mechanisms that build on the expertise of the United Nations human rights system under the Human Rights Council and supported by the OHCHR,

PP7 *Recognizing with concern* that, despite efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, instances of and various forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance remain widespread ; *acknowledging* that acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance should be condemned wherever and whenever they occur, and *recognizing* that people of African descent have for centuries been victims of racism, racial discrimination and enslavement and the denial of many

of their rights, and asserting that they should be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and should not suffer discrimination of any kind,

PP 8 *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 9 *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 10 *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 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,

PP 12 *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

1. *Decides* to establish the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders as a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of 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 contribute to the full political, economic and social inclusion of people of African descent in the societies in which they live as equal citizens without discrimination of any kind and contribute to ensure equal enjoyment of all human 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, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their contemporary forms and manifestations confronted by people of African descent and that impede the full and effective realization and enjoyment of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - (c) To consider the elaboration of a United Nations declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of human rights of people of African descent;

- (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 and dissemination of information by the UN System 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 people of African descent within the United Nations system
- (h) To support the coordination of programmes aimed at the socio-economic development of communities and people of African descent, and to examine the urgent global need to establish adequate channels to obtain disaggregated data by income, gender, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, conducive to the better execution of public policies in relation to 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 ten (10) members: five (5) members to be nominated by Governments, based on equitable geographical distribution, and elected by the General Assembly and five (5) members nominated by organizations of people of African descent to be selected and appointed in accordance with the rules of procedures of the Human Rights Council. 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. All members shall serve in their personal capacity as independent experts on issues of 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 the participation of 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,

4. *Decides* that the Permanent Forum shall submit an annual report to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on its activities, including advice and recommendations for future thematic subjects for their consideration, 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 Permanent Forum of People of African Descent 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 a 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 members of the Permanent Forum, who may retain this role for successive sessions without rotation. 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 four (4) 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 the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
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, and protection and full respect of all human rights of people of African descent, including at national and regional level ensuring that there is complementarity and non-duplication;
8. *Also requests* that the work of the Forum be carried out in coordination with existing United Nations mechanisms relevant to the Permanent Forum's mandate;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the Forum, through the regular budget as well as voluntary contributions, with all necessary resources, including services and facilities, to fulfil its mandate, through the convening of the Permanent Forum, the organization of its sessions and the participation of relevant stakeholders from every region in its meetings, ensuring broadest, equitable geographic and diverse participation, including, in particular, the full and equal participation of women.

10. *Further decides* that the Permanent Forum shall convene its first session the following year after the present resolution is adopted. After four annual sessions of the Permanent Forum, an evaluation of its modalities, shall be carried out by the General Assembly on the basis of an evaluation made by the Human Rights Council in the light of the experience gained.