



**High-level meeting to mark the closure of the International Decade  
for People of African Descent  
Friday, 8 November 2024  
ECOSOC Chamber  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**PROGRAMME**

10:00 – 11:30 AM	<b>OPENING COMMEMORATIVE SEGMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H. E. Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly</li><li>• Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, on behalf of the UN Secretary- General</li><li>• Ms. Kimberlé Crenshaw, Co-Founder &amp; Executive Director of the African American Policy Forum</li><li>• Ms. Edna Liliana Valencia Murillo, journalist, poet and writer</li><li>• Statements by Chairs of regional groups for the month of November 2024 and the Host Country</li></ul>
11:30AM – 1.00 PM	<b>Panel 1: Recognition</b> <b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Epsy Campbell Barr, Member of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent</li></ul> <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Gay Mc Dougall, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</li><li>• Mr. José Antonio Aguilar Contreras, Chair of the UN Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action</li><li>• His Excellency James Ndirangu Waweru, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the UN Inter-governmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action</li><li>• Mr. Kamil Olufowbi, President of Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD)</li></ul> <i>Interactive discussion</i>
3:00 PM – 3:10 PM	Keynote remarks by Mr. Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



3:10 PM - 4:30 PM	<p><b>Panel 2: Justice</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights</li></ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Akua Kuenyehia, Chair of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement</li><li>• Ms. June Soomer, Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent</li><li>• Ms. Ashwini K.P., UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance</li><li>• Ms. Barryl Biekman, Coordinator of the Human Rights Commission of Tiye International</li><li>• Ms. Dayana Blanco Acendra, General director of ILEX Acción Jurídica</li></ul> <p><i>Interactive discussion</i></p>
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	<p><b>Panel 3: Development</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Gerarda (Gerry) Eijkemans, Director of the Department of Social and Environmental Determinants for Health Equity, Pan American Health Organization</li></ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Barbara G. Reynolds, Chair of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent</li><li>• Ms. Diene Keita, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director-Programme, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</li><li>• Ms. Mame-Fatou Niang, Associate Professor of French, CMU/Columbia and Director, Center for Black European Studies at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)</li><li>• Ms. Ana Barreto, Vice-President for Latin America at Planned Parenthood Global</li><li>• Mr. Alando Chia, Co-founder of the Asia-Pacific Network for People of African Descent</li></ul> <p><i>Interactive discussion</i></p>