



MEETING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Hosted by the Government of Brazil

3 - 4 December 2015, Brasilia, Brazil

Information Note N° 3 (29 October 2015)

1. Topics for the draft agenda

The draft agenda for the Regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean on the International Decade for People of African Descent will be structured under the three themes of the Decade: Recognition, Justice and Development. It is suggested to reflect in the deliberations, under each theme, on the priority areas identified by the Programme of Activities for the Decade and adopted by the General Assembly among others:

- **Recognition:** a) awareness raising and education measures to promote greater knowledge of and respect for culture, history, heritage and positive contribution; b) adoption of anti-racial discrimination laws and public policies, including action plans; d) establishment and strengthening of equality bodies; e) undertake data collection for the promotion of racial equality;
- **Justice:** concrete and effective measures: a) to ensure equal access to justice, equal treatment before tribunals and other organs administering justice, fair trial and effective protection and remedies; b) against racial profiling; c) to prevent and punish all human rights violations including violence, acts of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, including those committed by States officials; d) combat all acts of racism, in particular the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial hatred, violence and racist propaganda; e) special measures, such as affirmative action policies to overcome persistent or structural disparities.
- **Development:** concrete and effective measures to: a) guarantee active, free and meaningful participation in development and decision-making process and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom; b) give effect to free primary education and access to all levels of quality education; c) protect children from direct or indirect discrimination; d) ensure racial equality in the workplace and equality before labour law; e) equal access to quality health services and adequate housing; f) actions to protect ancestral groups; g) adopt or strengthen national programmes for eradicating poverty and reducing social exclusion.

Compounded discrimination faced by women and girls of African descent will be a crosscutting issue.

Further it is suggested that the above mentioned topics will inform the discussions and guide speakers. Participants may wish to share good practices from their countries or organisations on those or other relevant topics.

Experts from the Durban follow-up mechanisms and CERD have been invited to participate in the Meeting and will initiate the discussions on each of the three themes.

2. Participation from Member States, UN bodies, NHRIs, Equality bodies and civil society

Member States of the region, United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and equality bodies, non-governmental organizations accredited to the meeting have been invited to nominate representatives to participate in the meeting. Member States and organizations are strongly encouraged to nominate representatives who deal with issues related to the promotion and protection of the rights of people of African descent.

Please confirm with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on official letterhead the name(s) of the person(s) that will be representing your country or organization to decadepadbrasilialia@ohchr.org as soon as possible. The **deadline for registration is 20 November 2015**.

Documentation

The final report of the meeting will be issued as a United Nations document in all official languages. Written contributions by participants, on the topics of the meeting are welcome. They must be drafted in English, French or Spanish and will be available to participants in the language of submission only. Since reproduction capacity are limited and in line with UN green policy, participants are kindly requested to bring with them to Brasilia all documents that have been distributed to them in advance by OHCHR.
