

Joint Proposals

To the UN Working Group of People of African Descent
&
The Secretariat of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

From

- * National Platform Dutch Slavery Past (LPS)
(Netherlands/Curacao/Republic Suriname)
- * African European Women Movement “Sophiedela” (Netherlands)
- * African European Youth Movement “Sophiedela” (Netherlands)
 - * Foundation African World Studies Institute (Netherlands)
 - * Tiye International (Netherlands)
- * African and People of African Descent Network, the Netherlands
 - * Funky Fresh Entertainment, Youth Movement (Netherlands)
 - * Un Bondru-Suriname (Republic Suriname)
 - * International NGO Congress-Barbados (Barbados)
- * African Union (6thRegion) African Diaspora Europe Region
 - * SRDCoalition Western Hemisphere
(USA/ Canada/ Guadeloupe /Martinique/ Central America)
 - * Pan African Organisation Committee USA (POAC)
 - * Fundacion Vida – Grupo Ecologico Verde (Spain)
 - * Panafricanista Movimiento (Spain)
 - * Federacion de Cubanos (Spain)
- * African Hebrew Israelite of Jerusalem (Dimona, Israel)
- * International Youth and Student movement for the United Nations (Sweden)
 - * SOS Crisd’Enfants International ONG
(Switzerland, Haiti, Dominican Republic, USA-Florida, Spain, the Netherlands)

Regarding 2011 Year of People of African Descent

Presented by: Mrs. Drs. Barryl A. Biekman

On April, 14 & 15 2010

During the ninth session (April 12-16, 2010 Geneva, Room XX1) Of the Working Group of
Experts of People of African Descent in presence of
Members of the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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Taken in consideration

- 1) The invitation, dated February 18, 2010, from the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the Year for People of African Descent in 2011, to participants of the ninth session of the Working Group of Experts of People of African Descent, to bring with them initiatives in the context of the Year;
- 2) That the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban/South Africa 2001) recognized and recognizes an “urgent need to translate the objectives of the Declaration into a practical and workable Programme of Action” (DDPA) which can be implemented, monitored and measured;
- 3) That the Programme of Action is a 62-page document containing over 122 introductory affirmations, recognitions and reiterations, and recommendations for over 219 specific action;
- 4) That there are already enough stipulations, resolutions, and proper language. What is needed now are strategies of implementation, so that substantial progress can be realized by the Head of States Summit in 2011;
- 5) That in most of the VN Nation states the DDPA and the DR 2009 has not implemented yet;
- 6) That because of article 5, this has implications for people of African Descent, in the sense that they are not recognize as a specific Group in the National and Regional Governmental Administration and in this regards, no specific measures on the most important issues of political en policy concerns (education, health, economics, cultural heritage, media, politics) including on anti (black)racism and institutional racism concerns. This includes data & statistics;
- 7) That the implementation of the DDPA and the Durban Review resolution 2009 (article 1) in particular is essential for the African Descendant civile society organisations to move forward including the elimination of black Racism (afrofobia);
- 8) That in the sense of Remembrance, Apologies and Reparations, this includes Reconstruction, it is essential for the people of African Descent, that Nation States take their responsibility. In the Netherlands the establishment of a Special Committee for the Study towards Reparations has already been suggested to the Dutch National Government;

Proposals with an International approach

A) The approval, by the Working Group of Experts and the Human Rights Council, of a **Survey of Current Compliance**¹. Such approval will provide the credibility and inspiration for civil society organizations and NGOs in the various countries to investigate research and compile the necessary data. This data can be integrated in the by the CERD, mr Pastor Morello, suggested Study respective in relation to the 2-year Human Rights Evaluation by the CERD and Human Rights Teams that already visit countries in some central cities or regions. The report can also be a part of the 10 year after Durban Review of the United Nations General Assemble.

¹ Survey produced by Professor, dr. David L. Horne for the Pan African Diaspora Union-Pan African Organizing Committee (PADU-PAOC) and those of the African Union-African Descendants Caucus, and others who want progress.

B) We propose that the OHCHR compile, edit and publish a booklet of *The Most Egregious Current Examples of Racism, Intolerance and Xenophobia in World Countries*, based on the Survey results and other collected information, and *The Most Inspiring Examples of Eradication of Racism, Intolerance and Xenophobia*. Whether the conceptual “Swarte Piet” Cultural Tradition in the Netherlands is just a problem in the Netherlands or interlinked to similar racist situations, physical stereotypes in other parts of Europe and the world can then be understood by comparing all of the data in one place. To move forward in the battle against Intolerance, we must identify the areas of our focus and then move forward to expose it, eliminate it, or otherwise fundamentally change it. Waiting patiently for governments to move on their own is not a viable strategy in this century.

C) Remembrance, Apologies, Reparations including Reconstruction must be the focus of the International Year.

D) We support all activities that will give honour to Haiti and the Haitian People and in this regards the historical implications for Africa and People of African Descent in the sphere of Remembrance, Apology & the give back of the Reparations paid by Haiti.

E) We ask also for attention for a specific Group within the African Descendant Group in Republic Suriname and the Carribean who are still in existance and keep the African Tradition and Spirit a live: The Marron People and in related to that, the Indigenious peoples;

F) In the sphere of Remembrance and the special date we proposed a Peace Price Award for the honouring of two important people, Icons, so to speak, namely Rosa Parks and Toussaint Louverture. These two Peace Price Awards can be given 1) for honouring best practices of Civile Society movements to combat (black) racism respectively for best pratices of Leadership related to anti (black) racism policies.

Further more we support proposals regarding

- 1) The International Year that should be opened during an opening-day ceremony related to the 65th session of the General Assembly at a meeting on December 10th 2010;
- 2) Messages of support that should be invited from heads of State and Government, executive heads of United Nations bodies, as well as chairpersons of principal committees;
- 3) The designing of a symbol and logo for the use in connection with the Year. We suggest a symbol developed by an artist of African Descent;
- 4) The observance of the Year in an appropriate way in the programme of the July session of the ECOSOC;
- 5) The International Year that it should observes within the UN on a system wide basis and context requesting all specialized agencies and United Nations organs to include observance of the Year as appropriate in their programme for 2011;
- 6) The issuance of a slogan cancellations by the United Nations Postal Administration, paraphrasing “People of African Descent – Recognition, Reparation, Justice, Development”/International Year for People of African Descent, 2011;
- 7) Production in all languages and dissemination of a poster highlighting the theme of the Year and of a public service announcement using the same design for placement in international news media, web-sites, etc. In this regards we ask for special attentions towards Youth and Children;

- 8) The Establishment of a dedicated web space for the Year for information and interaction regarding United Nations, People of African Descent, non-governmental organisations and other relevant activities;
- 9) The production in all 6 official languages of the United Nations of an illustrated brochure on the Year, intended for use by United Nations information centres', non-governmental organisations, schools, the media and the general public;
- 10) And support the proposal of the International NGO Congress which call for a week of activities from October 7th to 13th that seek to contribute towards Healing & Reconciliation.

Activities specific at the National level

- 1) The Designating of a Coordinating Contact person for the Year in the appropriate Governmental Department and the Establishing of a National Committee composed of governmental, Delegates from People of African Descent Networks, this includes de civil (grassroots) society and non-governmental representatives to prepare a National Programme of Activities and in this regard a National Fund for the finance of the activities;
- 2) Raising public awareness through information and education projects and consider making available resources for such activities by Organisations of People of African Descent (the civil society/grassroots) and Non-Governmental Organizations;

