

**Statement of  
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**Geneva Palais des Nations**

**During the 20th session of the IGWG on the effective  
implementation of the DDPA**

**Topic**

**Item 9: Discussion on the Draft Declaration on the  
promotion and full respect of the Human Rights of  
People of African Descent**

Thank you, Madam Chair, for given me the floor.

First of all, I would like to thank all the panelists for their vision and contribution towards the development of the Declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of People of African Descent.

A special praise goes to Pastor Murillo Martinez for his eye-opening contribution on the issue of Reparatory Justice.

With regards to the contribution of the European Union Permanent mission I think that it is time to engage with the mission. Together we have the choice to do everything that is in our power to bring an end at the structural demonizing and undermining of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action (DDPA). It is an issue of togetherness to defend and promote the fully implementation of the DDPA which is the strongest action oriented universal document of the United Nations' programs to realize the rights of all victims of racism, Afrophobia, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Madam Chair, on your request to first inform the audience who am I:

In 2001, in my capacity as chair of the National Monument Dutch Slavery past, I was unanimous appointed by the NGOs in the Netherlands to represent them as liaison in the Dutch Governmental Delegation during the UN Third Anti Racism World Conference that took place in Durban South Africa in 2001. It was a big challenge given the fact that UN Member States failed to give priority on the issue of the trans-Atlantic slavetrade and slavery during the first and second UN Anti Racism World Conference.

In 2014 I was, out of a selection of more than hundred candidates appointed by the President of the United Nations General Assemblée to speak on behalf of the Global Civil Society during the launching of the UN International Decade People of African Descent.

In 2021 I was again appointed by the President of the United Nations General Assemblée to speak on behalf of the Global Civil Society during the High-Level Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the DDPA<sup>1</sup>, titled: "Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent".

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<sup>1</sup> Here <https://app.box.com/s/og3hw3g70p5795e4iw9ufuim0o96vjoo> the link to the statement

During the launching in 2014 we invited all Member States, as proposed by the Global Coalition for the International Decade for People of African Descent, to recognize and honour the Decade as the "Reparation Decade"<sup>2</sup>.

The background to this was the hope that the Decade would make a difference taken into consideration the outcomes of the Durban Review 2009, The High-Level Panel on ten years DDPA in 2011 and the International Year for People of African Descent that showed the lack of political will to implement the DDPA in its full ornate.

With the UN adoption of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent we had hoped that it would deliver a rain of National Action Plans in which interwoven strategies and policies including corresponding mechanisms and instrumentaria to implement the Decade Program of Action and Actions in the field of the settlement of the slavery files including Reparations. The Netherlands was one of the first member states that launched the Decade. We were proud to mention the Netherlands as best practice. Meanwhile the State failed to produce a National Action Plan until to date.

Madam Chair,

see here the reason why Tiye International after consulting our national, international and regional affiliates, proposed the adoption of a **Second UN International Decade People of African Descent 2025-2034**. This to ensure continuity in line with the steps that have been set out until so far. There is still a great deal to be gained in the field of actions aimed at promoting (inter)national consciousness, solidarity and political will towards the implementation of the Decade Program of Action<sup>3</sup>. What we ask for is to take this suggestion in consideration while develop the Resolution towards the adoption of the final declaration on the promotion and full respect of the Human Rights of People of African Descent.

Madam Chair,

Tiye International thanks all who have contributed to the Draft Declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of People of African Descent. In this context, we thank you for the fact that your Working Group has dared to prominently include the term **Afrophobia in the Draft Declaration** in the understanding and the believe that its application creates a policy and action-oriented framework to tackle all forms of multiple racism against People of African Descent with root and all. In this context, we are pleased that your Working Group

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<sup>2</sup> Here <https://app.box.com/s/4sgg9vpjvd95capjmribd36gxc4m6boy> the link to the statement

<sup>3</sup> here <https://app.box.com/s/qd934r505cw5bjjima1h2nqr83fritekb> the link to the Decade Program of Activities

has taken our submission regarding this proposal in serious consideration. The introduction of the term Afrophobia offers an important opening for the Anti-Discrimination mechanism for instance in the Netherlands to effectively handle the complaints about manifestations of racism by citizens of African Descent.

Over time, various terms have been used to describe the specific forms of multiple racism against People of African Descent. Anti-black racism replaced the term 'negrophobia' which was introduced by the U.S. in 1830 and used in campaigns against slavery and for racial equality. Negrophobia as a term was introduced before the term 'anti-Semitism'. It was then accepted by the UN. The term 'negrophobia' was included in the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur, who investigated forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and associated incidents. During the 50th session of the Human Rights Council in 1994, the use of the term 'negrophobia' was rejected, also because of the n-word that was judged unacceptable and outdated to refer to People of African Descent. In this regard, the replacement of 'negrophobia' by the term 'Afrophobia' was recommended. This because of the fact that the term Anti Black Racism was no longer sufficient. It was and still is used for all kinds of migrant-groups while Afrophobia mainly refers to pseudo-scientific racist approaches that result from the reprehensible delusions about Africa and African People in general which has led to legitimization for the kidnapping of Africans and the application of the reprehensible slavery systems.