

## Press Release

Sunday September 19, 2021

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### President of UN General Assembly Names Dr. Barryl Biekman as Keynote Speaker

**Sunday, September 19, 2021—New York**, While the UN World Conference Against Racism marks its 20-year anniversary, Dr. Barryl Biekman will serve as Keynote Speaker for the opening session of United Nation's High-level meeting of September 22, 2021.

Per its resolution 75/237, the General Assembly will hold a one-day high-level meeting to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the theme "Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent".



Dr. Biekman, an African-Surinamese from the Netherlands, is highly recognized in the NGO and intergovernmental communities for her advocacy and bringing worldwide attention to the DDPA. Exemplary to this, she also addressed the formal launching of the International Decade for People of African Descent at the UN General Assembly in 2014.

Dr. Barryl Biekman, is the Human Rights Commissioner of Tiye International, Council Member of ENGOCCAR (European-Wide NGO Consultative Council on Afrikan Reparations / Europe, UK), a Member of the Global Pan African Coalition for the DDPA, and former Member of the Technical Working Groups for the development of the African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region Declaration of 2012. She also Chairs the National Monument Dutch Slavery Past, and led amongst hundreds of Pan-Africanists and activists, the preparation processes of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as an NGO liaison in the Dutch government delegation in South Africa, 2001.

Among her many achievements and expert knowledge, which bridge understandings between the empowerment of women and girls, gender equity, human rights and civilization dialogue, Dr. Biekman is this year's recipient of the prestigious Global African Women's Day Award for her outstanding contributions on increasing the visibility of the DDPA.

Among the speakers at the historic opening session are; President of the General Assembly, United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Head of State of South Africa and invited members from civil society.

Location: Wednesday September 22, 2021, United Nations General Assembly Hall, New York  
Time: 9:00 AM

For more information on the DDPA visit: <https://www.DurbanPlus20.org>