

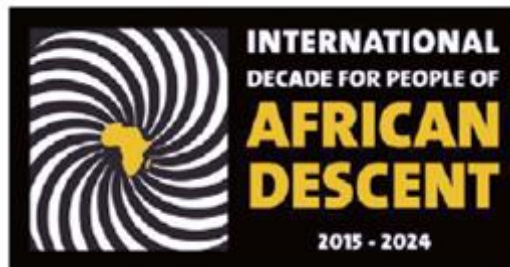
# Statement

**Dr. Barryl A. Biekman<sup>1</sup>**



**Panelist Reparatory Justice**

**Second Session of the Permanent Forum on People  
of African descent**



**United Nations  
New York  
May, 30<sup>th</sup> 2023**

---

<sup>1</sup> National Platform Dutch Slavery Past & Tiye International

Excellencies, members of the Forum, Families here and online, Kings and Queens of the Traditional Kingdoms of Africa,

Madam Chair congratulations with the organisation of the second session of the Forum and thank you for the invitation to participate in this important historical panel. A tribute to the great ancestors, Our people and Children yet unborn on whose behalf I speak.

Madam Chair,

I was particularly honored to be invited by the President of UNGA to speak on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 on behalf of the global civil society during the launch of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent.

9 years later I am back in the building of the international community to deliver my views on the issue of Reparatory Justice. A subject that has occupied us, our minds and brains for years and worries us. Many conferences, congresses, seminars, researches and studies are devoted to the subject, organizations that have emerged, more and more continents, (so called black) governments are addressing this issue.

I will bring in your memories 2014 during the launching that the decision to have the International Decade did not come as a gift from heaven. It came only because of a long struggle of Pan Africanists supported by those civil society organizations, the working group of experts of people of African descents who were committed to the implementation of the DDPA, and finally because of the belief of a great majority of UN member states that a change must come in the realization of the full implementation of the DDPA.

The launching of the Decade was a great victory for the cause of justice with the strong reaffirmation of and call for the full and effective implementation of the DDPA.

At the center of the demands during the World Conference Against Racism was the declaration of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery, colonialism, and apartheid as crimes against humanity.

In 2014 I stated that the adopted theme of the Decade, "Recognition, Justice, Development", must be recognized as it is for us synonymous with the Repairing of the damage, which must become the overall concept of the Decade. I on behalf of the world-wide Civil society therefore invited all member states, to recognize and honor the Decade as the "Reparation Decade".

After 8 years of adoption of the Decade, we in the Netherlands succeeded to get the Dutch State so far as to make a full apology. And even though there has been no reference by the Dutch State to the paragraphs 100, 101 and 102 of the DDPA, we the Descendants of the enslaved in the

Netherlands have interpreted the apology as a direct implementation of the exhortations to the member states.

But what now!!!?

Now that the Prime Minister, on behalf of his Cabinet, has been firm in his argument that there will be no embedding of the apology in the Dutch law and that there can be no question of Reparations.

We are now five months after the Dutch apology, and confronted with the complex reality which frames international laws with regards to effecting and accessing remedies for reparations.

We have come to the conclusion that there are apparently no Global Reparatory Justice Instruments to solve this bottleneck yet. Because, as we are currently experiencing, the Netherlands can simply get away with the decision not to proceed with Reparatory Justice.

And this is precisely the problem

At the same time, we see possibilities in context of the mandate of the PFPAD inter alia;

“To provide, in coordination with existing mechanisms, expert advice and recommendations to the Human Rights Council, the Main Committees of the General Assembly and organs, programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations aimed at addressing challenges of all the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their contemporary forms and manifestations confronted by people of African descent and that impede the full and effective realization and enjoyment of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms..”

And for that reason, we call on your Forum to make use of the mandate by to assemble Expert Committees in cooperation with entities like the Caricom Reparations Commission annex the Civil Society Associated Members, NCOBRA, December 12<sup>th</sup> Movement & PARCOE, to further peruse the gathering of relevant laws and instruments that would enable Reparatory Justice Committees to seek redress for all descendants of Trans Atlantic Chattel Slavery, Colonialism & native genocide.

Your Forum can now demonstrate its ability to assist African Descendants in seeking solutions.

Furthermore, a Statement from the Permanent Forum to the Dutch Cabinet will help that it is not acceptable that the apology is not followed up in the context of Reparatory Justice, as expected in perspective of the implementation of the Durban Declarations and Action Programme. I, on behalf of our constituencies in the Netherlands, in the Kingdom of the Netherlands as a whole, Republic Suriname, Republic Guyana and everywhere where the Netherlands has committed trans-Atlantic slavetrade, slavery & colonialism, believe that the absence of a Global Response opens

up the door for all other member states that have committed crimes against humanity to get away with a Declaration similar to the decision of the Netherlands.

**Thank you again for this opportunity.**