

Virtual informal consultation with Member States and civil society organizations regarding the draft outline of the modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum on people of African descent

CONCEPT NOTE

Friday 9 April 2021

Background

In November 2014, the General Assembly decided, in the resolution [A/RES/69/16](#) entitled Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, “to establish a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism... that would ensure the inclusive participation of all States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, civil society organizations of people of African descent and all other relevant stakeholders”.

Pursuant to A/RES/69/16, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights invited in March 2015 interested stakeholders, individuals, groups and organizations to submit information on their vision for the new forum on people of African descent. All [submissions](#) received were transmitted to Member States.

Between 2015 and 2018, successive resolutions from the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/RES/30/17](#) and [A/HRC/34/33](#)) and the General Assembly ([A/RES/73/262](#)) spelled out some of the modalities of the Permanent Forum.

On 10 May 2019, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution [A/RES/73/262](#), a one-day consultation on the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent was organized, focusing on “the modalities, format and substantive and procedural aspects of the permanent forum”. As a follow-up to the above consultation Member States held an informal meeting in Geneva on 18 June 2019 to discuss the way forward on the operationalization of the Permanent Forum on people of African descent. The Chairperson’s report of these meetings was published and shared with the President of the General Assembly (see [A/PFPAD/2019/1](#)).

On 18 December 2019, resolution [A/RES/74/137](#), “(F)urther welcomes the constructive discussions held in Geneva on the modalities of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, and decides to define them at its seventy-fourth session;”

On 31 December 2020, resolution [A/RES/75/237](#) entitled “A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”, “regrets that substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent could not be defined during its seventy-fourth session owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, decides to define them, with no further delay, at its seventy-fifth session, and requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators in that regard”.

On 4 March 2021 the President of the General Assembly appointed H.E. Ms. Ammo Aziza Baroud, Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations in New York and H.E. Mr. Rodrigo A. Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa-Rica to the United Nations in New York as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process to define the modalities, format, and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

The cofacilitators, sharing a strong belief on the importance of building on this background, have put forward a Roadmap of the process that was circulated to all Member States on 24 March 2021. Furthermore, committed to prompt open and insightful conversations with Member States, from 29 March to 1st April 2021 the cofacilitators have engaged with all Regional Groups to present them the guiding matters to be taken into consideration in the preparations of the outline on the main aspects of the Permanent Forum on people of African descent, including its mandate, substantive objectives, procedural aspects, structure, format and reporting modalities.

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to allow Member States and civil society organizations to mutually convey their concepts regarding the draft outline on the main aspects of the Permanent Forum on people of African descent, including its mandate, substantive objectives, procedural aspects, structure, format and reporting modalities.

The cofacilitators' aim is to stimulate contributions from stakeholders and motivate their engagement notwithstanding the tight schedule. The cofacilitators deem all previous efforts and engagement have so far borne positive fruit and the process has sufficiently developed to move to the next phase. Accordingly, the cofacilitators wish to submit the outcome of this process to the President of the General Assembly before the debate on the midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent, in the second part of May 2021

Registration and technical provisions

Taking into account established practice imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will adopt a virtual modality. Speakers, participants and attendants are required to pre-register to be allowed access the internet-based platform. The meeting will be hosted on the remote simultaneous interpretation platform *Interprefy* and webcast in all six official languages.

The link to the Interprefy platform will be sent to participants following their expression of interest to intervene during the meeting.

The co-facilitators are committed to allow the most ample and balanced participation, including regional, gender and youth representation.

All participants are encouraged to communicate their interest to make a statement during the event, in which case they are gently requested to make available their statements in advance until Wednesday 7 April in order to allow the interpreters to acquaint to their texts.

The pre-registration process unlocks access to the onboarding procedures before the event. Two onboarding sessions are open on Wednesday 7 and Tuesday 8 April 2021 from 11 am to 1 pm (EST). Pre-registered civil society organizations will be given access to the onboarding sessions in line with the Tuesday 6 April deadline.

In addition, the event will be webcasted live on UN web tv on Friday 9 April 2021, allowing those interested stakeholders who didn't pre-register to follow the discussion.

Statements by Member States in their national capacity should be limited to 3 minutes, group interventions may last up to 5 minutes. Statements by civil society organizations should be limited to 3 minutes and those on behalf of multiple organizations may last up to 5 minutes. Delegations intervening on behalf of groups will be given priority in the speaking order. The Co-facilitators reiterate their commitment to hear as many speakers as possible, **time permitting**. Member States and Observers

wishing to take the floor during the meeting are kindly requested to send an e-mail to the General Assembly Affairs Branch (e-mail: galindo@un.org). Civil society organizations interested in participating can do so writing an email: decadepadgeneva@ohchr.org. Deadline for pre-registration is Wednesday, 7 April (9am Eastern Standard Time).

The event will be organized as follows (all times appear in Eastern Standard Time):

PROGRAMME
Friday, April 9th

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome and introductory message by cofacilitators with a brief overview of objectives of the event, order of interventions and time allocation.

10:10 – 10:14 Message by PGA (TBC)

10:14 – 10:18 Message by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (TBC)

10:18 – 10:20 Description of order of interventions and time allocation by cofacilitators.

10:20 – 11:00 Interventions by Members States.

11:00 – 12:50 Interventions by organizations of civil society.

12:50 – 13:00 Closing remarks by cofacilitators.