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Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) 26th session from 23 to 25 November 2020

Regional Meeting: Europe and North America 23 November 15.00-17.00 (CET)

For people of African descent in North America especially in the last four years it has revealed dormant spaces of white supremacy reawakened as the nation and society evolves to a majority of people of color. This has caused a massive response of anxiety within the context of white supremacy of a return and maintenance of whiteness across power dynamics and continued oppression of people of African descent. The last 9 months of the new normal of COVID-19 has exposed generational and historical legacies of disparities such as black infant mortality, city wide poverty, digital illiteracy, black on black violence and generational incarceration; basically a seemingly irreparable destruction of the black family.

In regard to the *International Decade for People of African Descent*; the last 4 years of any strides, achievement, ideas, innovations have all been cast or hidden in the shadows of the ghost of white supremacy in America. The three objectives; *Recognition, Justice*, and *Development* in the last 4 years have all reveal the depth, complexity, and urgency of preserving and imagining a new humane future for the youth of African descent. Surprisingly in the last 5 years necessary change did not come from legislative measures, national action plans/polices, mechanisms, institutions, Member states, etc., but those changes no matter how small or intermittent have actualized due to the very people who are historically oppressed and disenfranchised; the people on the ground, the everyday, the unknown and unfamiliar face.

Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign would like to see out of the three platforms of the Decade JUSTICE prioritize. Without Justice, a balancing of the scales inclusive of divine/human/moral law along with the input of society we as a nation will be unable to RECOGNIZE the humanness of a person, and unable to DEVELOP people of the future who are fully human. Considering the setback of the last 5 years; APP-HRC suggests an extension of the International Decade for People of African Descent along with a Diaspora Sub-Committee/Working Group of Civil Societies dedicated to the International Decade for People of African Descent.