Proposal for the WGEPAD 27th session,
“The Urgency of Now: Systemic racism and the lessons of 2021”

Written (Mission) Statement- Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation/Kha-Nu
National Community-USA

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The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) has done more than enough to raise awareness on the adverse effects of enslavement, colonialism, and  reparatory justice, and we applaud your efforts.

It is impossible for anyone to present views on the current  human  rights  situation  of people  of African  descent  globally, but as an NGO in consultative status in the United Nations ECOSOC, we can present our view on the current  situation of descendants of enslaved Africans in America (DEAUS), African Americans.

As victims of the transatlantic slave trade, DEAUS, our situation remains largely invisible and has been insufficient recognition by the United States government, especially during the COVID 19 pandemic. DEAUS have been given no respect to our human rights efforts. The United States government has initiated no program of activities under  the International Decade for people of African descent for African Americans.  As DEAUS we are seeking redress for our present condition, 400 years of systemic racism. To address this, our organization have long called for greater inclusion in the design and implementation of international law and humanitarian law as a more robust accountability to victims or in this case DEAUS.

As defined by the Human Rights Council Resolution 9/14, the mandate of the WGEPAD is:

(e) To address all the issues concerning the well-being of Africans and people of African descent contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

(f) … promote the human rights of people of African descent through, inter alia, the following activities:

i. Improving the human rights situation of people of African descent by devoting special attention to their needs through, inter alia, the preparation of specific programmes of action;

ii. Designing special projects, in collaboration with people of African descent, to support their initiatives at the community level and to facilitate the exchange of information and technical know-how between these populations and experts in these areas (HRC Resolution 9/14).

Our recommendation is for WGEPAD to:

First, the WGEPAD need to limit reports redressing the legacies of enslavement and colonialism around the world, and start addressing remedies, such as outlined in  UNGA resolution A/RES/75/237 (Paragraph 158). The WGEPAD is mandated to designed  special projects, in collaboration with NGOs in  consultative  status with the United Nations to support their initiatives, and collaborate with states and UN organs to implement these remedies.

Secondly, the WGEPAD, in their report, should place emphasis on having regional WGEPAD in all regions of the UN, and limit each experts tour to two years. In this capacity,  African Americans WGEPAD will be able to address its own human rights issues instead of immigrants, minorities or colonial powers in reports and country visits. In present WGEPAD reports, its does not address the effects of Jim Crow, Willie Lynch, African American social xenophobia, prostitution and poverty, gentrification,  genocide, and the cultural, social, political, and economic effects of immigrants in the African-American Communities.

As descendants of enslaved Africans in the United States, we don't need no more annual reports on racism, or how to raise awareness on the adverse effects of enslavement and colonialism,  neither reparatory justice. We need special projects initiated by the WGEPAD for DEAUS that fulfill its mandates, and the full implementation of UNGA resolution (A/RES/75/237, Paragraph 158) which outlines remedies for these occurrences.

According to UNGA Resolution A/RES/75/237 adopted 31 December 2020, it states:

“Welcoming the call upon all the former colonial Powers for reparations, consistent with paragraphs 157  and 158 of the Durban Programme of Action, to redress the historical injustices of slavery and the slave  trade, including the transatlantic slave trade,

Recognizing and affirming that the global fight against  racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and  contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community.”

Paragraph 158…..the Remedy
·        Facilitation of welcomed return and resettlement of the descendants of enslaved Africans;

Our input and recommendations culminates and in the WGEPAD designing a special project  in collaboration with this NGO to support our initiatives, facilitating a welcome return and resettlement of descendants of enslaved Africans in the United States. The WGEPAD will be facilitating the exchange of information and technical know-how between the U.S. Government,  and in collaboration with civil society and perhaps other relevant UN institutions such as organs of ECOSOC (UNESCO and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)).

This special project is all In accordance with Resolution A/RES/75/237 adopted by the General Assembly, international law and the Durban Declaration.