

PFPAD Statement

Thank you and good evening distinguished ladies and gentlemen, all protocols duly observed

My name is Kamil Olufowobi and I represent Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) a youth focused global organization working in support of the Decade to get the next generation involved in this work to combat racism and all forms of discrimination against people of African descent worldwide.

First, I congratulate you Madame Chair and all the members of the permanent forum on this historic day! Godspeed.

Second, as we come to the close of the Decade and kick off the permanent forum, it is imperative to hold member states accountable to submit their national plan, in accordance to the UN Resolution 68/237 that declared the decade, to update their laws to protect and respect the Human Rights of people of African descent.

As of today, for example, UN member states with the large populations of people of African descent Brazil, USA etc are yet to officially recognize the decade. Accountability is key.

Third, from the former President of the United States, 54 African Presidents, numerous Prime Ministers, the Mayor of New York City, US Ambassador to the UN, WTO, WHO, UN Global Compact to mention a few are positions occupied by people of African descent. Our ask of this newly inaugurated Forum, is to leverage the collective power of some of the Most Influential People of African Descent because more than ever before we are in positions of political, economical and cultural power i.e. We have 3 VPs of African Descent in the Diaspora, only 2 of you are here in Geneva at this forum.

Also, the collective economic might of Black wealth would be tenths of trillion of dollars yet we struggle to fund forums to discuss our issues. Clearly, we, the people of African descent, as a collective have everything we need, let's close the gap and leverage what we have to get what we need!

I close by calling this forum and all member states to join MIPAD as we prepare for the close of the decade in 2024 with the creation of the ALBUM OF THE DECADE featuring music of African and Black origins from all over the world, again leverage what we have OUR MUSIC to unite and unify our people and humanity towards a more just and equitable world.

Thank You.