

Thursday, June 1st 2023

United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY USA

Inputs from a Civil society to the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

Hi dear members, allow me to share with you some points I deem of importance regarding this week's forum and in light of the United Nations Decade... For us, by us. I intended a 1 page but, as it seems evident I will not get to speak, allow me to elaborate further on my thoughts. Thanks for your time and consideration. If possible, with respect to your burden, I would appreciate a feedback as I aim to serve.

General remarks:

1. Haiti, light of Pan-africanism and symbol of Black resistance to oppression should have been and must become a stand alone theme, as would have been South Africa, were we in the 1980's.
2. An African language must be part of the proposed translations. It is incoherent in logic as Black pride that truly, all the languages for translation are of colonizers and, or of non-Black origins. I propose Swahili (which I do not speak) as the indigenous African language with most speakers. I understand the United Nations notion of admitted languages, but adaptation being the key to survival and credibility, not having Swahili nor Portuguese for the Brazilian delegation (the most populous Black nation outside of Africa) hurts the credibility of the forum with much discontent.
3. At the moment I write this, I may not get my 2m of speaking despite many mobilizing for me, even offering their turn if they are called forth to speak. I propose to review the calling process. Many complained of the non respect of the "first come first served" policy non applied, just as, although I totally understand it, of potentially biases for gender as regions/countries balances. Unfortunately, due to Black experiences, such perceptions feed the notion of conspiracies.
4. African/Afro spirituality must be at the center of the forum and be stated from the start. Each day. In Canada we do Indigenous Land Acknowledgement, and in my humble position as Regional Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity in Child Welfare, a sector plagued with disproportionalities and disparities upon Black children, youth and families, I crafted and impose a reading of recognition of an "Anti-Black Racism Statement". Such have been adopted in other sectors where I am a consultant, as the Education sector, to be read at events just as meetings.

Reparatory justice:

1. The Arab-Muslim slave trade is TOO OFTEN ignored out of the conversation on reparations despite centuries of enslavement of Blacks, from 639 (with the Bakt treaty) to today (as seen in



- 2017 with CNN/mainstream medias reporting Africans sold on auction blocks as slaves in Lybia by Arab Muslims). This geopolitical, but very much African as well, hypocrisy must stop. White European Christians are far from the only ones having hurted Blacks in body and soul, but White Arab Muslims have done so as well, yet instrumentalize politically Black Muslims with Islam as an Arab supremacist ideology. Just as Christianity was, and still used, by European descendants. Why aren't Saudi Arabia as Qatar, just as Morocco and Algeria etc mentioned despite full knowledge and documentation of ongoing anti-Black racism occurring in the Middle-East and North Africa (M.E.N.A.) region? Millions of Africans were castrated, raped, killed. For centuries
2. Cameroon, the colonial name of my birth country, is never mentioned in regard to reparations. This despite a decolonization war by France from 1955 to 1971, that saw our hero Um Nyobè come to speak at the United Nations. France, which used "agent orange" best known for its tragic use on humans and the environment by Americans in Vietnam, killed up to 300000. Why?
 3. Belgium must be brought forth to talk regarding the treatment of Mixed/Bi-racial children at the exit of colonization from the Congo. Just as France regarding "Les enfants de la Creuse". Do I need to mention Great-Britain's « Windrush generation » ? Such must be added to reparations.

Pan-Africanism:

1. African/Black names must be promoted. Whites, be they Europeans as Jews or Arabs as Aryans, do not give African names to their children. Not even Mandela nor Obama which they love reminding us they love so much. We must promote the use and giving of African names to Black children for the building of their identity in this century of African demographics boom. Similar to the importance of the Black doll in the shaping of self.
2. Skin bleaching must be condemned at the strongest level with bans of products in the Americas as Caribbean, just as Africa and Asia. Thousands of women, WORLDWIDE, die every year due to health complications directly linked to skin bleaching products. In 2011, the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) reported that up to 40% of African women used such. We must absolutely denounce western companies, as L'Oréal and Dove (as reported by CBC in 2021) which promote (White) women's empowerment in the north, while selling deadly poisons in the south. Despite bans in some countries, today they are used on kids.
3. Agenda 2063, goal 17, rightfully advocates on gender with clear mention of girls and women. What about Black LGBTQ? Yes we must denounce and oppose any Western nation that try to impose LGBTQ advances on Africa for it is geopolitical paternalism and neocolonialism, yet... We must speak true to African spirituality and traditions which did not discriminate nor condemn, and definitely DID NOT KILL Africa's LGBTQ people. African as Caribbean populations are manipulated by bigoted politicians, many sold to Christianity and



- Islam views of LGBTQ people. We can not speak of pan-africanism and not address foreign religions, whose impact is greatly seen and felt notably in the oppression of our people. I know I need not remind you that LGBTQ advocacy began here in Stonewall, NYC by Blacks.
4. Russia and China, which I support in their valid criticism of Western nations regarding systemic racism upon Blacks, and neocolonialism in Africa, would have us believe in their interventions, that they are White Wakanda and Yellow Wakanda yet... (ABR) Anti-Black Racism is very present there. Be it neo-nazis in Moscow or the treatment of Blacks during COVID, just as Africa's name (Feizhou?) used as a negative, or Black face and stereotypes on the televised Spring festival televised show. Have you seen the 2017 video of the museum in China likening Blacks/Africans to animals? Dr. Jin Li (geneticist of Fudan University) proved the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) myth of "Peking Man" and that all humans, including Chinese originate from Africa. Russia and China must address ABR in an age of rising Africa.

Migrations:

1. Italy and Spain, but truly the European Union must be denounced in regard to the thousands of Africans dying in the Mediterranean Sea. It is not just policies of migrations alone but also the nature of predatory geopolitics that contribute to destabilizing Africa and driving masses north.
2. Black migrants trying to reach USA are in the same dynamics of globalization destabilizing their countries, into a venture to a (falsely) promised land up north. I am not claiming for open borders, which isn't going to happen, but I ask a conversation on the particular discrimination Black migrants face in the Americas. As Haitians to reach USA or Canada by Roxham road.
3. Global warming is every year further proven true. Be it Katrina, USA in 2005 or Zimbabwe in 2022 and far too many examples, notably Haiti seating on tectonic plates, thus the earthquakes of 2010 as of 2021, climate change will further increase the wave of climatic/environmental migrants. With booming African demographics, this means more migrants just as more... dead.

Data: Quantitative as qualitative for macro-meso-micro analyses of systemic racism

1. African population, by the PEW Research Center (and others) is expected to surpass 4 billions by 2100, thus making it that 1/3 of humanity will be African, with the greatest birth rate being in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is without counting the birth rate of Blacks in Brazil, the Caribbean and Western countries. I celebrate Agenda 2063 yet must insist on pressing nations, of Black majority countries and not, to provide further statistics on Black demographics. The importance of this was well illustrated with the COVID pandemic disproportionalities as disparities on Blacks.



2. Mixed/Bi-racial children are greatly discriminated yet made invisible in Western as Arab and Asian countries. Do we really know their numbers in terms of being able to address their dual-identity? My wife as baby sister and many relatives as friends are Mixed, and truly they are Black. Yet we can not, and must not neglect that despite colorism/light skin privilege, they face hardships due to often being seen as too dark/light depending on circles and even nations.
3. The desegregation of data must be law. How are countries, as France, members of the United Nations and proudly calling itself “land of liberty” due to the 1789 revolution, yet still refusing OFFICIALLY to allow race based data, under the FALSE claim of “no systemic racism”? Outrage!

Health: Social determinants of health (& social capital) meet systemic racism

1. Systemic racism must be recognized as a health issue impacting Blacks in bodies as spirits, beyond just talks of institutions and power relations. From physical to mental health, going to substance abuse just a visible antipathy towards other Blacks, Black health is greatly poisoned.
2. W.H.O. must address Blacks resistance to vaccines due to history. Apologies and actions. Please.
3. Black boys and men healthcare must become a topic of value and engagement as much as for Black girls and women. Self-harm and misguided male leaders hurt brothers who hurt sisters.
4. Fake hair industry must be denounced. Yes I dare to say it. It is expected to reach \$12B by 2030 (Grand View Research) impacting greatly the finances but as well healthcare of Black women worldwide. This worsened by White, Arab, Asian beauty standards just as inferiority complexes of natural Black beauty vs non-White. That industry overwhelmingly enriches non-Blacks.
5. Sexual health, despite foreign religious ideologies and outdated traditions must be taught to Black youth and adults. Not a LGBTQ agenda in light of teenage pregnancies, HIV-AIDS as cardiovascular issues, and preventable early deaths, cripple Black families. **WORLDWIDE!**

Thanks, Merci, Hotep... As a pan-africanist, a professional and a brother, I am at service for our people.

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