



CLOSING STATEMENT

Second Session of the United Nations Forum on People of African Descent

International Decade for People of African Descent- Guyana (IDPADA-G) expresses appreciation to the Chair, members and participants of the Permanent Forum for the opportunity to ventilate matters of such pressing importance to the global African community.

For African Guyanese, we wish the world to pay attention to the growing oppression and marginalization of our community under the Government of Guyana that has not taken serious steps to implement the programme of activities and further considers it unconstitutional to collect, report and rely on disaggregated data for national planning. It is noteworthy that GOG has refused to dialogue on these matters with the elected representatives of the people of African descent, even when requested and promised so to do.

IDPADA-G expresses concern that the Government of Guyana corralled and misused the Ethnic Relations Commission, a constitutional body, as two members – the Chairman Shaikh Moeenul Hack and Commissioner Deon Dick - have been spokespersons and protagonists on racial inequality and non-discrimination in this very meeting. Further, we draw attention to possible compromise of the ERC Commissioners and by extension the Commission who are supposed to be independent of the Executive and when necessary, arbiters of the Government policies and actions, as provided for in their constitutional mandate.

Further, we express concern about ongoing breaches of citizens' human rights. Even as we sat here, the Guyana Police Force enabled the savage and brutal demolition of homes and destruction of belongings of African Guyanese and other vulnerable people in Soesdyke, as they did in the African village of Mocha Arcadia in December 2022.



Given our untenable circumstances, **IDPADA-G recommends an urgent resolution and mechanisms for State parties to collect ethnically disaggregated data and implement programmes to address areas where inequalities are identified by 2024. We also endorse the declaration of a second Decade** under the aegis of which we can continue our struggle for recognition, justice, and development.

We thank you.

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