

## **My Contribution to PFPAD-2**

Greetings All. I hope this greeting will effectively recognize the leaders, intellectuals and activists in attendance. If not, I pre-emptively apologize to any egos that may have been bruised.

I will also dispense with my own historical analysis, since this is stuff you probably already know.

That being said, I will cut to the chase, as we say.

If we truly want to show our support for Pan-Afrikanism, we must do so with our actions, not with our words alone.

Do we really have time to spend the better part of two days on declarations and statements of support that should already be understood and re-hashes of history that most, if not all, of us already know even though we consistently warn each other that time is of the essence and we have no time to waste?

The Wednesday, May 31 morning session ("Pan Africanism for Dignity, Justice and Peace") seemed to have been primarily tailored for countries and

international leaders to make eloquent statements of support, recounting history most of us already know. Everyone proclaiming their support for Pan Africanism. Often delivered by individuals and institutions that said basically the same thing the day before.

Since that time, I have heard more speeches, re-hashes of history and occasional accusations and counter-accusations than discussion of what concrete actions will be taken to further the Pan Afrikan cause.

What of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA)?

What of the proposal that has been made to seek an advisory opinion on Reparations from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) based on our status as prisoners of war as a result of the Dum Diversas papal bull from the 15th Century that proclaimed "eternal war" on Afrika?

What about some discussion of the Permanent Forum (PFPA) and international activists "drilling down" to the grassroots communities of civil society where the people often feel connected to Afrika only by culture but not by activism, who see their lives not in terms of what is done

BY them but by what is done TO them because governments abuse them, international organizations ignore them and global activists barely know they exist? Last week I was in Panama where I saw people with tears in their eyes and who, like many of us in the ghettos, favelas and urban and rural centers in the US and elsewhere see little point in getting involved in activism when they will be ignored or dismissed by those of us in the treetops. Thursday, I heard about communities in Central America, the Caribbean and Asia who feel isolated and under attack, disconnected from bodies like this. Without that connection & without some real commitment to move forward in a practical way to fight for Global Afrikans through the ICJ, how can we claim to really support Pan Afrikanism in anything but mere words?

I urge us to move from declarations and statements, or the "Whereas" portion of this discussion, to what we will specifically do to make our stated commitment real, or the "Now Therefore". The time of pomp and protocol should be over, and the time of concrete action must begin with urgency.