

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**It is an honor to be here today, reflecting on the remarkable progress we have made since the establishment of the first- ever United Nations permanent forum for people of African descent in Geneva, Switzerland, just last year.**

**This monumental initiative was born out of our collective determination to address the pressing issues faced by individuals of African descent on a global scale. However, as I stood within these walls yesterday, a profound realization dawned upon me - a realization that compelled me to shift the focus of my speech.**

**We are all well aware of the problems that persist within our communities.**

**The challenges are glaringly evident, and they have been acknowledged by great minds throughout**

history.

**Brother Malcolm, Marcus Garvey, Nelson Mandela**

**Prophet Noble Drew Ali, and even Gaddafi himself - they**

**all recognized and understood these issues. And yet,**

**here we are today, still seeking new ways and platforms to**

**discuss the same problems. I firmly believe that our**

**efforts should transcend mere discussion. We need to**

**harness the power of this mechanism to become a force**

**of change. It is time to actualize the dream of the African**

**Union and propel it forward with unwavering**

**determination. Central to this endeavor is the**

**establishment of a consulate that represents all 54 African**

**countries in one centralized location. This consulate,**

**envisioned as a beacon of unity and collaboration, will**

**consolidate our strengths and foster a shared vision for**

**progress. Gaddafi, who championed this cause,**

**emphasized the importance of our sovereign nations working together to achieve the United States of Africa. We stand on the shoulders of giants, and the groundwork has already been laid, with billions of dollars invested in these plans. Let us not confine ourselves solely to discussions about the challenges we face. Instead, I propose that the board of the United Nations permanent forum for people of African descent throw their support behind us as we strive to establish this consulate. By doing so, we can give life to the grand vision of a united Africa, representing the hopes and aspirations of all 54 countries within the African diaspora. We must not forget the significant investments that have already been made in this direction. A staggering 70 billion dollars from Libyan oil money has been channeled into an African development bank, enabling us to become self-**

**sufficient as people of African descent. Additionally, 1 billion dollars have been allocated for the establishment of a Caribbean development bank, focused on the growth and development of the Caribbean Islands.**

**With such substantial resources and the support of the United Nations permanent forum, we can take monumental strides towards the realization of the United States of Africa. Let us seize this moment, drawing inspiration from the giants who came before us, and work together to shape a brighter future for all people of African descent.**

**Thank you,**

**- Regina Silas**