

Preliminary Conclusions and Recommendations
United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
Third session, 16-19 April 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

Introduction

1. The United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent held its third session from 16 to 19 April 2024 at the Palais de Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Its overarching theme was “*The Second International Decade for People of African Descent: Addressing Systemic Racism, Reparatory Justice, and Sustainable Development.*” In addition to the opening of the third session, the general debate, and the side events, four thematic plenary discussions were held on the following topics: *Reparations, Sustainable Development & Economic Justice; Education—Overcoming Systemic Racism and Historic Harm; Culture & Recognition; The Second International Decade for People of African Descent—Expectations and Challenges.* The session was attended by Member States, United Nations entities, academic institutions, the private sector and more than 1000 civil society representatives from 86 countries. In addition, more than 90 side events were held.

2. The Permanent Forum expresses its appreciation to the high-level dignitaries as well as all participants for their contributions to the plenary discussions, side events, and conclusions and recommendations.

3. The following conclusions and recommendations are preliminary in nature. They will form the basis of the Permanent Forum’s report to the 57th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and will also be shared with civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

Reparations, Sustainable Development and Economic Justice

4. The Permanent Forum affirms that realizing equality within and among countries is a central tenet of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Critically, this ought to include recognizing as well as addressing systemic and structural racial inequalities in the enjoyment of human dignity, rights, and freedoms of people of African descent. In this regard, the

Permanent Forum recognizes the conversations at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit on the possible incorporation of a Goal 18 on Racial Equality and affirms the need for a greater emphasis in the global sustainable development agenda on increasing racial equality within and among countries.

5. The Permanent Forum recognizes the need to decolonize the international political, economic and ecological order and notes that both transnational and domestic activities, systems and structures—including value and supply chains—have great impact on the environment and the enjoyment of human rights. Hence, monitoring and addressing the sustainability of environmental, social and economic activities within countries needs to be complemented with more comprehensive considerations of environmental, social and economic activities among countries.

6. The Permanent Forum reaffirms that entrenched structural inequalities in the global economy between countries in the Global South and North at large are racial inequalities rooted in histories and legacies of colonialism, enslavement, apartheid, and genocide. For example, this is apparent in the unequal labour conditions and use of natural resources in global value and supply chains, and in the unequal access to participation in international financial institutions. In this regard, the Permanent Forum welcomes the insights, objectives and programmes of action of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the New International Economic Order.¹

7. With respect to persistent racial inequalities within and among countries, the Permanent Forum stresses the interconnections between Africans living on the continent and people of African descent living in the diaspora. In this regard, the Permanent Forum welcomes the pioneering steps taken by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action for recognizing enslavement and the trade and trafficking of enslaved Africans and people of African descent as crimes against humanity; the Caribbean Community with its reparations framework and Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice;² the African Union's proposal to declare its theme for

¹ See <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/218450?ln=en&v=pdf>.

² See <https://caricom.org/caricom-ten-point-plan-for-reparatory-justice/>.

2025 to be “Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations”;³ and the Bridgetown Initiative towards reform of a systemically and structurally unjust global economic and financial architecture while advancing climate action.⁴

8. In line with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Permanent Forum views global reparatory and economic justice as critical to comprehensively recognising and addressing the structural inequalities of the global economy, achieving sustainable development and global racial equality for people of African descent. The type of justice that the world especially needs is reparatory justice in all its dimensions—inter alia, civil, political, social, economic, climate, environmental, cultural, spiritual, psychological, gender and sexual orientation—particularly, concerning women of African descent.

9. It must be noted that the adverse and destructive effects of climate change are primarily attributed to the historic emissions, economic activities and consumption patterns of the Global North—which disproportionately affect countries and people in the Global South, Africans and people of African descent in particular. In this regard, the Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Loss and Damage Fund;⁵ acknowledges that countries of the Global North are the greatest historical emitters of greenhouse gases and should provide this fund with adequate resources; and notes that there will be no sustained climate and environmental justice nor any inclusive and just transition to sustainable development without global reparatory and economic justice.

10. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the existential gravity of the current climate and ecological crises with their imminent threats of further escalation, the multiplying effects of overlapping crises, transgressing planetary boundaries and irreversible tipping points.⁶ In this context, global reparatory and economic justice are urgent existential matters. Robust actions are needed at the level of the United Nations and all other multinational and regional

³ See [https://portal.africa-union.org/DVD/Documents/DOC-AU-DEC/Assembly%20AU%20DEC%20884%20\(XXXVII\)%20_E.pdf](https://portal.africa-union.org/DVD/Documents/DOC-AU-DEC/Assembly%20AU%20DEC%20884%20(XXXVII)%20_E.pdf).

⁴ See <https://pmo.gov.bb/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/The-2022-Bridgetown-Initiative.pdf>.

⁵ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_16a01_adv_.pdf.

⁶ See e.g. [Global Warming of 1.5 °C — \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch), chapter 3; [Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch), chapter 1; and [Downloads - Interconnected Disaster Risks \(interconnectedrisks.org\)](https://www.interconnectedrisks.org).

institutions to enhance the legal and institutional recognition and realization of global reparatory and economic justice. To that end, the Permanent Forum will work with stakeholders toward the establishment of a legal advisory group to advise the Permanent Forum on the way forward on these matters.

11. In view of the above conclusions, and in addition to the recommendations made in its first report,⁷ the Permanent Forum recommends that:

(a) The Pact of the Future⁸ includes reparatory justice in all its dimensions for Africans and people of African descent as integral to achieving global sustainable development and racial equality;

(b) Member States and international bodies should support global economic justice and sustainable development, and recognize the integral role of reparatory justice to the accomplishment of sustainable development for Africans and people of African descent. Including by developing a comprehensive and coordinated agenda for global reparatory justice, global economic justice and sustainable development;

(c) Member States and international bodies should recognize the right of people of African descent to reparatory justice for colonialism, enslavement, apartheid, and genocide; and that this should be included as a right in the United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent⁹, and in the requested Second International Decade for People of African Descent;

(d) Member States should take further steps to bridge the gaps between countries in the Global South and North, promote equitable participation in international governance and strengthen the voices and representation of Africans and people of African descent in the United Nations system, including the United Nations Security Council and the Bretton Woods Institutions. Member States should also address the underrepresentation of people of African descent—especially women of African descent, including in leadership positions—across the United Nations System, its specialized agencies, funds and programmes;

⁷ See A/HRC/54/68.

⁸ See <https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future>

⁹ During the twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, a new title was proposed “draft United Nations declaration on the respect, protection and fulfillment of the human rights of people of African descent.” See [A/HRC/52/78](https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future)

(e) The United Nations Secretary-General considers expanding the mandate of the United Nations High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs¹⁰ to include economic and reparatory justice, environmental and climate justice, and global racial equality and justice—to develop recommendations in these areas, including in implementing the Agenda 2030 and guidelines for the post-2030 Agenda;

(f) The United Nations and its Member States take steps to develop new legal instruments and mechanisms that more fully and comprehensively recognize and address the systemic and structural inequities and injustices within and among countries that have accumulated due to legacies of colonialism, enslavement, apartheid, and genocide. These instruments and mechanisms should take into consideration the intersections of gender and socioeconomic realities that perpetuates systemic and structural forms of discrimination against marginalised and vulnerable people of African descent such as women, girls, children, migrants, displaced persons, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ persons;

(g) Relevant United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Trade and Development, the International Labor Organization and others include in its reporting more comprehensive monitoring of unequal labour conditions, natural resource use, material flows and ecological footprints in transnational value and supply chains;

(h) Relevant United Nations anti-racism mechanisms coordinate efforts to develop technical guidance on reparatory justice in all its dimensions—including, creating a roadmap on reparatory justice for Member States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods Institutions, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders;

(i) United Nations agencies, funds and programmes working with public banks and other economic institutions, make the economic development of people of African descent a priority, as part of their reparatory justice framework.

12. The Permanent Forum calls on Member States to encourage the establishment of independent national, local and regional Reparations Committees and Task Forces to study and promote reparatory justice for people of African descent in their countries and regions as well as where relevant in countries and regions where they have enslaved or

¹⁰ See <https://www.un.org/en/desa/about-us/advisory-board>.

colonized Africans and people of African descent. Such committees and task forces are also encouraged to work collaboratively with the Permanent Forum and other relevant United Nations mechanisms.

13. Member States are further encouraged to take comprehensive measures—in line with the Sustainable Development Goals—to resolutely address cycles of poverty, disenfranchisement and entrenched socio-economic inequities faced by people of African descent. These measures should include, but are not limited to: promoting ownership of land and livestock for food security; access to sustainable clean water; financial assistance for affordable housing options and home ownership; entrepreneurial training, and financial and business counselling programmes; workforce development through education with professional, financial and personal development training to increase employment opportunities; professional and educational mentorship and role model programmes; economic empowerment via access to and inclusion in business and agricultural grants and loans, including inter alia through microfinance institutions; actively encouraging economic models that serve to empower people of African descent and enhance democratic principles and sustainability such as social and solidarity economics and cooperatives.

Education: Overcoming Systemic Racism and Historic Harm

14. The Permanent Forum affirms that education is a fundamental human right; and the cornerstone of building just, non-discriminatory and inclusive societies as well as being an essential tool for the effective exercise of human rights.

15. The Permanent Forum notes that people of African descent often are among the most marginalized people in education. It acknowledges the urgent need to combat systemic racism and racial discrimination against people of African descent in education so that they can realize their human right to education.

16. The Permanent Forum asserts the vital role of education, in particular anti-racist and civic education, in overcoming systemic and structural racism, promoting equitable opportunities and freedom of choice, and building just and inclusive societies in which everyone, including

people of African descent, can fully exercise their human rights. Moreover, as enshrined in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, education at all levels and ages is a key to changing attitudes and behaviours that are based on racism and racial discrimination as well as a key to promoting tolerance and respect for diversity in societies.

17. The Permanent Forum affirms that colonialism, enslavement, apartheid and genocide have had a global impact, deeply shaped the history of Africans and people of African descent, and that education on this across the world is imperative.

18. The Permanent Forum sustains that the societal and individual purposes of primary and secondary education need to include the scholastic, psychological, physiological and social development of children—and that these aspects are interconnected and have a great impact on the opportunities, health and well-being of children of African descent.

19. The Permanent Forum reaffirms that education should be inclusive of and empowering to people of African descent, with educational curricula accurately reflecting the histories, cultures, contributions, and agency of people of African descent. The role of education in acknowledging and confronting historical traumas and fostering healing must be underscored, including the importance of teaching the histories of people of African descent for the positive self-esteem and identity formation of youth of African descent.

20. Education has the potential to help children and communities of African descent address historically and socially derived traumas and inadequate health, serving as a means of healing, fostering resilience, and promoting healthy development. Education must include reproductive health and sexual education, addressing the maternal health of women and girls of African descent, and bridging the maternal health gap they face.

21. To guarantee the right to quality education for people of African descent and combat systemic and structural racism against people of African descent, Member States are urged to:

(a) Guarantee equal access to quality education for people of African descent. This includes, but is not limited to: ensuring access to quality schools, including in segregated, rural, remote or otherwise marginalized areas and communities; special

measures for socio-economically challenged communities of African descent to ensure their equal enjoyment of the right to education; adequately investing in education in communities of African descent, including the use of technology and targeted curricula for children and youth of African descent; adopting curricula that includes use of an intersectional lens; training, recruiting and retaining teachers of African descent; providing quality training for teachers in inclusive educational practices; conducting anti-racism training for public officials in education; and including commitments to anti-racism and diversity-equity-inclusion for people of African descent in accreditation standards;

(b) Adopt a whole person approach to education of people of African descent, especially in socio-economically challenged communities. The goal should be to promote a healthy psycho-social, physical as well as scholastic development of children of African descent. This may include, but not be limited to: measuring and monitoring their physical, neurological, psychological and emotional development and well-being to address possible health concerns; providing school children of African descent with adequate nutrition; putting psychological and emotional well-being on the curricula such as social and emotional learning, mindfulness and culturally appropriate psychosocial training; and providing adequate access to teachers of African descent, mentors, counselling and support for diverse learning needs;

(c) Set up effective systems for the evaluation and monitoring of school performance that include a racial justice perspective and the well-being of students of African descent—to identify areas for improvement in terms of racial equality and take corrective measures to address disparities in performance and well-being;

(d) Monitor and address possible disparities in dropout rates, detentions, suspensions and expulsions of students of African descent, and introduce alternative methods to policing in educational settings to ensure that the police are not involved in disciplinary actions;

(e) Decolonize educational curricula to comprehensively teach about the global impacts of colonialism, enslavement, apartheid and genocide; and reflect the diverse perspectives, histories, cultures, contributions and agency of people of African descent. This includes incorporating accurate African and African diasporan content across all disciplines; and empowering students to critically engage with and interrogate dominant structures of social, economic and political power and privilege;

(f) Develop and implement policies and laws to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in education, and create other progressive initiatives to promote equality and address the unique needs and challenges faced by people of African descent. Academic institutions are also urged to affirm their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by implementing measures to recruit, retain, and support students, faculty, and staff of African descent.

22. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization considers:

(a) Developing methods and online assessment tools for measuring and monitoring the psychosocial, emotional and physiological development, health and wellbeing of students, including for collecting data on students of African descent disaggregated by race and other intersecting grounds;

(b) Developing a data-driven bank of best educational practices for the psychosocial, emotional and physiological development, health and wellbeing of students, especially students of African descent; and actively encouraging a data-driven and experimental approach to developing and assessing such best practices;

(c) Developing an online curriculum and education materials on the history of people of African descent in the diaspora based on its General History of Africa Project;¹¹

(d) Supporting community- and grassroots-based, supplementary education through training programmes and online educational material for community educators.

23. The Permanent Forum proposes the establishment of a United Nations Global Black Studies Network supported by United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other relevant agencies. The Network would involve universities, researchers, professors, teachers and activists dedicated to the ethical production, dissemination, promotion and teaching of knowledge on people of African descent. The Network could serve as a consultation resource to the United Nations and its Member States, and United Nations mechanisms and special procedures.

¹¹ See <https://www.unesco.org/en/general-history-africa>

24. The United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, and other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, Member States, and civil society are encouraged to strengthen awareness and education on the maternal and reproductive health of women of African descent.

Culture and Recognition

25. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the extensive, diverse and rich cultural heritage of communities of African descent across the diaspora, from its origins in Africa and its subsequent evolution globally. It firmly believes that recognition is a way to affirm the histories of people of African descent, their lasting results, agency and resilience; celebrate the cultural wealth of Africans and communities and individuals of African descent; foster the protection of the cultural heritages and free expression of people of African descent; and validate the substantial contributions of people of African descent to societies.

26. The Permanent Forum highlights the significance, resilience and rich contributions of African diasporic cultural, artistic, intellectual, political and activist movements and African-derived spiritualities in the diaspora. The Permanent Forum emphasizes the need for more accurate and positive recognition by States of the rich cultural contributions of Africans and people of African descent, and that this is crucial to the preservation of global cultural heritage.

27. Building on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the work of the United Nations anti-racism mechanisms and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Permanent Forum stresses the dire need for societies within the African Diaspora to more truthfully and extensively acknowledge, teach, and raise public awareness on the histories and legacies of colonialism, enslavement, apartheid and genocide; how societies caused and contributed to such human harms and how such harms have shaped the racial, ethnic and national identities of societies as well as their social, political, cultural and economic standing worldwide; how these histories have shaped the social, political, economic and cultural realities of people of African descent; and how people of African descent have contributed significantly to movements of abolition, anti-colonialism, decolonization, anti-racism, human and civil rights, gender equality, and LGBTQI+ rights.

28. The Permanent Forum also points out the specific human rights concerns of youth, women, children, LGBTQI+ persons, and persons with disabilities of African descent, who are also subjected to systemic and structural racism and racial discrimination at alarming rates, and are often unfairly treated and penalized at school, in the workplace or in sporting activities for embracing their cultural heritage. In this regard, the Permanent Forum condemns racist attacks against African and African descendent athletes and urges sports federations to take resolute actions against racist attacks to prevent their recurrence.

29. The Permanent Forum notes an important gap in addressing the historical continuities of culture as a practice, commodity and field of contestation between Africa and the communities of African descent in the diaspora. As such, the Permanent Forum will undertake consultations with relevant stakeholders taking into account the Cultural Charter for Africa,¹² the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance,¹³ and the African Union's Agenda 2063.¹⁴

30. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to:

(a) Protect and preserve African diasporic spiritual and traditional practices, such as midwifery, Ifá, Candomblé, Santeria, Umbanda, Quimbanda and Vodun as a form of racial justice;

(b) Promote and safeguard the knowledge, skills and practices of midwifery, recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization¹⁵;

(c) Strengthen their efforts for continued awareness-raising on promoting cultural diversity and inclusivity; and encourage them to continue working towards the removal and resignification of monuments and names of streets, squares, buildings and institutions that honour symbols of colonialism, enslavement, apartheid and genocide to

¹² See <https://au.int/en/treaties/cultural-charter-africa>.

¹³ See https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37305-treaty_Charter_for_African_Renaissance_ENGLISH_digital_0.pdf.

¹⁴ See <https://www.nepad.org/agenda2063#:~:text=The%20January%202013%20African%20Union,Africa%20into%20the%20global%20powerhouse.>

¹⁵ See <https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/18.COM/8.B.26>

replace them with cultural expressions, symbols of resistance, survival, and freedom acknowledged by people of African descent;

(d) Ensure truthful and comprehensive public awareness raising on the impacts of colonialism, enslavement, apartheid and genocide on societies and people of African descent across the world as well as education on the many contributions of people of African descent to the development of more humane and inclusive societies based on regard for human dignity, equality, non-discrimination and self-determination;

(e) Ensure real and effective protection of the ancestral territories and monuments of Africans and people of African descent, including their lands, biodiversity, water, seeds and underwater heritage by creating and implementing public policies with an ethnic territorial approach tailored to the needs and rights of communities of African descent.

31. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum recommends that the forthcoming United Nations declaration on the human rights of people of African descent includes recognition of, respect for and protection of African derived spiritualities.

32. Member States and United Nations agencies, funds, programmes should adopt a more robust approach to preserving and documenting the heritage and culture of people of African descent, for example, by providing relevant United Nations agencies with adequate resources to create a digital archive for the global African experience to document, preserve and celebrate knowledge on the state of the African diaspora, and the diverse social and cultural heritage of people of African descent.

33. The Permanent Forum encourages the relevant United Nations agencies to recognize the histories, manifestations and specific challenges of African-derived spiritualities, to organize an international conference on African-derived spiritualities and to commission a study on the history and current practices of African derived spiritualities in the diaspora, with a special focus on the historic and continuing discrimination against them and with the purpose of facilitating dialogue, knowledge exchange and insight into the challenges and opportunities facing these traditions, guiding future efforts for their protection and preservation.

34. The Permanent Forum calls for further consultations and collaborations among the African Union, the Caribbean Community, Member States, civil society and experts in Africa and the African Diaspora to ensure that African, African-derived and -influenced cultural heritages are protected, promoted and included as necessary on a local, national, regional and global basis.

The Second International Decade for People of African Descent: Expectations and Challenges

35. The Permanent Forum calls for and firmly supports the proposal by the General Assembly for a second International Decade for People of African Descent, starting from 2025. It also recognizes and values the widely accepted expressions of support for a second International Decade made by multiple Member States, United Nations anti-racism mechanisms, civil society actors, philanthropic organizations and other interested parties.

36. The Permanent Forum reiterates that the establishment of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the ongoing elaboration of the United Nations declaration on the human rights of people of African descent are the main achievements, at the international level, of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

37. The Permanent Forum welcomes the increasing awareness and recognition at the United Nations of systemic and structural racism, racial and religious discrimination, hate speech against people of African descent and the negative effect it has on peace and security. It reaffirms that much is yet to be done at the United Nations and among Member States towards full legal and institutional recognition and address of systemic and structural racism.

38. The Permanent Forum views the Declaration on the human rights of people of African descent as the first step towards a future international convention that more comprehensively recognises and addresses systemic and structural racism within and among countries; legacies of past injustices and crimes against humanity; reparatory, climate, environmental and digital justice; as well as equal sustainable environmental, social and economic development within and among countries for Africans and people of African descent.

39. The Permanent Forum stresses that the global human rights situation of Africans and people of African descent concern existential matters for the future of humanity and the health and integrity of the natural world. These include, systemic and structural inequalities within and among countries; the obligations of States to, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, respect the human rights of people of African descent and to create social and international orders in which human rights and freedoms can be fully realised; reparatory justice for histories and legacies of enslavement, apartheid, genocide and colonialism; climate and environmental justice; global economic justice, and an equitable and democratic international order; and universal sustainable development.

40. The Permanent Forum also reiterates its concern on the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence and its dangers in exacerbating the inequalities of people of African descent, while noting its promises in further enabling disaggregated data-collection and data-driven policymaking.

41. The Permanent Forum highlights the need for the Second International Decade to address the particular situations of historically marginalized and especially vulnerable people of African Descent, in particular women, youth, LGBTQI+ persons, and persons with disabilities and other health challenges. In this regard, the Permanent Forum acknowledges the 2023 United Nations Interagency analysis on maternal health of women and girls of African descent in the Americas¹⁶ and recognizes the urgent need to build global solidarity and action to bridge the maternal health gap for women and girls of African descent.

42. The Permanent Forum calls for a Second International Decade with a decolonial approach—addressing systemic and structural racism within and among countries, focused on reparatory, climate, environmental and digital justice.

¹⁶ See <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/maternal-health-analysis-women-and-girls-african-descent-americas>.

43. The Permanent Forum calls for the United Nations declaration on the human rights of people of African descent, currently in progress, to be the first step towards a future international convention.

44. The Permanent Forum affirms that the Second International Decade should include measures for the equitable representation of people of African descent at all levels of development and regulation of Artificial Intelligence.

45. The Permanent Forum encourages Member States to include in the Second International Decade an intersectional lens that carefully considers the particular situations of women and girls of African descent and other historically marginalized and especially vulnerable people of African Descent, including LGBTQI+ persons. In this regard, the Permanent Forum encourages:

(a) The creation of a United Nations Interagency Support Group on Intersectionality to address the situations of especially vulnerable people of African descent;

(b) The development of comprehensive healing initiatives that address multi-generational and socially derived harms. Member States and United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes are encouraged to integrate healing into all initiatives aimed at advancing racial and gender justice for women of African descent, addressing and transforming the impacts of oppression on their bodies;

(c) Encouraging the United Nations Population Fund to lead the establishment of a global mechanism that focuses on maternal health of women and girls of African descent considering the very specific challenges and setbacks on achieving progress for this population group;

(d) The establishment of a Youth Observer Programme, appointing youth observers from African diasporic member States to the Permanent Forum to ensure adequate youth representation. Resources should be allocated to enable these youth observers to attend Permanent Forum sessions and produce reports on activities related to the International Decade.

Haiti

46. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the unique role of Haiti in the history of anti-colonialism, anti-racism, the abolition of enslavement, Pan-African and other movements for the human dignity, rights and self-determination of Africans and people of African descent across the world.

47. The Permanent Forum expresses its deep concern of the ongoing social and humanitarian emergency in Haiti. It recognizes the strong support and the call for restitution and reparations for Haiti, the cessation of foreign domination and unwanted interference in domestic affairs that were presented at its third session. It acknowledges that Haiti's current crisis is deeply intertwined with the profound impact and legacy of colonization, foreign domination, the institution of enslavement, unjust foreign debt and wealth extraction.

48. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the urgent need to address these legacies, their impacts on socio-economic strife and disparities in Haiti and between Haiti and other Member States. It also notes the call for a renewed social contract in Haiti, encompassing State institutions, laws and a democracy that empower and serve the Haitian people.¹⁷

49. In addition to its previous recommendation to the Human Rights Council to consider organizing a panel discussion on addressing the grave human rights situation in Haiti as a step towards the establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry on reparatory justice for Haiti,¹⁸ the Permanent Forum also calls on Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes to take steps towards recognition and address of the long history of injustices that the Haitian people have suffered and to carefully consider measures such as:

(a) Providing immediate relief of severe forms of poverty in Haiti, including inadequate access to housing, food, water, sanitation, hygiene, universal healthcare, transportation and education;

(b) Developing comprehensive, internationally coordinated and transparent short-, medium- and long-term development aid programs for Haiti, run and managed

¹⁷ See <https://akomontana.ht/en/agreement/>

¹⁸ See A/HRC/54/68.

by Haitians (including Haitians in the diaspora), and that serve to stimulate the Haitian economy, its sovereignty and sustainability;

(c) Supporting the Haitian people—women and children in particular—to provide victims of trauma, sexual and other violence with adequate resources towards health and healing; and establish a complaint mechanism, including the collection of disaggregated data, on sexual violence;

(d) Immediately halting the trafficking and supply of arms, and organizing regional conferences involving Haiti and countries in the Americas to develop an institutional, logistical, and operational cooperation framework to monitor, bring to justice and suppress arms and drugs trafficking networks;

(e) Providing short- to medium-term support for modernizing Haitian judicial infrastructure;

(f) Supporting robust civic processes and discussions on democratic, inclusive and transparent institution building and the rule of law and justice in Haiti;

(g) Supporting the Haitian government, in collaboration with Haitian civil society, to establish an independent, democratic and transparent truth and reconciliation commission that facilitates international and domestic accountability, transitional and reparatory justice. The Permanent Forum acknowledges and welcomes the stated commitment of the Transitional Presidential Council in this direction and calls on Member States to ensure that such a commission be adequately resourced;

(h) In collaboration with the Government of Haiti, Haitian civil society, the Caribbean Community and Member States develop a United Nations reparations and sustainable development programme for Haiti, including the establishment of a transparent and democratically governed reparations and sustainable development fund for Haiti.

Civil Society and Youth

50. The Permanent Forum recognizes the active participation of youth and civil society in its third session and heeds to their calls for greater engagement.

51. The Permanent Forum emphasizes the importance of addressing the economic and social barriers and challenges affecting vulnerable persons such as women, girls, children, migrants, displaced persons, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ persons.

52. The Permanent Forum requests the extension of its annual session by an additional day to facilitate discussions and the development of recommendations with Member States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes as well as civil society representatives, with a special focus on enhancing youth consultations and addressing intersecting forms of discrimination.

Resources

53. The Permanent Forum requests the allocation of resources for the organization of an intersessional meeting annually to discuss the session preparations, and implementation of its mandate and recommendations.