



Third Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Geneva, Switzerland

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

April 18th, 2024

Madam Chair,

The Government of Guyana is of the conviction that the International Decade for People of African Descent has yielded major successes and extends appreciation and commendations to the outgoing and incoming chairs and members of the Forum. However, this period is not without its fair share of challenges and unfinished business. As Guyana supports the extension of the Decade, we must also recognize that more ought to be done to achieve true reparative justice. Concrete actions have been identified for the Second Decade, and need to be undertaken to address issues such as racism, discrimination and social injustice faced by African descendants.

Guyana recognizes the significant role the Decade has played in raising awareness and strengthening advocacy about the historical and contemporary challenges faced by people of African Descent. However, we posit that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also requires global recognition that the overarching objectives of eradicating poverty, ensuring food security, protecting the planet, and

building a just and peaceful world cannot be achieved without addressing all forms of injustice and inequality, including those experienced by People of African Descent.

Guyana restates its commitment to the United Nations Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (PFPAD), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) and the Bridgetown Initiative, the latter which makes strong justification for, among others, liquidity support and debt sustainability, along with access to private capital and development lending.

Commitment to reparative justice must be resolute, honoured and delivered. We reaffirm to the call for climate justice, environmental justice and the respect for the lives and livelihoods of all peoples, especially those in vulnerable indigenous and African descendant communities.

Madam Chair, it is upon these principles, that Guyana records its support of the call for a Second International Decade for People of African Descent.

*Statement delivered by Ms. Vanessa Benn, Member, **Guyana Delegation** to the Third Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. Geneva, Switzerland*