



Statement on the expectations and challenges for United Nations 2nd decade for People of African Descent

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of my country St. Kitts and Nevis,, I stand in support of the proposal for The United Nations' Second Decade for People of African Descent, spanning from 2025 to 2034. This 2nd decade carries significant expectations and challenges. This is another opportunity to address historical wrongdoing and the resultant effect on People Of African descent.

The expectations include fostering greater recognition, respect, and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent. The promotion of full and equal participation in all aspects of society, including political, economic, social, and cultural spheres. The decade will have to look seriously at the systemic racism, discrimination, and social exclusion that continue to impact Persons of African descent in many parts of the world.

There will be challenges. The complexity of these issues are deeply rooted inequalities which continue despite progress in some areas. A multi-faceted approach is required. This will involve collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, international bodies, and other stakeholders. Resources, political will, and sustained commitment will be vital if these policies and programs are to be implemented effectively to advance the rights and well-being of people of African descent.

In addition, the diverse needs and experiences of persons of African descent across different regions and contexts must be taken into account. Recognition and respect of the unique cultural identities and histories of the communities are necessary to achieve greater social cohesion and inclusion.

In conclusion, the Second Decade for People of African Descent is an important opportunity for a more just, equitable, and inclusive world to be built for all. Set ambitious and achievable goals, foster collaboration, and uphold the principles of human rights and dignity. In so doing, Persons of African Descent will realize their full potential through the work of the international community.

Thank you.

Carla Astaphan
Chair
St. Kitts Nevis National Reparations Committee