



KINGDOM
ACTS FOUNDATION
Community Services, Capacity Building, Social Research

UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

SPEECH TRANSCRIPT

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1. TOPIC "REPARATIONS, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE."

Honourable Chair, distinguished members of the Permanent Forum, fellow delegates, and esteemed guests,

I stand before you today, representing voices from across the globe, voices that echo through the annals of history with stories of resilience, struggle, and unwavering hope. Today, as we discuss "Reparations, Sustainable Development, and Economic Justice," we stand at a pivotal moment to right the wrongs of the past and pave the way for a future where people of African descent thrive.

Reparations are not merely a compensation for past injustices but a foundational step towards rectifying historical inequities that continue to affect millions worldwide. It is essential that we establish a Global Reparations Fund. This fund would not only acknowledge these historical injustices but actively work towards alleviating their continued socioeconomic impacts. By directing resources towards educational empowerment, community development, and economic revitalization, we can begin to mend the fabric of societies torn by centuries of exploitation.

Furthermore, sustainable development and economic justice for people of African descent cannot be viewed through a generic lens. Specialized financial tools must be developed to cater specifically to marginalized communities, ensuring access to microfinance, business loans, and grants. These tools will empower individuals, foster entrepreneurship, and stimulate economic growth within these communities, all while adhering to sustainable practices that protect our environment for future generations.

Ladies and gentlemen, the creation of renewable energy projects within African descendant communities worldwide can serve as a beacon of innovation and sustainability. These projects will not only provide clean, sustainable energy but will also create jobs, enhance skills, and promote economic independence.

As we stand in solidarity, let us remember that our actions here today will resonate in the annals of history. We are not just shaping policies; we are shaping lives and futures. Let our legacy be one of justice, equity, and prosperity for all people of African descent.

Thank you for your commitment to this cause and for your partnership as we forge a path forward together.

Let us be bold, let us be just, and let us act now. Thank you!

2. EDUCATION

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates, and esteemed participants,

Today, I address a cornerstone of empowerment and a critical driver of equality: Education. As we gather at this august session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, we must reaffirm our commitment to transforming the educational landscape for people of African descent worldwide.

Education is not merely a tool for personal development but an essential weapon in the fight against racial inequality and injustice. It is our duty to ensure that this tool is wielded effectively and justly. We must advocate for and implement curricula that acknowledge and celebrate the rich history and contributions of the African diaspora. Integrating this content into global education systems will not only enrich the learning experience for all but also correct the historical inaccuracies and omissions that have plagued our educational institutions.

Moreover, it is imperative to address the educational disparities that disproportionately affect people of African descent. These disparities are not simply academic; they are economic barriers, they are social walls, and they are cultural divides. We must dismantle them. Initiatives such as scholarship programs specifically targeted at students of African descent in critical fields like STEM, arts, and humanities are vital. These scholarships will act as bridges over the gaps of inequality, providing opportunities that have been denied for too long.

Ladies and gentlemen, the path to economic justice and sustainable development is paved with the bricks of education. Let us lay these bricks wisely. We must invest in educational technologies and infrastructures that reach the most marginalized. Let's equip our schools with the tools to not only survive in a digital age but to thrive.

As we deliberate on the future, let us be inspired by the past. Our forebearers fought not just for freedom from bondage, but for the right to read, to write, and to imagine a better future. We owe it to them, and to the generations that will follow, to continue this fight.

In closing, I urge each of you, as representatives of the global community, to not only echo these sentiments in your policies and programs but to act upon them with urgency and with resolve. Let education be the tide that lifts all boats, bringing with it justice, opportunity, and dignity for all people of African descent.

Thank you.

3. CULTURE AND RECOGNITION

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates, esteemed colleagues,

Today, I stand before you to speak on a subject that resonates deeply within the hearts of all people of African descent: Culture and Recognition.

Culture encompasses the soul of a community; it shapes identities, moulds values, and fosters a sense of belonging. However, the rich and diverse cultures of African descendants have often been marginalized, misrepresented, or undervalued on the global stage. This forum provides us with a unique opportunity to advocate for recognizing and preserving our cultural heritage, ensuring that it occupies the rightful place it deserves in the annals of world history.

Firstly, we must push for establishing international cultural heritage initiatives that protect and promote African art, music, literature, and traditions. We can secure the designation of globally recognized sites and practices that celebrate our ancestral legacies through UNESCO and other cultural organizations.

Secondly, the digital age presents an unparalleled opportunity. By leveraging technology, we can create digital archives and virtual museums that make our cultural heritage accessible everywhere. These platforms can serve as repositories of our history, art, and narratives, counteracting centuries of cultural erasure and providing a balanced representation.

Furthermore, we must advocate for integrating African history and contributions into educational curricula worldwide. Knowledge and understanding of one's history are fundamental to personal and communal growth. By educating the youth—both within and outside the African diaspora—about the true breadth of African-descended cultures and their contributions to civilization, we foster a more inclusive and accurate worldview.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we discuss culture and recognition, remember that these are not just items on the agenda. They are the threads that connect the past with the present, the heartbeats of communities that pulsate with life and creativity. It is our responsibility, our imperative, to ensure these heartbeats are not only heard but are amplified for the world to appreciate and respect.

Together, let's commit to a future where the cultural identities of people of African descent are celebrated, preserved, and recognized on the global stage. Let this session mark a renewed dedication to promoting cultural equity and respect, paving the way for a richer, more diverse global cultural tapestry. Thank you!

4. SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT: EXPECTATIONS AND CHALLENGES

Honourable Chair, esteemed delegates, and respected attendees,

Today, I am privileged to address this distinguished assembly as we stand on the threshold of the **Second International Decade for People of African Descent**. As we embark on this significant period, our collective expectations are high, yet we must also be acutely aware of the challenges ahead.

The first decade brought to light the persistent issues faced by people of African descent—discrimination, inequality, and invisibility in global discourse. As we enter the second decade, our focus must intensify on implementing fundamental changes and measurable improvements. We expect not only to continue the conversation but to accelerate the pace of transformation through concrete actions and strategic partnerships.

First, we expect increased global commitment to acknowledging and addressing systemic racism. This involves reforming laws and policies that perpetuate discrimination and inequality. International bodies, states, and private entities must work collaboratively to dismantle barriers and create inclusive systems that truly reflect the human family's diversity.

Second, we face the challenge of operationalizing the lofty goals we set. The gap between policy formulation and implementation remains wide. Effective monitoring mechanisms and accountability frameworks must be established to ensure that commitments made are commitments kept. This includes robust data collection and analysis to inform policy and adjust actions dynamically.

Moreover, the economic empowerment of African descent remains a critical expectation. Investing in our communities through education, health care, and entrepreneurship opportunities will be the cornerstone of this decade's objectives. However, the challenge lies in securing the necessary funding and investments. Thus, we call upon our global partners to prioritize and increase funding allocations to initiatives that support economic justice for people of African descent.

In conclusion, let us be guided by a spirit of cooperation and a resolute commitment to justice and equity. Let us transform the challenges into stepping stones for building a future where people of African descent can achieve their full potential, free from discrimination, and total participants in global development. Together, let us create a legacy of change that will resonate for generations. Thank you.

