



**Theme:**

**Culture and Recognition:**

**Restorative Justice through reparation financing for Indigenous Afrikan**

**Maroons of the diaspora and Africa**

**Presenter:**

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**United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent**

**3rd Session**

**16–19 April 2024**

**Isese O, La O Bo Ka Wa To, Orisa**

**I seek permission to speak on behalf of my ancestors. Known and unknown, seen and unseen. Ancestors who were taken away from their homeland Mama Afrika by colonizers.**

**Ancestors who were abused ,tricked, deceived, enslaved, tortured, raped, murdered and died tragically during the Middle Passage and on plantations. I seek permission to speak on their behalf. Ase, Ase, Ase**

**Greetings Everyone,**

**I want to begin by extending my heartfelt congratulations to the Honourable Ms. June Soomer, Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (UNPFPAD) who hails from the fellow Caribbean nation of St. Lucia. Your leadership and dedication inspire us all.**

**Chair, I stand before you and this forum for the third time, seeking recognition and financial support for the implementation of projects identified over the past decade. These projects are crucial for advancing the rights and well-being of Indigenous Maroon communities worldwide.**

**The United Maroon Indigenous Peoples and The Merikin Heritage Foundation submitted proposals that address pressing issues affecting Afrikan Maroons and people of Afrikan descent globally.**

**Firstly, I urge the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of Africa Descent and Indigenous issues to officially recognise Afrikan Maroons as Indigenous Afrikan peoples. Afrikan Maroons uniquely occupy an intersection of Afrikan heritage and Indigenous identity, and as such, should be officially recognised as Indigenous Afrikan peoples by the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of Afrikan Descent (UNPFPAD) and United Nation Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and other UN bodies and heads of states globally.**

**This recognition is essential for honouring our rich Afrikan Indigenous cultural heritage and resilience.**

**We also advocate for restorative justice as a pathway to address historical and ongoing injustices faced by Afrikan descendants. Reparation financing is urgently needed to implement these justice projects effectively.**

**Furthermore, the intersection of spirituality and mental health within Afrikan descendant communities demands global attention and support.**

**Food security and food sovereignty are central to the well-being of Afrikan Maroon and other Indigenous Afrikan communities, especially in this time of climate crisis. Land stewardship practices must be upheld for sustainable solutions.**

**We continue to demand the removal of monuments that honour perpetrators of slavery and mass atrocities, replacing them with symbols of resistance, survival, and freedom.**

**As we revive and reimagine a contemporary Pan Afrikan movement, we must pay special attention to the situation in Ayiti (Haiti) as part of this ongoing Pan Afrikan revival.**

**While we acknowledge the progress made during the International Decade for People of African Descent, extending the decade for people of Afrikan descent marks a crucial commitment to continuing this vital work.**

**Lastly, integrating anti-racism pedagogies in schools and university curriculums is essential for fostering inclusive learning environments and combating systemic racism.**

**In conclusion, I urge all delegates to support our efforts through our United Marron Indigenous People's Declaration, which seeks to advance equal rights, justice and dignity of our Afrikan Indigenous Maroon descendants and our Afrikan community globally.**

**Modupe (Thank you.)**

**Asé**