

Written Statement¹
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At the
United Nations Permanent Forum on
People of African Descent

Third Session, General Debate
Tuesday April 16, 2024

United Nations
Geneva

¹ This includes the 2 minutes that was allowed to speak

Chair, members of the Permanent Forum & Secretariat, Excellencies, Distinguished guest,

First, I would like to congratulate honorable Dr. June Soomer for her nomination as the second Chair of the Forum.

I speak on behalf of Tiye International², cs³

Madam Chair,

Since the UN World Anti Racism Conference (WCAR) in 2001 in Durban South Africa, I have had countless opportunities to speak out our concerns about the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action (DDPA): 22, 18, 17, 16 years ago and every year again and again in this House, amongst other places, in Global context. I had expressed fear that my children and children's children will not do otherwise. Even when I have joined the ancestors.

For me personally, The WCAR 23 years ago in Durban, South Africa was one of the greatest moments in my life and in my role as Civil Society Liaison to witness the adoption of the DDPA. This in a spirit of people's solidarity and which gave voice to, and protected the rights of all victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and forms of multiple racism against African people: Afrophobia⁴. People of African Descent, no doubt, treasure the DDPA most as our ordeal was recognized as the first victims' group and the trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery was recognized as a crime against humanity.

A people's document based on a thorough preparatory process and broad participation in the preparatory committee meetings and Special caucuses

"Truth has the inherent power to produce the promised effect". I'm using this expression, to emphasize that we can only be successful in the fight against all forms of multiple racism if we do what we have promised: defending and promoting the fully implementation of the DDPA which is the strongest universal document of the United Nations'-programs to realize the rights of all victims of racism including Afrophobia, racial discrimination, and Reparatory, Restorative and Climate justice. As I stated in September 2021, during the High-Level commemoration of the DDPA⁵, the structurally persistent negative campaign to defame and undermine DDPA and its implementation is unacceptable. We now have the opportunity to make it clear to our opponents that it must stop with the structural undermining of the DDPA. That it is a blow in the face of all those who campaigned for the holding of the 3rd World Conference against Racism (WCAR) by ensuring the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action through a broad-based democratic process. The undermining must stop. Without the DDPA we would not have been as close as we are today in having a global Platform positioned to recognize the unfulfilled rights of Africans and People of African Descent at the United Nations and in the Sphere of the global society. During this 3rd Forum Session we must come out with a crystal-clear Statement that the time is now, is today to say *No to the denial of the DDPA* in the name of People of African Descent and that we shall not settle down for anything less than our birth right, collective rights and our human rights. It is time to agree with senior officials of

² Tiye International in special consultative status with the ECOSOC of the UN

³ The African European Women's Movement 'Sophiedela'; The National Monument Dutch Slavery past (LPS -associated member of the Caricom Reparation Commission); African Union African Diaspora High Council Facilitators Group: SRDC (sub Regional Diaspora Council); The Drammeh Institute; African Diaspora Union; Pan-Afstrag International (Pan African Strategic and Policy Research Group); Global Coalitions for the implementation and monitoring of the DDPA & Durban plus 20 and for the UN international Decade for People of African Descent.

⁴ The **specific term** that reflects all forms of multiple racism against African people with reference to the past

⁵ With the Theme: "Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent".

the United Nations to stand up and to speak out against the disinformation and false propaganda against the DDPA. During many occasions we experience the absence of different countries when it concerns activities with regard to the DDPA.

We can no longer be silent about the undermining and defamation of the DDPA that has taken place during the past 23 years and now escalated to the extreme. Yes to the extreme. As example: on 19 December 2022, the Dutch Prime Minister apologized on behalf of the Dutch Cabinet, followed by the Dutch King on July 1, 2023, for the Dutch slavery past. In their both statements not one reference was made in context of the DDPA. That's how strong the denial is.

After 23 years of DDPA, the conclusion is that few people in the Netherlands and elsewhere are aware of the importance of the DDPA for the tackling all forms of racism. Our concerns are especially with regards to the young generations black and white, in short, from all ethnic groups who are implicitly deprived of knowledge about the meaning and importance of the DDPA. We believe that this is an important task for the Permanent Forum in the field of expertise promotion and capacity building on the implementation of the DDPA. Even though we are aware that the UN has important mechanisms in place to monitor compliance with the DDPA. A tour within our national and global networks, shows that Tiyé International c.s. is not the only organization that is concerned about the insufficient knowledge about the DDPA. Education is a very important tool with the DDPA as context. We are of the opinion that the Permanent Forum can play an important role on the issue of Education and Promotion as the central of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent and many issues more, such in perspective of the 'Right to Return' taken into consideration Article 3q of the African Union African Diaspora Constitutive Act, many Declarations and Proclamations in context of Reparatory Justice for Africa and African People.

We further believe that the various educational human rights programs, for instance in Europe context, do not yet sufficiently respond to the historical contexts regarding the experiences of people of African descent or the African historical Diaspora, descendants of the victims of the enslaved worldwide. We also believe that curricula in the context of western mindsets will not work. In context of Restorative Justice, we need AFRICAN CENTRED curricula to educate the people. An examination of what already exists in this context is hugely important because of the learning effect on the good practices. In addition, we are of the opinion that the Permanent Forum can play an important role on the issue of Education. In addition, we believe that the emphasis should not only be on education as a tool for capacity-building in general, but that within the education systems, People of African Descent should be given real and fair opportunities. This is a topic we have already brought to your attention as input for this third Forum Session. We further draw to your attention the test modelities that are used. What we see is that students of African Descent are too often qualified as insufficiently suitable for higher education. This is due to the test models that are used. That's why we're advocating for a better coherence between the educational programmes in relation to the effect of fair and equal opportunities for People of African descent to get out the marginalization position.

I thank you for your attention