

## Panel 1: REPARATIONS, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC JUSTICE OF PEOPLE OF AFRICA DESCENT

I am Bishop Dr. Pius Inobuh Bah; the Visionary CEO of Africans for Africa's liberation organization (AFALO). We are an economic empowerment and liberation organization. You can check our website for details (<u>www.afalo.net</u>).

AFALO worry is, in what ways can the United Nations assist in Reparations, sustainable Development and Economic Justice of people of African Descent ?

It is worth noting that The United Nations has the capacity to play a crucial role in promoting global cooperation and addressing issues related to reparations, sustainable development, and economic justice for people of African descent. Below are some practical ways the UN can assist in these areas:

1. Advocacy and Awareness: Raising awareness about the historical injustices faced by people of African descent, slavery, colonialism, and systemic discrimination should be a priority in the United Nations. These issues can be highlighted through conferences, reports and public manifestations. Support for reparations and economic justice initiatives should be an advocacy policy of the United Nations.

- 2. Policy Recommendations: Policy recommendations should be addressed to governments and international organizations with specificity on how to address the issues of slavery and colonialism. This should include stringent measures such as action programs, targeted investments with focus on education and healthcare for communities of African descent. Restitution of land can be a menu on the table.
- **3.** Capacity Building Initiatives: The United Nations has the capacity to support initiatives in countries with large populations of people of African descent and those within the continent. These initiatives could include training programs, technical assistance and financial support to local organizations working on issues such as poverty emancipation, social justice, and economic empowerment and advocacy.

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- 4. Legal Frameworks: The UN can assist in the establishment of legal frameworks for reparations and economic justice. Workable mechanisms seeking redress for historical harms. This could involve supporting the development of reparations commissions, truth and reconciliation commissions and processes. Legal mechanisms to bring perpetrators of human rights abuses on people of African descent to justice.
- 5. Data Collection, Monitoring and Execution: So far we believe that the United Nations has available important data that have been collected in this area on the socio-economic status of people of African descent and monitor progress towards achieving economic justice goals. Collected data/ information can help identify differences and better informed polices for interventions to address these situations.
- 6. International Relations and Cooperations: The United Nations has the capacity to facilitate international Relations and cooperation on related issues such as reparations, sustainable development, and economic justice for people of African descent with the aspiration of promoting dialogue between governments, civil society organizations, and international financial institutions under coordinated efforts.
- 7. Workable Partnerships: The United Nations can enhance reliable partnerships with important stakeholders such as governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, in order to mobilize resources and expertise for initiatives aimed at promoting reparations and economic justice for people of African descent.

In summary, the United Nations can leverage its convening power, expertise, and resources to support efforts to address the historical and ongoing injustices faced by people of African descent and promote their economic empowerment and sustainable development.



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