



Black  
Diplomats  
Academy

dylott+

August 22, 2022

United Nations Declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent: Call for inputs

Excellencies,

On behalf of Developing Young Leaders of Tomorrow, Today (DYLOTT), a registered nonprofit organization based in Toronto, Canada and the Black Diplomats Academy, providing education, training and mentorship for aspiring young diplomats of African descent; I am pleased to submit these recommendations as our contribution to the draft Declaration.

Having three years of experience in prioritizing and amplifying Black youth voices in leadership opportunities and decision-making activities in Canada specifically, and generally across the diaspora including continental Africa; we have identified that the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent provides an instrumental multilateral tool to intentionally amplify African Descent youth as current and future leaders.

Having been provided with the opportunity by Employment and Social Development Canada to provide recommendations to be considered in the development and institutionalization of the UN Youth Office, the Black Diplomats Academy recommended that the Secretary General, Co-facilitators of the consultation and the Office of the UN Youth Envoy do the following:

- Build on already established and in process of establishing mechanisms such as the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent.
- Establish support for youth of African Descent from the Caribbean, Canada and Continental Africa to have meaningful representation and inclusion in the decision-making and operationalization of the Youth Office.
- Create dedicated funding to address the economic disparities facing youth of African Descent that serves as a barrier to participation of Black young people in important discussions and activities at the UN level.
- Formalize intentional assignment of key responsibilities to ensure there continues to be connections between the UN youth office and the communities that are being served.

Consequently, for the PFPAD, we encourage the adoption and expansion of a youth specific arm of the Forum that drives legislative, economic and environmental policy action and advocacy globally. The Black Diplomats Academy has already begun this work through our Black Diplomacy Global Summit. Bringing together youth experts across Continental Africa and the

diaspora, with intergenerational allies across government, corporate and community institutions. The Black Diplomacy Global Summit features a four-day solution-focused event on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals within Black communities. As part of the activities of the Academy, we produce “working papers” as recommendations on how the UNDPAD themes, the application of the Sustainable Development Goals and the five member states of the PFPAD can collectively work to address and move intentionally towards solving the human rights challenges continually experienced by Black communities globally.

Since our Black Diplomacy Summit is positioned to act as a focal point for youth, intergenerational and cross-sectoral collaboration, we therefore call for the PFPAD to institute an annual mid-point review of the progress of achieving the modalities of the Forum, similar to the Voluntary National Reviews during the High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, we call for this review to occur each year with the following conditions:

- Convene at least six months ahead of the general meeting of the PFPAD in continental Africa and the diaspora, with the locations being determined by a Youth Secretariat.
- Mid-point review and measurement of the progress towards achieving modalities of the Forum, with a view towards incremental achievement within 3, 5 and 10 year periods.
- Setting the intergenerational priorities that intentionally include the perspectives of and leadership from African Descent youth.
- Collaboration to set the agenda for each PFPAD meeting in December, and the priorities for the subsequent year.

Given the historical systemic exclusion of Black voices from UN-related policy engagement, we call for the PFPAD to also embed in the draft Declaration:

- A special accreditation process outside of the conventional ECOSOC mechanism, that prioritizes the engagement of Black young leaders and civil society representatives to attend and contribute to the negotiations, promotion and implementation of activities relating to: Climate Change, Economic Development and Legislative instruments to address human rights violations against People of African Descent.
- Fora of consequence such as the Conference of the Parties, World Economic Forum, G20 and others be an established target for the intentional amplification of Black leadership.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the draft Declaration. We look forward with great expectancy for the operationalization of these recommendations.

Thank you,

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