**Statement to the United Nations Permanent Forum of People of African Descent** *by LGBTQIA+ Human Rights Defenders Portia C. Allen (Amahoro Human Respect), Trinah Kakyo (the Kakyo Project), Gaston Mbangué (Association for the Defence of Homosexuality),* *Geoffrey Mwesigye (Amahoro Human Respect), Hamlet Nkwain (Working for Our Wellbeing), and Kashindi Shabani (Savie asbl Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Partnership for Global LGBTIQ+ Equality or Savie asbl NGO PGEL LGBTQI),* on the potential scope and content of the draft United Nations Declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of People of African Descent

**22 August 2022**

1. [Amahoro Human Respect in Rwanda](https://mobile.twitter.com/amahoror), [Association for the Defence of Homosexuality in Cameroon](https://mobile.twitter.com/adefho), [Working for Our Wellbeing in Cameroon](https://linktr.ee/for_wfw), [Savie asbl NGO PGEL LGBTQI in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](https://m.facebook.com/pglesaviedrc.lgbtq), and [the Kakyo Project in Kenya](https://linktr.ee/kakyoproject) expresses thanks to the United Nations Permanent Forum of People of African Descent for inviting written statements on the potential scope and content of the draft Declaration.
2. The views expressed in this statement are preliminary. Where applicable, we ask to present further inputs into subsequent drafts, reviews and/or critiques.
3. Since 2021 (and especially based on our prior knowledge about LGBTQIA+ rights), we gathered evidence-based information centred on sustaining human rights projects, which, in turn, can contribute to a universal call to end economic poverty and reduce donor dependency.
4. Therein, for the potential scope and content of the draft Declaration, we recommend initially to: (1) include attention to the reduction of stigma and discrimination affecting People of African Descent who identify, for example, as LGBTQIA+ Persons, Youth, Women, and Persons living with Disabilities; (2) provide access to LGBTQIA+ communities among others to participate in United Nations level forums, conferences, and additional assemblies; (3) delve into sustainable strategies about livelihoods and economic inclusion for People of African Descent who identify, for example, as LGBTQIA+ Persons, Youth, Women, and Persons living with Disabilities; as well as (4) commitment, diligence and follow-up in terms of asking for and synthesising local level feedback for overall and consistent improvement.
5. We remain open to contextual, multi-lingual and intellectual competencies to work collaboratively especially from a broad range of causes and geographies to contribute to People of African Descent. For example, our emphasis on healthy spaces for the legitimacy, autonomy and performance of locally-led, African-based civil society organisations / NGOs.