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**The Pan-African Development Forum (PDF)**

**THE PAN-AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (PDF): SERVING GLOBAL AFRICA---THE CONTINENT AND ITS DIASPORA**

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**MISSION OF THE PDF**

The Pan-African Development Forum is committed to strengthening the academic, economic, socio-cultural and other relationships between Africa and its Diaspora, through the processes of pan-Africanization and re-Africanization.

**STATEMENT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT**

The international Board of Directors of the Pan-African Development Forum (PDF), a non-profit Non-Governmental Organization/Community Service organization, is comprised of both academics and professionals hailing from Africa and its Diaspora. In particular, we hail from Nigeria and Zambia and, in the Caribbean, from Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Kitts-Nevis. Currently, we find ourselves residing in the Continent (Zambia and South Africa) and the Diaspora, encompassing Canada, the Caribbean (Jamaica and Trinidad), the United States and the United Kingdom.

As the PDF, we are firmly committed to the full enjoyment of the human rights of African descendant people such as we are. Embodied within the UN International Bill of Rights, encompassing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its two Covenants and their Protocols, namely, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, we applaud the United Nations in its decision to draft and craft a Declaration calling for the promotion and full respect of the human rights of all people of African descent. We further applaud the United Nations for declaring the current decade, to wit, January 1st, 2015-December 31st, 2024, the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Such Decisions and Declarations of the United Nations are especially apropos in view of the fact that, in spite of the universal appeal and intended application of the Human Rights Instruments and Initiatives of the United Nations abovementioned, people of Africa descent, the world over, be it on the Continent or throughout its Diaspora, continue to experience existential angst and profound psychological distress due in no small measure to the prevalence, persistence and seemingly all-pervading pathology of racism.

As the proud and resilient survivors of the prolonged trauma induced by, among others, both the East African and, later, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and its aftermath, both of which amounted to the violent violation of the human rights of our ancestors in Africa and throughout its Diaspora, we also join the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in its ongoing clarion call for reparatory justice for both Africa and its Diaspora. Further, the call for reparation and the call for the protection and respect of the human rights of all African descendant people become even more compelling in that we continue to endure contemporary forms of virulent and sometimes, violent, racism-driven harassment that continues to rob us of the joy of living (*joie de vivre*)--be it in the realm of, *inter alia*, the academic, the economic, the political, the socio-cultural or the medical.

Dr. Gosnell L. Yorke (PhD)

Executive Chair and President

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**THE PDF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. Gosnell L. Yorke: Naturalized Citizen of both Canada and South Africa; Permanent Resident in Zambia; Central and Southern Africa (excluding South Africa) Representative of the Trans-Atlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race (TRRR); Former Honorary Consul of St. Kitts-Nevis to South Africa; and currently teaching human rights-related and other courses at the Dag Hammarskjöld Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Copperbelt University, Zambia---born in St. Kitts-Nevis [Caribbean].

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