

**To the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights**

**Regarding input for the Report of the United Nations  
Secretary-General to be presented to the General Assembly at  
its seventy-eighth session**

**On behalf of Tiye International**



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**April 30th 2023**

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Our organizations together with the African European Women's Movement 'Sophiedela', wish to bring again the following submissions to be taken into consideration when written the Report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.

1. The implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action
2. The extension of the International UN Decade on People of African descent 2015-2024
3. The introduction of the term Afrophobia

### **1. Durban Declaration and Program of Action (DDPA 2001)**

In this context we are aware that the DDPA was the center of the UN International Decade for people of African descent. Among other things to create Political Will to implement the DDPA in a National Program of Action. Since the adoption of the DDPA several recommendations has been written to the Dutch Cabinet, The Parliament, Government on all levels (local and National) to implement the DDPA in an national Action Plan. Time and time again we are confronted with forms of structurally persistent negative campaign to defame and undermine the DDPA and its implementation as the DDPA in no way shows that it proclaims anti-Semitism. In fact the DDPA expresses concern at the increase in anti-Semitism and encourages all nation states to take effective measures to counter anti-Semitism.

Unfortunately the campaign to reject and undermine the DDPA despite many UN resolutions has been successful largely. We are of the opinion that the United Nations could have made strongest recognizable and impactful effort to inform about the clarity of the DDPA and advocate for its full implementation.

In this context, we speak for civil society, our constituencies, who are still dealing with persistent forms of multiple racism towards their African humanity and who share the residual effects and abhorrent impact of current and historical trauma by institutionalized racist systems, economic marginalization, and a planned underdevelopment.

We consider the DDPA as the strongest universal document of the United Nations' programs to realize the rights of all victims of racism, racial discrimination, and reparatory Justice. It is therefore important that *clear references* with regards to the implementation of the DDPA and to all affiliated resolutions such as:

- The outcomes of the Durban Review in 2009;
- The High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly in 2011 to commemorate the tenth years anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA;
- The UN International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 to 2024) and the Programme of Activities as well
- the outcomes of the High Level Panel on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA;
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030 are made in the Declaration that is now in negotiation by the Inter governmental Working Group are made in the Report.

These documents contains all the ingredients to defeat the horror of racism and exclusion at any level and area. They contained all the ingredients that should accompany the success of compliance with the Declaration. We believe that Office Report should include a fixed agenda item to discuss the state of the developments and, in particular, good practices. This is without prejudice to the UN mechanisms responsible for monitoring the state of play. The implementation of the DDPA must be on the Top of the mayor concern in the Report. Since the adoption of the DDPA our organizations are the ones who keep the memory alive. This by organizing workshops, seminars and evaluation meetings on the state of affairs. We are participating in meetings of the CERD, The UPR and as many we could organizing by the several Organs of the United Nations Mechanisms.

In our opinion The Report must reflect that we no longer tolerates the countries-boycotting actions at every important opportunity and with the aim to demonize the DDPA and to frustrate UN meetings.

A good example of denying the DDPA is the apology by the Dutch government on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2022. While we considering it as an important historical act, in no way the Prime Minister

Mark Rutte who speak out the apology on behalf of the Dutch Cabinet has referred to the paragraphs in the DDPA such as 100, 101 and 102 the call for apology and Reparations. After the apology the prime Minister made it clear that no Reparations will follow. We consider it as an important case in the context of Reparatory Justice. Despite his 'komma' which provides for openings in the framework of a national dialogue.

**In the context of the increase in institutions offering apologies, it is important that the Report devotes a large chapter to the countries that have issued apologies and the actions in the context of Reparatory Justice that followed. Among other things, in the field of Reparatory, Restorative justice, Repatriation (the right to return), Restitution and all other forms of Reparations and how these acts reflect to the effects of the harms.**

## **2. International UN Decade for people of African Descent 2015-2024**

We had hoped that the International Decade for People of African Descent would have been actively promoted by the United Nations and its Program of Activities - as adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly in November of 2014. However, we are appalled that the adopted Program of Activities have not yet been published near eight years later by the majority of Nation States, nor have translated into other languages for broader access. We are not exaggerating when we say that no National Action Plan has been implemented in the Netherlands on this subject either. This is despite the fact that the Netherlands was one of the first to officially launch the Decade. An important reason is because of the link with the DDPA. It is therefore important to publish the country reports so that Civil Society can witness the content to respond to them.

We are of the opinion that it is entirely justified to recommend in the Report a the adoption of a Resolution for a **second International UN Decade for people of African Descent 2025-2034 and in addition to that actions into the Program of Action that has not been covered yet.**

## **3. The introduction of the term Afrophobia**

Over time, various terms have been used to describe the specific forms of racism against people of African descent. Anti-black racism replaced the term "negrophobia" which was introduced by the U.S. in 1830 and used in campaigns against slavery and for racial equality. Negrophobia as a

term was introduced before the term 'anti-Semitism'. It was then accepted by the UN. The term 'negrophobia' was included in the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur, who investigated forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and associated incidents. During the 50th session of the Human Rights Council in 1994, the use of the term negrophobia was rejected, also because of the n-word that was judged unacceptable and outdated to refer to people of African descent. In this regard, the replacement of 'negrophobia' by the term 'Afrophobia' was recommended. This was because the term Anti Black Racism was no longer sufficient. It was and still is used for all kinds of migrant groups while Afrophobia mainly refers to pseudo-scientific racist approaches that result from the reprehensible enslavement of African people.

Recognizing and combating Afrophobia will contribute to the full implementation of the important UN programmes against racism, was the conclusion.

The UN International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) represents an important achievement to be delivered by UN member states in the process of implementing the DDPA. Above all, it is designed to effectively combat all forms of multiple racism, institutional discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance and apartheid towards people of African descent. Afrophobia (formerly referred to as negrophobia and anti-black racism respectively) is the term that refers to all these specific forms of multiple racism. The agreement on the use of the term Afrophobia is laid down in the Human Rights Council (HRC) Resolution 21/33 of September 28, 2012. The HRC: 'It deplored the special form of discrimination faced by people of African descent.' The fight against Afrophobia can only be done by the grace of the political will. Besides the negotiations that is now taken place within the Intergovernmental Working group in the context of the Declaration, we think that a paragraph in the Report should be devoted to recommendations in this area.