

Call for inputs for the 2024 report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent

Send to: ohchr-registry@un.org

Subject: 2024 SG report IDPAD

Reporting Organization: Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference Inc

The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (SDPC) was incorporated in 2003 as a national faith network that serves and represents a cross section of progressive African American clergy and lay leaders, and the next generation of those working for social justice. As a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) the SDPC mission is to nurture, sustain, and mobilize the African American faith community in collaboration with civic, corporate, and philanthropic leaders to address critical needs of human and social justice within local, national, and global communities. SDPC seeks to strengthen the individual and collective capacity of thought leaders and activists in the church, academy, and community through education, advocacy, and activism. In 2014, SDPC was granted ECOSOC status as a non-governmental organization (NGO) of the United Nations. Our network includes roughly 1.5 million people of African Descent from largely from the US, but including the Caribbean, South America and Africa. We represent faith leaders, seminarians, faith-inspired concerned citizens in North America.

SDPC annual meetings gather nearly 800-1,000 clergy member representing national and global faith-based communities. The theme for our 2015- 2024 annual gathering were focused on the spiritual and healing power of our personal and community narratives as reservoirs of wisdom and resiliency- which served as a foundation for our engagement in the International Decade of People of African Descent (IDPAD) centering the narratives, realities, resiliency and hopes of people of African descent.

As evidenced in our Quadrennial reports to the United Nations, over the past International Decade for People of African Descent, we have remained committed, in our advocacy and programming beyond our annual convening, to the dismantling of systems of dehumanization, demonization, and criminalization, in its many forms, against people of African descent (PAD). This submission will highlight additional programs and commitments as we welcome this final year of the decade and provide a recommendation as we move forward.

International Decade for People of African Descent

Events Attended Addressing Recognition, Development and Justice for PAD

SDPC participated in the Hearing on Racism, Discrimination, Afrophobia and Xenophobia: The experience of people of African Descent in the USA organized by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches at the United Nations during the 36th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Dr. Carruthers has also participated in international forums and delegations addressing racism and related intolerance in India and Thailand with the World Council of Churches, she is a part of the Zacchaeus Campaign- seeking reparations through taxation for people of African descent with the World Council of Churches. Dr. Carruthers was present in Tokyo Japan to participate in a forum on racism hosted by the World Council of Churches.

SDPC has joined the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent [UN WGEPAD] in various capacities throughout the decade. SDPC has participated in the Working Group side events dealing with Reparations and people of African descent, SDPC has contributed to reports/statements and SDPC has testified as a member of the WGEPAD. SDPC also works closely with the UN Church Center, the Chaplin and the Ecumenical Women organization at the UN.

During the IDPAD, SDPC attended the First, Second and Third Permanent Forum for People of African Descent, partnering with the World Council of Churches on hosting side events addressing Pan-Africanism and reparations.

Activities Addressing Recognition, Development and Justice

SDPC has specifically carried out the following activities that represent and advocate for the human rights of people of African descent during the decade for People of African Descent International Decade:

- Recognition and Justice (the right to equality and non-discrimination and striving to eliminate institutionalized stereotypes, Afrophobia and racial profiling guides our work with mass incarceration and mass criminalization): SDPC has been committed to education and awareness surrounding criminalization, specifically advocating for compassionate drug policy and leading "ban the box" campaigns on U.S campuses. To address Justice and Transnational Solidarity SDPC organized a delegation of faith leaders at the UN on International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People in 2019, for a 2-day event at the UN which included meeting with the UN Committee on Exercise of Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and Middle East Peace, touring UN exhibits, visiting the Permanent Memorial to Honor the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade at the UN in partnership with the Church Center for the UN. Throughout the last quarter of the IDPAD, SDPC hosted various online "Clergy Conversations" that featured African American faith leaders on the front line of violence, economic and environmental injustice. These Clergy Conversations were made available to SDPC's 33,000 social media followers.
- Development, Education and Health- Recognizing the racial wealth gap and economic stratification, the inequity in the educational system, and the health disparities among races in North America, the development, health and education program activities our organization is following up on by holding local and national Truth Telling Commissions. We have also had increased presence as a faith community addressing issues of global injustices, e.g. HIV AIDS, Haitian restoration, Afrophobia and global health equity. Over the past several years, SDPC has led the faith community in doing justice on behalf of people of African descent by implementing Truth Telling Commissions on Racial Economic Justice in the U.S., and Truth Telling highlighting the racial massacres across history in this country. The Commissions have been positioned to address the human right to health, the impact racism has on children of African descent,

economic inequality in North America, criminal justice reform and immigration/refugee experiences and bias mitigation.

During the 2022 -2024 program years (through the remainder of the IDPAD) we will continue our commitment to hosting thematic truth telling commissions in North America, to explore how various issues of injustice are impact the lives of People of African descent. As individual issues, we are able to discern how they each impact the state of well-being of people of African descent. As individual issues, they each warrant unique targets for policy reform.

Reports & Statements Addressing Recognition, Development and Justice

SDPC has contributed to reports and statements written by the UN Working Group of PAD in light of a response to the murder of George Floyd, COVID-19 and the Black community, global Afrophobia and the push for a permanent forum for PAD. SDPC has also submitted reports to:

- UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues
- UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, the recommendations towards a Human Rights Treaty for PAD and the disproportionate impact of COVID on PAD
- Proctor submitted a statement towards the formation of the United Nations Declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent- now listed on the UN human rights office of the high commissioner website: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/permanent-forum-people-african-descent/declaration-human-rights-people-african-descent>
- SDPC has contributed to reports and statements written by the UN Working Group of PAD that were submitted to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights in reference to: the murder of George Floyd, disproportionate impacts of COVID-19, global Afrophobia and the push for a permanent forum for PAD.
- SDPC has contributed to reports and statements written by the US Human Rights Network entitled Request for the Convening of a Special Session on the Escalating Situation of Police Violence and Repression of Protests in the United States

Concrete Outcome Implementing the Programme Of Activities of the Decade

During the IDPAD, SDPC has established an institutional research, data and collection center formed through a partnership with McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago, IL, USA), The Center for Reparative Justice, Transformation, and Remediation. The Center for

Reparative Justice, Transformation, and Remediation (The "Center"), is a historic venture that joins the church and the academy, theology and praxis, to initiate and support truth telling, sacred memory, reparatory justice, restorative justice, liberation theology and reparations. The Center is a clear signal to what is possible through civil society, institutional bodies and NGOs prioritizing reparatory justice for People of African Descent. We are diligently working with others to advocate for NIFEA (New International Financial and Economic Architecture) initiative and the Zac Tax as a trigger for reparatory justice and furthering the achievement of SDGs.

Recommendations For Future Courses Of Action

There is much more work to be done. We must unite around a Pan African vision that addresses the health and safety of Black people worldwide as we face increased emergencies. It is critical that we build upon the momentum of the first IDPAD, and establish a second decade which provides a global platform to the issue of Reparations. We must level-set our definitions in order to address harm done around land, cultural arts, language, sacred rituals environmental and health disparities. Atonement, reckoning, and transformation is a part of the process. Moreover, we submit four key issues around which we need focus, frame and organize as we move forward. They include mapping an agenda related to:

- Environmental and climate justice
- Emergency preparedness
- Computer technology and Metaverse AI knowledge creation and
- Racial data collection and genomic sciences

SDPC has been a forum for sharing best ministry practices across a broad spectrum of theological, community, organizational and management issues. In the IDPAD program years we have mobilized effective educational and social justice advocacy initiatives in areas of hunger & poverty among marginalized communities in the U.S., educational & healthcare equity, criminalization & ban the box campaigns, post-earthquake deforestation restoration projects in Haiti, restorative justice on behalf of Palestinians, eco-justice in Cuba and in issues of youth advocacy. Collectively, these matters speak to who society values and how we design transformative systems and networks of protection to affirm and help those most vulnerable. As we look forward, we believe in our ability as a Diasporic community to unite and create an informed, shared agenda that ensures the protection of our Human Rights so that we might thrive into the future.