On the occasion of the
International Year for People of African Descent

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Navi Pillay
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Soline Nyirahabimana
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Betty E. King
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Ridha Bouabid
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the International Organization of la Francophonie to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

have the pleasure to invite you to a celebration of culture, heritage and diversity featuring:

A LITERARY CONFERENCE
EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS by Walter Firmo
and AFROROOTS CONCERT

Invitation valid for two people. Please bring photo ID, together with this invitation, to the Pregny Gate. No parking available for non-accredited vehicles.
International Year for People of African Descent

On 18 December 2009, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared the year beginning on 1 January 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent. The Year aims at strengthening national action and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent. This includes their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, their participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture.

Around 200 million people who identify themselves as being of African descent live in the Americas. Many millions more live in other parts of the world, outside of the African continent. In proclaiming this International Year, the international community is recognizing that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected.

The main objective of the Year is to raise awareness of the challenges facing people of African descent. It is hoped that the Year will foster discussions that will generate proposals for solutions to tackle these challenges.
PROGRAMME
WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2011

4:30 P.M.

Room XXIII, E Building, 1st floor

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS
Celebrating Diversity, Equality and Non-Discrimination:
Literary conference
featuring writers from around the world
Ana Maria GONÇALVES, Brazil
Jean-Euphèle MILCE, Haiti
Lucy Cristina CHAU, Panama
Eddy L. HARRIS, United States of America
Petina GAPPAH, Zimbabwe

6:00 P.M.

Salle des pas perdus
Opening of the exhibition and reception

AFRICA, MOTHER OF ALL PEOPLES
Images by Brazilian photographer Walter Firmo
featuring a slideshow of images by American artist Joseph Holston from his COLOR IN FREEDOM exhibition and a digital museum tour of African American art courtesy of the Smithsonian Museums

7:00 P.M.

Assembly Hall

AFROROOTS CONCERT
featuring the musical attractions
AFROLATA, Brazilian percussion, young people from poor communities of Rio de Janeiro
IVONNE GONZALEZ, Cuban music influenced by African roots in Latin America
KARA SYLLA KÁ, Senegalese artist inspired by the culture of his Foulani heritage
URUNANA, Rwandan youth group based in Geneva performing traditional dance