



Circle of Afrodescendant Youth of the Americas

*“When spider webs unite, they can tie up
a lion”.*

Ethiopian Proverb

WHY WAYS?

It is undeniable that human development does not depend solely on poverty reduction, but recently there has been greater consensus on the fact that to attain such an objective, it is required to increase equality and to foster the reduction of discrimination and inequalities of all sorts.

During recent years, afrodescendants in the American region have become important social and political actors that vindicate their rights, acknowledging that the history of Afrodescendant populations has been expressed through continuous resistance and strength, which undeniably has influenced for centuries the history of countries from the region.

Governments, grassroots and local organizations, and international organisms have been working together with Afrodescendant populations in the fight to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, and for the inclusion of this sector in decision making roles and to define relevant public policies. Such a movement indicates the construction of a new role for afrodescendant youths, which envisions participative and proactive measures in order to construct a new social scene for these youths, assessing distinctions and overcoming inequalities.

OBJECTIVES

WAYS will serve as a platform to review and analyze progress made so far, ongoing and emerging opportunities and challenges towards the full enjoyment of the right to development of afrodescendant youth, under the framework of strengthening their social and political articulations and empowering afrodescendant youth leaderships worldwide.

SUMMIT INFORMATION

Dates: 13-17 June, 2001

Venue: Radisson Europa Hotel & Conference Center
San José, Costa Rica

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

The Circle of Afrodescendant Youth of the Americas calls for the first World Afrodescendant Youth Summit under the framework of the *International Year for Persons of African Descent* and the *International Year for Youth*.

CIRCLE OF AFRODESCENDANT YOUTHS OF THE AMERICAS

The CAYA was born as a result of the International Colloquium *Challenges and Perspectives of the Afrodescendant Youth in the Americas*, which took place in Brazil in April 2009 and was organized by the Brazilian youth organization UJIMA Collective Work and Responsibility.

As a result, the circle was created in order to provide a platform for the political articulation of some 25 black youth organizations, from 12 countries of the American region. Since then, it has facilitated the construction of joint strategies for the promotion of afrodescendant rights,

particularly that of the youth, advocating for the strengthening of its capacities, political positioning and to foster the exchange of ideas, experiences and practices towards the development of this population.

CAYA's mission is the construction of an empowerment platform for young afrodescendant leaders, at the local, national and international levels; enabling participation in decision making and power-holding spaces at all levels, in order to combat racism, racial discrimination and overcoming historical inequalities that reflect current disparities in our societies.

CAYA's main objective is to generate a continued process of development and empowerment of afrodescendant communities and peoples throughout the Americas, having as a principle the strengthening of local and national processes, which also fosters regional and international articulations.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

1. Africa and its Diaspora – ARGENTINA
2. Political Articulation of Black Youths – BRAZIL
3. Black Entities Collective – BRAZIL
4. Marias Feminist Collective – BRAZIL
5. Itá Iyalodê Collective – BRAZIL
6. Educafro – BRAZIL
7. National Forum of Black Youth Rio – BRAZIL
8. National Forum of Black Youth Salvador – BRAZIL
9. Kilombagem Group – BRAZIL
10. MNU Campinas – BRAZIL
11. MNU São Paulo – BRAZIL
12. Negras Ativas – BRAZIL
13. Parana Black Women Network – BRAZIL
14. UJIMA Collective Work and Responsibility – BRAZIL
15. Sankofa in Cypher – CANADA
16. Centre for Racial and Gender Equality – COLOMBIA
17. Caribbean Project Association - COSTA RICA
18. Latin American and Caribbean Community Centre - UNITED STATES
19. Guatemalan Black Organization – GUATEMALA
20. Ethnic and Community Development Organization – HONDURAS
21. Panamanian Women Network – PANAMA
22. MAKUNGU for Development – PERU
23. Afro Dominican Alliance - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
24. Socialist Youths – URUGUAY
25. UBUNTU - URUGUAY

Costa Rican host organization: CARIBBEAN PROJECT ASSOCIATION

Costa Rican non-governmental organization founded in 1995, devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights and the development of afrodescendants in Costa Rica. CPA's mission is to foster opportunities for the social, economic, cultural and political development of Afro-Costa Ricans.

The CPA partners with various human rights and youth networks and organizations, and actively participates in local, national, regional and international spaces promoting the fundamental rights of all afrodescendants.

(www.proyectocaribe.org)

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN WAYS?

WAYS is for young afrodescendant activists and leaders that are members of youth lead or youth oriented civil society organizations, afrodescendant movements and/or other social movements of the world.

Participants must be either:

1. Verified community, local or national leaderships, according to the country of origin's youth age range;
2. Members of local, national or international human rights organizations and/or networks;
3. Those who take part of articulation and advocacy processes in decision making spaces at all levels; or
4. Those who foster processes for youth empowerment, to promote human rights, to combat racism and racial discrimination, and to overcome inequalities.

INVITED SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS

WAYS 2011 will allow for selected delegates to interact with leaders of the black movement, representatives of UN agencies and relevant international cooperation agencies and organizations. The speaker's list will include government officials, representatives from United Nation agencies, human rights experts and personalities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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