The Secretariat of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD) presents its compliments United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations and has the honour to make reference to resolution A/RES/66/144 of the General Assembly, adopted at its sixty-six session, which encourages the Working Group to develop a Programme of Action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, with the view to proclaim the Decade for People of African Descent for 2013/2023.

Pursuant to the above mentioned resolution a questionnaire has been designed, the purpose of which is to obtain information and facilitate the development of a draft Programme of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent. You are kindly requested to send their contributions no later than Friday 30 March 2012.

The Secretariat of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent seizes this opportunity to renew to United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations the assurances of its highest consideration.

28 February 2012
QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS BODIES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT; PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION A/RES/66/144 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Question 1: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has organized its activities in the framework of the International Year for People of African Descent according to the theme proposed by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, namely Recognition, Justice and Development. In your view, do these three elements, which are equally important and mutually reinforcing, provide sufficient coverage to be adopted as the theme for the Decade for People of African Descent? Would you propose any other theme for the Decade for People of African Descent?

Question 2: Taking into account the international legal framework on the elimination of racial discrimination and the recommendations made by several human rights mechanisms¹ for the protection and promotion of the rights of people of African descent, please identify priority areas for the Decade for People of African Descent.

Question 3: Give examples of national measures which have proven to be effective in improving the enjoyment of the rights of people of African descent and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Question 4: Please advise on national measures and action-oriented activities that your organization/institution is planning to undertake or will be ready to implement in the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Question 5: Please make any other relevant comments or suggestions.