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23 November 2020
Europe and North America Regional
Meeting of the WGEPAD

To the Members of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

We will begin with our proposed outcome.

Outcome

Following this mid-term review, one outcome will be that the Working Group recommend that, the Human Rights Council demand that the racial situation of the United States of America: 1) be placed on the agenda of the Security Council; and, or 2) be taken to the International Court of Justice; and, or 3) be brought before the International Criminal Court.

The second outcome will be that the HRC demand that the Western European and Other Group members implement the DDPA, particularly in its demand for reparations to People of African Descent.

Our reasons are as follows:

What Has been happening

Starting in 1989, through 2020, our organizations have been regular participants at the Human Rights Council, nee Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, nee Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. We have contributed at the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna 1993), the World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the World Conference on Racism, et al (Durban 2001), and all the prepcoms, follow up mechanisms, regional meetings, etc. We were instrumental in organizing the first visits to the United States of the Special Rapporteur on Racism (1994)¹, and the Special Rapporteur on Extra-Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Execution (1997)². We attended the meetings of this Working Group in Geneva and one of our members presented as an expert at one of the sessions. We met with and presented documentation to this Working Group in New York in 2010 and 2016. Review the daily summations of the Human Rights Council from 1989 and you will find our annual interventions under racism and racial discrimination.

Our reasons for going to the UN were very simple – to bring to the world’s attention the human rights violations suffered by people of African Descent in the United States, in particular, and throughout the African Diaspora, in general. Before the internet

¹ E/CN.4/1995/78/Add.1

² E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.3

and google search, we brought exhaustively researched facts to Geneva which we presented in interventions, pamphlets, and discussions. We documented the harsh reality of the masses of Black people's existence in the United States, i.e. that we existed as "**collectivities of underdevelopment**" in the midst of the world's only superpower. This brutal reality was lost behind the media smokescreen of "the U.S. Olympic Basketball's "Dream Team," and the successes of "the Oprah Winfreys, Bill Cosbys, and Michael Jacksons."

This work helped beat back the mid-1990s attempt by the WEOG to remove "racism and racial discrimination" from the agenda of the CHR and led to the World Conference on Racism and Racial Discrimination, the DDPA and international recognition of the legitimate demand for reparations for descendants of the victims of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. It contributed to the formation of this Working Group itself and the excellent work it has produced over the years, which include the call for the International Year (2011) and the International Decade for People of African Descent.

But it has not forced any fundamental change in addressing the human rights situation facing People of African Descent. In many ways our situation has worsened. The daylight lynching of George Floyd is just its clearest and most flagrant example. **The U.N. does not lack for facts. It lacks the will to apply the same standard of criticism and enforcement which it readily imposes on the developing countries of the world.** And it is not the U.S. alone. It is its partners in crime, the WEO Group, the global aggregation whose sole commonality is not geography, but that of being either a former colonial country or a former settler colony. We saw this play out in June 2020 when the courage of the African Group led to the extraordinary Urgent Debate on the racial situation in the U.S. The pushback from the WEOG was predictable and successful in rejecting the call for appointment of an independent International Commission of Inquiry into the U.S. The investigation is once more in the safe hands of traditional U.N. mechanisms, subject to the "traditional" forces of WEOG influence.

If this Mid-Term review of IDPAD fails to address the outcomes we propose in the beginning of this intervention, it risks ending up as simply an exercise in maintaining the unequal racial status quo of people of African Descent.

Thank you