

Presenter: Jacqueline Dwyer

Presenter: Noel Livingston

Organization: Toronto Black Farmers and Food Growers Collective – Community Food Model; Co-Founders, Farmers, Advocates for community food systems

Compliments:

We extend thanks to Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and all the other staff that work behind the scene tirelessly for benefits of this declaration for all people of African descent. We acknowledge all your efforts for strongly and boldly moving this agenda forward without funding and the many barriers/challenges that are amid this process.

We live and work in the City of Toronto, Province of Ontario, Country - Canada. We are Afro-Indigenous people with many years of combined lived experience of Anti-black racism, classism, sexism, xenophobia, oppression and marginalization in the Americas' since our births to present. Poverty, oppression, marginalization, hate and violence has always been the order of the day, as long as we can remember. We carry the scars of Anti-black racism and colonialism for generations, now it is our time for restorative and reparatory justice in our lifetime.

Questions: We would like to know what measures is taken by the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Working Group for People of African Descent to ensure new laws, legislation and policies are implemented for member states globally to compliment the proposed 2015 Declaration for people of African Descent? Will the WGEPAD be funded? When will this happen? What physical timelines are put in place for these measures to be put in place?

We know that the Working Group of experts for People African Descent is not a funded body – its operation is solely volunteerism! This is a huge red flag and major obstacle for this declaration to have any teeth or carry any power or weight moving forward.

Thanks