

12th session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
Geneva, April 7th, 2014

Statement by World Against Racism Network (WARN)
International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN)

Mr. Chairman,

I am speaking for the World Against Racism Network and the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations.

May I first of all say what a pleasure it is to take the floor when the session is so ably chaired by Ambassador Mohamed Siad Doualeh.

We look forward to participating in this session with high expectations for agreements to be reached that move the preparations forward for the International Decade for People of African Descent and thus wish at the outset to make a few comments. We may come back later with more detailed suggestions.

1. We note with satisfaction that the proclamation of the Decade has been adopted firmly under the General Assembly item 67 (b), "Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action". This clarifies that the Decade is part of the full and effective implementation of the DDPA and as the Human Rights Council stated important synergies can be achieved in this respect. It will be an important opportunity to reiterate, reaffirm and amplify the message of the DDPA and assure its wide dissemination.
2. The theme "People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, Development", originally proposed by our NGOs for the International Year, is now firmly recognised and its value was proven during the International Year. It has already been adopted by the General Assembly for the Decade which we very much welcome.
3. The Draft Programme of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent has been widely recognised as the basis and key document for the Decade, welcomed and endorsed by the Human Rights Council and developed with the full participation of UN agencies, states and civil society and must form the basis for the consensus efforts at this IGWG.
4. We note that the General Assembly in its consensus resolution proclaiming the Decade recognized the Draft Programme as both "comprehensive" and as "a broad framework" for the programme of the Decade. We find this agreement very encouraging and would propose that in addition to adopting an actionable programme of activities, the IGWG should recommend and the General Assembly should adopt the Draft Programme of the Working Group of Experts as the United Nations International Framework for the International Decade to conceptually guide the observance of the Decade.
5. We also note with appreciation the consensus call by the General Assembly to allocate "predictable funding from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources of the UN for the effective implementation of the programme of action and activities under the International Decade". This is also exactly what the ECOSOC guidelines for International Decades state, that regular and voluntary budget resources should be specifically allocated for a Decade. We believe that it would be impossible for the Decade to achieve its purpose only within the diminishing resources of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and count on the good will of all countries to work for the allocation of the necessary regular budget resources for the successful observance of the Decade.