



OIJ Organismo Internacional de Juventud

– Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía –

Senado de España–

PREAMBLE

We, gathered in Madrid on the occasion of the Second World Conference AFROMADRID 2025, held within the framework of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034), and in accordance with the conceptual note of the Conference as well as the presentations, interventions, and deliberations carried out,

And acknowledging the participation of institutional, religious, governmental, political, academic, diplomatic, and business delegations,

Issue the following Declaration:

1. CONSIDERING THAT:

The world is currently undergoing a period of profound change and transformation—climate change, rising authoritarianism, and a severe human crisis that threatens the future of universal society. The weakening of States due to the erosion of the public sphere, the legitimization of privatization, and challenges to human rights express ideologies that fail to respect human dignity, are rooted in systemic and structural racism, and justify the extermination of populations and the destruction of cultures and peoples.

The human crisis also manifests in the gradual dismantling of the multicultural and multilateral system of responsible coordination among States meant to achieve peace based on equality, equity, and justice.

The major migratory movement stemming from the dispersion of **Homo sapiens**, descendants of the “Mitochondrial Eve,” from East Africa toward all continents; and the scientific reaffirmation in 1997 of the African ancestry of the British—identified in the DNA of the complete skeleton known as the “Cheddar Man,” who lived some 10,000 years ago—confirm the common origin of humanity and the reality of global Africanity.

The concept of **Afrodescendancy** embraces the entire African diaspora and its descendants, bearing a millenary history marked by enslavement and colonialism, while providing invaluable contributions to the world: the values of freedom, equality, solidarity, *Ubuntu*, and a vision of human development based on harmony with nature, natural resources, and the common good of humanity.

Today, the Afro-descendant population in the Americas exceeds 230 million, according to census data. Other populations of African descent are found primarily in Europe—14.2 million (1.64% of the European population), with Spain alone

accounting for 1.8 million (3.8%)—as well as in other regions of the world, such as Eurasia, the Pacific, and Australia, including Indigenous populations.

That since the enslavement and the transatlantic trafficking of African peoples—crimes against humanity that are imprescriptible—African and Afro-descendant peoples worldwide continue to suffer systemic and structural racism that undermines their human dignity and their right to development.

The collective consciousness of African peoples in defense of humanity emerged long before the transatlantic trade, as evidenced by the **“Manden Charter of the Hunters”** of 1212. We affirm the long-standing African presence in Abya Yala (so-called Pre-Columbian America).

Enslavement relied on physical, moral, and spiritual violence to build the economic system that generated the wealth of the West through the brutal exploitation of human beings. Colonialism constituted the systematic extraction of resources, the primitive accumulation of capital, the foundations of global capitalism, and a system of cultural domination.

Systemic and structural racism functions as a mechanism of domination in the prevailing neoliberal economic model. Racism against African and Afro-descendant peoples is a denial of their humanity and of the cultural richness of human diversity.

Hate crimes cannot be understood as isolated incidents, but as the consequence of a social context in which racist discourse enjoys impunity. Although progress has been made in the European Union in recognizing racism from an institutional and public-policy perspective, racial discrimination remains a serious problem, with high rates of underreporting that prevent an accurate understanding of its scope.

A critical analysis reveals the urgent need to confront racism in order to protect the dignity and fundamental rights of victims, and to mitigate its threat to coexistence and democracy. Authorities must strengthen policies and measures and promote comprehensive legislation for universal protection of victims of hate crimes, with explicit consideration of racism and anti-Blackness.

The legacy of resistance and resilience of African and Afro-descendant peoples underpins the defense of the inherent dignity of all human beings and stands firmly against anything that threatens or violates a dignified life.

Reparative justice must address ethical, historical, material, symbolic, cultural, educational, and spiritual dimensions, recognizing that reparations not only compensate harm but also rebuild dignity, knowledge, and the historical memory of Afro-descendant peoples.

Afro-descendant women are the backbone of the labor that sustains the world—pillars of resistance, cultural transmission, and social justice. Territories with large Afro-descendant populations require differentiated public policies enabling women to incorporate ancestral memory and knowledge to achieve structural progress.

Ancestral knowledge, African spirituality, and Afro-descendant cultural and religious expressions are living heritage of humanity and forms of deep cultural and spiritual resistance.

Afro-descendant youth are active agents of change and protagonists in building a more just and inclusive present and future. Our youth are conscious, organized, and ready to lead the transformation toward a fair, equitable, and inclusive society.

Afro-descendant children worldwide are victims of extreme poverty, school abandonment, police violence, early incarceration, and institutionalization.

A Pan-African vision is essential for building a new architecture of relations among States grounded in values and multiculturalism.

Education is an essential tool for cognitive, ethical, and historical repair when based on decolonized, reconstructed, and inclusive knowledge. International cooperation bears the ethical and political responsibility to contribute to reparations and racial equality; UNESCO's **Slave Route Programme** is an example of this mandate.

2. RECOGNIZING THAT:

The **Programme of Action of the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance** (Durban, 2001) identifies the actions needed to accelerate the fulfillment of the rights of Afro-descendant people, communities, and nations.

UN General Assembly Resolutions 62/122 (2007), 63/5 (2008), and 64/15 (2009) concerning the permanent memorial in honor of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

Resolution 64/169 (2011 International Year for People of African Descent), the Declaration and Plan of Action of the First World Summit (La Ceiba, Honduras, 2011), the First World Summit of the African Diaspora (South Africa, 2012), and the Declaration of the XXII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (Cádiz, 2012), proclaiming the Ibero-American Decade for People of African Descent (2013–2023), contributed to the proclamation of the **First International Decade for**

People of African Descent (2015–2024), which called for strengthening national, regional, and international measures to ensure Afro-descendants fully enjoy their rights and participate equally in all spheres of society, while addressing the specific forms of racism faced by Afro-descendant women, girls, and youth.

On 19 June 2020, the **UN Human Rights Council** adopted the resolution on “the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers.” In accordance with this resolution, the High Commissioner for Human Rights presented a transformative agenda for racial justice and equality. The date **31 August** was proclaimed **International Day for People of African Descent** (A/RES/75/170).

In August 2021, the **Permanent Forum on People of African Descent** was formally established by UN General Assembly Resolution 75/314 as a consultative mechanism and platform to improve the security, quality of life, and livelihoods of Afro-descendants and to advise the Human Rights Council.

During the **3rd CELAC–EU Summit (2023)**, in an unprecedented move, CELAC countries proposed language recognizing historical reparations, acknowledging the incalculable suffering inflicted through the transatlantic slave trade, and emphasizing the need for measures—including reparations and compensation—to restore dignity and heal collective memory.

CARICOM’s **10-Point Reparatory Justice Plan** seeks to address the historical consequences of slavery and colonialism in the Caribbean, promoting reconciliation and sustainable development through actions such as formal apologies, repatriation, Indigenous development, cultural institutions, public health initiatives, literacy eradication, African knowledge programs, psychological rehabilitation, technology transfer, and debt cancellation.

On **17 December 2024**, the **Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034)** was proclaimed as an opportunity to address the legacies of slavery and colonialism, advance restorative justice, and fully guarantee the human rights and freedoms of Afro-descendants worldwide. It renews the call for **recognition, justice, and development**.

Therefore, it is imperative to rethink the demands of Afro-descendant populations and promote concrete actions for **historical reparations**.

It is crucial to implement inclusive public policies that guarantee equity in education, employment, politics, the economy, culture, and social participation.

Environmental reparations are a fundamental and inseparable component of historical justice, given the disproportionate impact of ecological degradation, land dispossession, and the climate crisis on Afro-descendant communities.

Mechanisms must be established to ensure compensation for historical harms and prevent future impacts, including environmental restoration and climate mitigation funds, with direct participation of Afro-descendant communities in their design, implementation, and evaluation.

The landmark adoption by the **African Union** of the **Right of Return** for Afro-descendants—implemented by countries such as Ghana and Benin—constitutes a measure of historical reparation.

3. RESOLVES TO:

Denounce before the world the rise of racist and xenophobic ideologies that threaten global stability.

Condemn predatory economic practices against nature, denounce the lack of global commitment to climate change, and make an urgent call for effective environmental policies.

Condemn undemocratic and authoritarian practices by governments that weaken the rule of law, inclusive and intercultural democracy, public institutions, and the common good.

Declare that structural and systemic racism, hate crimes, colonialism, and neocolonialism are grave violations of human rights, threaten democracy and peace, and inflict lasting wounds on those who suffer them.

Urge States to recognize the transatlantic slave trade, the enslavement of African peoples, colonialism, and neocolonialism as crimes against humanity and to adopt concrete and effective commitments toward reparations.

Reaffirm our commitment to the **Second International Decade for People of African Descent (January 2025–December 2034)**, whose action plan must reflect Afro-descendant demands for historical reparations and advance a political agenda leading to international recognition of Afro-descendant peoples as subjects of collective rights.

Renew our commitment to the drafting and adoption of an **International Declaration on the Protection, Promotion, and Full Respect of the Human Rights of People of African Descent**, currently advancing within the United Nations. We call

for the Declaration to highlight the recognition of Afro-descendant peoples as collective rights holders, as expressed in CERD General Recommendation 34, and to emphasize reparative justice, climate and environmental justice, digital justice, and artificial intelligence rights.

Support the UN **Permanent Forum on People of African Descent**, ensuring its strengthening and adequate funding, increasing the frequency of its sessions, and guaranteeing broader participation from civil society.

Propose that Spain and other European countries host annual sessions of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, and that the Spanish Government establish a **National Council of Afro-descendants** and the role of **Special Envoy for People of African Descent**, replicated at EU and international levels.

Urge France to honor its historical commitment to Haiti through reparations, and call on governments and multilateral organizations to implement a comprehensive plan for Haiti's economic, social, and political development as an act of historical justice and international solidarity.

Recognizing that colonialism persists, urge the UN, OAS, CELAC, SEGIB, European Union, African Union, SICA, and CARICOM to advance the abolition of colonialism and fulfill the objectives of the **Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2021–2030)**.

Reaffirm our commitment to political participation and community empowerment of Afro-descendant peoples as essential pathways to social justice and inclusive democracy.

Demand transformative public policies with measures for integral reparation, including institutional reforms, mandatory human rights and anti-discrimination training for public officials, strengthened ethnic-racial statistical systems, and affirmative action in education, employment, and political representation.

Ensure the inclusion of a gender-inclusive perspective in the design, implementation, and evaluation of anti-racism policies.

Affirm that reparations must align with the conceptual and legal framework of the **right to development**, understood as a fundamental human right. Discussions on reparations funds must defend the need for a new global economic architecture prioritizing massive investment in Afro-descendant communities.

Propose reparations funds not as charity, assistance, or marginal compensatory policies, but as a profound restructuring of international economic and political

relations that recognizes historical and structural debts owed to Afro-descendant peoples. The Afro-descendant struggle for rights must be understood within the framework of **reparative justice**.

Strongly support the creation of the **Multilateral–Bilateral Development Fund for Afro-descendants** as an international financial instrument for reparative justice.

Urge BRICS member States and international and regional development banks to create specific financing mechanisms for Afro-descendant economic, social, and political development.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote the convening of the **IV World Conference against Racism** in 2030.
- Support Brazil's proposal to include **SDG 18: Racial Equality and Justice for Afro-descendant Peoples** in the 2030 Agenda.
- Support Reparations and Racial Justice initiatives in **Agenda 2063**, Pan-Africanism in public policies, and the extension of citizenship to diaspora Afro-descendants within the African Union.
- Ensure all reparations and anti-racism policies are inclusive and participatory, leaving no one behind: women, youth, children, elders, migrants, or LGBTQIA+ Afro-descendants.
- Promote gender-responsive, inclusive education linked to sustainable development.
- Promote comprehensive health and collective well-being for those affected by racism and all forms of discrimination.
- Urge all governments to collect valid and reliable ethnic-racial statistics including Afro-descendants.
- Establish political participation quotas ensuring Afro-descendant women a strategic—not peripheral—place on electoral lists.
- Encourage States to incorporate reparations policies into constitutions, national laws, and development plans, and establish permanent institutions to promote Afro-descendant rights.
- Call on the Government of Spain to advance the **Comprehensive Law against Racism** and the **Comprehensive Law for the Protection of Victims of Hate Crimes**, including racial hatred.
- Urge International Organizations to integrate Afro-descendant perspectives into their programs and budgets and prioritize South–South and triangular cooperation, including Afro-descendant professionals in their staffing.

- Encourage Afro-descendant civil society to strengthen transnational networks, political advocacy, and participation in multilateral forums.

For Afro-descendant women's leadership:

- Political participation and leadership
- Economic justice and sustainability of life
- Integral health and collective healing
- Safety and elimination of gender-based violence
- Transnational alliances and knowledge production

On Cultural and Intangible Heritage:

Request UNESCO and national governments to safeguard Afro-descendant tangible and intangible cultural heritage, recognizing its essential role in identity, intercultural dialogue, and mutual understanding.

Request that the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Durban Follow-up Process include specific cultural heritage rights in the draft Declaration for Afro-descendant peoples, including:

- The right to recognition as peoples with collective rights
- The right to recognition and autonomy over ancestral territories
- The right to own, use, conserve, and protect traditionally occupied lands and natural resources
- The right to cultural and spiritual identity and to maintain, safeguard, and promote traditional organization, languages, and religious expressions
- The right to protect traditional knowledge and cultural, spiritual, and artistic heritage
- The right to determine the use of traditional knowledge and genetic resources
- The right to free, prior, and informed consultation in decisions affecting their rights

Create an independent group of experts on religious intolerance within the OAS, UN, and EU, composed of qualified practitioners of African-origin religions. This group would report on trends, violations, best and worst practices, and provide recommendations.

Ensure visibility of racism and religious discrimination through public statements and decisive action on cases in the region.

Demand that States guarantee respect and interreligious dialogue, ensuring that African-origin religions can be practiced without persecution or discrimination.

On Education:

- Advance agreed policies for educational reparations
- Encourage governments to adopt national educational reparation initiatives
- Implement an international political-epistemic articulation plan
- Advance a global agenda for educational reparations
- Develop a global antiracist mental health agenda
- Support the “Salvador Proposal for the World: Repairing from the South”
- Promote a **World Conference on Afro-descendant Childhood**

On Multilateralism:

- Spain and the EU should promote a political Afro-Euro-American space at governmental and civil society levels.
- The EU should contribute to implementing the Durban Declaration.
- The EU should promote the creation of a **Library Directory on Slavery and Colonialism**, guided by UNESCO, for young researchers.

On the Development Fund:

Call on States and international institutions to initiate dialogue for the establishment and funding of the **Afro-descendant Development Fund**, characterized by:

1. A multilateral/bilateral fund receiving contributions from State and non-State actors within a reparatory framework.
2. Benefitting multiple countries or specifically designated populations.

The Fund shall:

1. Serve as the principal international financing mechanism for Afro-descendant development under reparative justice;
2. Finance activities across diverse development sectors;
3. Build capacity for policy participation, decision-making, and development management.

It should be created by the UN General Assembly, with governance including contributing and recipient States and Afro-descendant community representatives with voice and vote.

The Fund must abide by sustainability, participation, transparency, and accountability, and accept contributions from Afro-descendant peoples and institutions from the outset.

On Human Mobility:

Urgently call on governments to fulfill the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** to prevent the Mediterranean and other routes from becoming cemeteries for African-descendant youth. Urge compliance with a focus on Afro-descendant migrants, especially in:

- Objective 2: Minimizing adverse factors driving migration
- Objective 5: Expanding regular migration pathways
- Objective 19: Enabling migrants to contribute to sustainable development
- Objective 20: Promoting migrant inclusion
- Objective 23: Strengthening international cooperation

Urge Spain to support the Popular Legislative Initiative for the Regularization of Immigrants and advocate before the EU for the necessary legal framework.

On Afro-descendant Youth:

Ensure Afro-descendant youth have real, binding, and representative participation in political, social, and cultural life.

Create a **National Afro-descendant Youth Council** in Spain to participate in decision-making processes.

Priority areas:

- Education, culture, and media representation
- Employment, housing, and digital transformation (including algorithmic bias regulation)
- Mental health, well-being, and disability inclusion
- Human rights and social justice
- Combatting racial profiling and State violence
- Euro–Afro–Ibero-American cooperation for youth solidarity

In light of the above, we hereby adopt this **“Declaration of the Second AFROMADRID Conference”** in Madrid, Spain, on 16 October 2025, henceforth known as the **AFROMADRID 2025 Declaration**.

Drafting**Committee:**

Doudou Diène, Guillermo Ponce, Palmira Ríos, Simón Nong, John Antón, Elisabete Pinto, Oswaldo Bilbao, Harold Robinson, Mónica Montaña, and Alberto Virella.