



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 December 2010

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/65/456/Add.2 (Part I))]

65/36. Programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, as well as other relevant international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also its resolution 64/169 of 18 December 2009, in which it proclaimed the year beginning on 1 January 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent,

Stressing the importance of strengthening national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, their full and equal participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture,

Recalling that, in its resolution 64/169, the General Assembly encouraged Member States and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to identify possible initiatives that could contribute to the success of the Year,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action² and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,³

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 14/16 of 18 June 2010,⁴ and welcoming the decision of the Council to convene a panel discussion during the

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

³ See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.



high-level segment of its sixteenth session focusing on the full enjoyment of the human rights of people of African descent, to mark the Year,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the draft programme of activities for the Year,⁵

Recalling the human suffering of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, and of people of African descent in particular, and the lessons, history and consequences of slavery,

Noting the decision adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its fifteenth ordinary session, held at Kampala from 25 to 27 July 2010, on the convening of the African Diaspora Summit,⁶ which will be hosted by South Africa in 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the draft programme of activities for the International Year for People of African Descent;⁷

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, bearing in mind its recommendation on the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development” contained in its report;⁸

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the activities for the Year, to which Member States and all relevant donors are encouraged to contribute;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to close the Year with the convening of a high-level thematic debate on the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Year, with the participation of the Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, a representative of people of African descent, civil society and relevant stakeholders;

5. *Invites* Member States to support the implementation of activities for the Year, and to cooperate constructively and decisively to ensure rapid progress and concrete results in the achievement of the objectives of the Year;

6. *Encourages* Member States, donors and other stakeholders to participate in and contribute, on a voluntary basis, to activities related to the Year;

7. *Encourages* the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and intergovernmental organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to develop activities for the Year, taking into account its goals and objectives as well as the draft programme of activities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to launch the Year with an opening day ceremony on 10 December 2010;

9. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to facilitate and assist in the implementation of activities, in order to

⁵ A/65/227 and Add.1.

⁶ See African Union, document Assembly/AU/Dec.319 (XV). Available from www.africa-union.org.

⁷ See A/65/227, sect. IX.

⁸ A/HRC/14/18.

continue to contribute to the success of the Year, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and bodies;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on progress and the implementation of the present resolution.

*57th plenary meeting
6 December 2010*