



[Working draft, last updated: February 16, 2024]

Preliminary Meeting of the Third Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

March 25-27, 2024

African Union (AU) Civil Society Division,
Lusaka, Zambia
Quorum Hotel

Back to the Roots: A Pan-African Approach in Fostering an African Renaissance

Location: Quorum Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia

Language(s): English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Portuguese

Number of Attendees: 50 – 100

- (i) **Preliminary Meeting of the 3rd Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD): A transnational groundings approach in strengthening global relations**
- (ii) **Implementing partners:** The Secretariat of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), International Coalition for People of African Descent (ICPAD), Pan-African Council (PAC), Articulaci3n Latinoamericana para el Decenio Afrodescendiente (ALDA), Black and African Diaspora Program (BAFD) – Dalhousie University, PANDA, Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC), Baobab Centro de Innovaci3n en Justicia Racial, de G3nero y Ambiental (Colombia), Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un D3veloppement Alternatif (PAPDA), Government of the Republic of Colombia

- (iii) **Targeted Partners:** Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD), Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), PJ Patterson Centre for Africa-Caribbean Advocacy, Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD).
- (iv) **Background:** The launch of the PFPAD in August 2021 provided an international platform for people of African descent and their affiliated stakeholders with a human rights framework to advocate for bettering their safety and quality of life and livelihoods. In December 2022, the Forum held its first session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Some of the primary recommendations proposed in dialogue with civil society and Member States were reparatory justice for enslavement, colonialism, and neocolonialism; sustainable development; a data-driven approach in recognizing and addressing systemic racism; and a second international decade for people of African descent. The Forum's second session was held in New York City, from 30 May to 2 June 2023, NYHQ. The themes addressed in this session continued the dialogue on combatting racial capitalism, which emphasized global reparations, pan-Africanism for dignity, justice, and peace, transnational migration, data collection on people of African descent, and health, well-being, and intergenerational trauma.
- (v) **The Significance of Zambia:** We have proposed to hold the preliminary meeting in Zambia for two main reasons. Firstly, ECOSOCC's office is located there. Secondly, Zambia has a rich history of social movements and internationalism of liberation struggle. In collaboration with African CSOs and through the application of a decentralizing method, our aim is to trouble the practice of hosting international events, mainly in countries like Ghana and South Africa, by engaging with African nations that tend to be on the margins of global capacity building. This will help to emphasize that the continent is more extensive than West and South Africa.
- (vi) Therefore, by hosting this significant event in Zambia in collaboration with ECOSOCC, we are continuing that tradition and simultaneously strengthening the relationship between Africa and her diasporas.
- (vii) The first two sessions for the PFPAD came with its limitations, but one that dictated the conversations and outcomes was the need for more space for civil society to engage with the members of the permanent forum. Member States dominated the conversation and time both in Geneva and NYHQ. In most cases, civil society and the key stakeholders could not capture their varied experiences within the time allocated per speaker. Subsequently, this created unrest and frustration for attendees in person and online. Therefore, the preliminary meeting offers a space to foster dialogues and decolonial praxes for civil society organisations and critical stakeholders to politicise and mobilise on matters of the third session of the PFPAD.

- (viii) **Objective:** To foster purposeful dialogues, exchanges, and action in preparation for the third session on the PFPAD. Moreover, to establish an effective working relationship with ECOSOCC in support of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 Aspiration 2, achieving "an integrated continent, politically united that is based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of an African Renaissance" and Aspiration 3, "an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law."

In particular, the Preliminary meeting has four specific **aims**:

- a. Collectively develop practical plans working with the PFPAD framework to address the fundamental disequilibrium (characterized by nefarious orders such as slavery, colonialism, neocolonialism, unfair terms of trade, peripheral unindustrialised economies reduced to being suppliers of low-value unprocessed raw materials and importers of high-value, high-technology content products and system injustices.
- b. Identify the essential CSOs on the African continent that work on the abovementioned themes, for example, slavery, neocolonialism, unfair terms of trade, etc.
- c. Advance the international collaboration amongst networks between Africa and its diasporas.
- d. The ICPAD as a key convener in facilitating collaboration between ECOSOCC and the African diaspora.
- e. Promote awareness of PFPAD and its tools.

(ix) **Expected accomplishments:**

EA1. Establish a coalition that is driven by CSOs and will meet in person or online before each Permanent Forum of People of African Descent session to create a working plan and identify key objectives as part of civil society contribution.

EA2. Foster knowledge exchange to promote inclusive and holistic policy recommendations and decision-making capabilities.

EA3. Develop an effective grassroots-driven network that has the tools and resources to support people of African descent globally in dealing with human rights violations

(x) **Indicators of achievement:**

IA1.1 Drafting of a list of recommendations on critical issues to be worked on within the newly established alliance.

IA2.1 Increased awareness of PFPAD and establishing partnerships across the African continent.

IA3.1 Increased interaction with ECOSOCC and PFPAD decision-makers and civil society, particularly with public-private-academic partnerships.

(xi) Main activities:

A1. Establish preliminary meetings in preparation for each session of the PFPAD.

A2. Follow up with members of the PFPAD to ensure Member States are executing the recommendations proposed after each session.

In partnership with:



ECOSOCC
Economic Social & Cultural Council

