

Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference
First substantive session, 21 April – 2 May 2008)

United Nations, Geneva

REGARDING

**Summary of the JOINT STATEMENT of: NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS FROM AFRICANS AND AFRICAN DESCENDENTS Read
on April 23, 2008**

**Item 5, Reports of preparatory meetings and activities at the international,
regional and national levels**

on behalf of participated NGO's

- **Afro European Women's Movement "Sophiedela" (The Netherlands)**
- **Tiye International (The Netherlands)**
- **Foundation National Monument Dutch Slavery Past (Stichting National Monument the Netherlands -Landelijk Platform Slavernijverleden-) (The Netherlands)**
- **Espace Afrique International (Switzerland)**
- **Action Internationale pour la Paix et le Développement (Switzerland)**
- **CAPSDH - Commission Africaine des Promoteurs de la Sante et des Droits de l'Homme (Switzerland)**
- **CIRAC (Comite International pour le Respect et l'Application de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et de Peuples (Switzerland)**

And their Affiliated NGO's and/or Networks

- **Pan African, Strategic & Policy Group (Pan Afstrag International & Europe/NL and Suriname) (Nigeria, The Netherlands, France, Spain, republic Suriname)**
- **MIR Mouvement International pour les Réparations (France)**

- African Hebrew Israelites Development Agency (Israel)
- Swiss African Forum (Switzerland)
- SOS Rassismus Deutschschweiz (Switzerland)

Supported by other participated NGO's

- TCHAPE - Tchad Agir pour L'environnement (Switzerland)
- OCAPROCE International (Switzerland)
- Afro Swedish National Association (Sweden)
- RADDHO - Rencontre Africaine des Droits de l'Homme (Sénégal)
- CODAS - Collectif des Organisations et Associations Africaines de Suisse (Switzerland)
- Espacio Afroamericano (Switzerland)
- Culture of Afro Indigenous Solidarity (Switzerland)
- CONGAF - Coordination des ONG Africaines des Droits de l'Homme (Switzerland)

During the first Preparatory Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, a statement has presented to the Preparatory Committee with the below content.

After thanking the Madam Chair for the blessed opportunity to present the statement to the Preparatory Committee, we gratefully extend our appreciation to all the expert panelists, especially to the very valuable contribution from the special Rapporteur Mr. Doudou Diene and his challenge to the house.

Our presentation was on behalf of some of the leading African and African Descendent NGO's and Civil Society Networks. We understand that the recognition of Africans and African Descendants as an important group during the World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances in Durban 2001, was indeed one of the great achievements of that assembly. We thereby stated that we wholeheartedly support the review of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action and strongly advocate all Member States to be

part of the implementation of the process towards the Durban Review initiatives and its actions.

In addition, we strongly reconfirmed our commitment to be an active part of the Durban Review process to promote the issue of solidarity with all victims of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and the phobia against Africans and African Descendants in addition to the oppression of Women, Youth and Dalits People, so that we all may enjoy equal treatment and fundamental rights and end the suffering that has become so common in this era of humanity.

Therefore, we brought to the attention of Madam Chair to what we understand to be one of the successful initiatives and contributions regarding the Durban Review. This event was "The Durban +5 Review Roundtable Discussion" held April 18-20 2007, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This event was sponsored solely by serious and committed Africans and African Descendants and NGO's under the leadership and extraordinary support of "Panafstrag" International and the Europe/NL Division".

The purpose of the Addis Ababa Durban plus 5 review was:

- o To keep the hope and spirit alive of the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action by reviewing and discussing the support, attention and concern on behalf of the Nation States regarding the implementation of concrete action plans which they committed to after the World Conference Against Racism in 2001.
- o To develop a Status Report on what has been achieved in the past five years since the Durban Conference in 2001.

- To develop a position paper and program of action including strategies and policies for the next five years (2012).
- To review the support, attention and concern on behalf of the Africans and African Descendants and Non Governmental Organizations regarding the follow-up on their commitments to the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action.

Several African and African Descendant international conferences were held in preparation for this Durban + 5 Review. The reviews of these meetings are documented in report of discussion.

In preparation for the Durban + 5 Review we took the opportunity to review all of the accredited documentation which factual stipulated the vision and commitments made by the Member States so that we would not be remiss and underestimate or over-evaluate the things achieved regarding the DDPA. The report of the Durban + 5 Review has been submitted to the Preparatory Committee for review. It is our desire that this document be acknowledged as an accredited instrument for distribution from which you will gain a true and realistic account for what has been achieved towards the overall commitment to the DDPA since its establishment by AAD and NGO's, we stated to Madam Chair. We highly recommended Madam Chair to take the Addis Ababa Roundtable Discussion (April 2007) document into consideration as we prepare for the second Durban Conference to be held in 2009.

Report Durban+ 5 Review Available via <panafstrag-europe@xs4all.nl>