

**Letter from the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (IGWG) to the President of the Human Rights Council on the transmission to the General Assembly of the report of the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the IGWG containing a draft programme of activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent**

Excellency,

The General Assembly in its resolution 68/237 adopted on 23 December 2013 requested the IGWG to develop a draft programme of action for the implementation of the International Decade for people of African descent to be finalized and adopted during the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly and not later than 30 June 2014.

In its resolution 25/33 adopted on 28 March 2014, the Human Rights Council emphasized the need to urgently heed the instruction of the General Assembly and in this regard requested the IGWG to dedicate its Programme of Work during its 12th session, for purposes of elaborating a Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade and to present its final report in this regard to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-sixth session for adoption and transmission to the General Assembly.

The IGWG held its 12<sup>th</sup> session from 7 to 17 April 2014 and further consultations were held from 29 April to 2 May 2014 and from 8 to 9 May 2014. The report of the IGWG (A/HRC/26/55) contains a draft Programme of activities for the International Decade for people of African Descent. The draft programme identifies objectives and concrete activities to be taken at the national, regional and international levels. The report is based on contributions received from the European Union, Latin America and Caribbean States and civil society organizations during negotiations in the 12<sup>th</sup> session. It also draws on the contributions presented by the WGPAD, the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

While the IGWG has made significant progress in the elaboration of the draft Programme of activities for the International Decade, the draft Programme still contains some paragraphs in brackets on which the IGWG was not able to reach consensus. On these particular issues, further consultations are needed at the General Assembly as provided for in GA resolution 68/237.

Taking into account GA resolution 68/237, the Programme need to be adopted by the General Assembly not later than 30 June 2014, it is important that the Human Rights Council considers the report and take appropriate action on item 9 of its agenda at the earliest date possible.

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Chairperson-Rapporteur of the  
Intergovernmental Working on the Effective Implementation of  
The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action