

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in 2001 in Durban, South Africa recognized the slave trade and slavery as “crimes against humanity”.

Following the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Durban Conference, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed in December 2014 the **International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)** through its resolution 68/237. Taking into account the burden of history, its consequences and present-day realities, the Decade is focused on the themes of “Recognition, Justice and Development”.

The International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) aims to set up a framework and an operational platform that encourage Member States to put into place policies that: reduce the social injustice from which people of African descent still suffer; combat racism, racial prejudice and discrimination through education; and promote their contribution to the construction of modern societies.

UNESCO was involved in the consultation with the major stake-holders, in particular through its Slave Route and General History of Africa Projects.

It is clear that the Decade is still little known, even by stakeholders working in human rights and combating racism and discrimination. To address this situation, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Frantz Fanon Foundation, is organizing on 19 September 2016 an international meeting, under the theme “**International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024): ten years to take action**”.

Its main goal is to raise awareness about the objectives and challenges of the Decade, to share national experiences regarding its implementation, and to discuss strategies of action for key stakeholders to reach greater synergy.

The purpose of this day of meetings is to create an opportunity to share good practices, reflect on the challenges of the Decade and suggest a strategy to overcome the difficulties faced.

en.unesco.org/decade-people-african-descent



International Decade for People of African Descent

2015 – 2024

Recognition • Justice • Development



10 YEARS TO TAKE ACTION

International meeting

19 September 2016, UNESCO House Paris



International Meeting

“ International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024): Ten Years to Take Action ”

19 September 2016 - UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV

Provisional Agenda

9.00 – 10.00 am

Welcoming of participants

Screening of a video on the Decade

10.00 – 11.00 am

Opening session: Objectives and Stakes of the Decade

Master of Ceremony:

Mr Ali Moussa-Iye, Chief of the History and Memory for Dialogue Section at UNESCO

Speeches:

- Mr Dendev Badarch, Director of the Division of Social Transformations and Intercultural Dialogue of UNESCO
- Mr Mactar Ndoye, Secretary of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, OHCHR-Anti-Racial Discrimination Section, Geneva
- Ms Mireille Fanon-Mendes-France, Former President of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent of the UN; President of the Frantz Fanon Foundation, Paris

Screening of a video message by the actor Dany Glover

- Mr Jean-Marie Ehouzou, Permanent Representative of the African Union Commission, Geneva
- H. E. Mr Jacques Kabale, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Rwanda to UNESCO; Chairperson of the Africa Group at UNESCO
- H. E. Mr Marco Tulio Chicas Sosa, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Guatemala to UNESCO; Chairperson of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group at UNESCO

11.00 – 11.30 am

Interaction with the audience

11.30 – 11.45 am

Coffee break

11.45 am – 12.40 pm

Session 2 - Actions contributing to the Decade at national level

Moderator:

Ms Nelly Schmidt, President of the International Scientific Committee of the UNESCO *Slave Route project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage*

Screening of a video message by Sir Hilary McDonald Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI, Barbados)

- Cabo Verde – Mr Charles S. Akibodé, President of the Institute of Cultural Heritage of Cabo Verde; National Coordinator of the Decade, Praia
- Norway – Mr Barth Niava, Director of the Center for African Culture in Oslo
- Colombia – Mr Moisés D. Medrano Bohórquez, Director of Populations at the Ministry of Culture, Bogota
- Germany – Ms Elisabeth Kaneza, Founder and Director of the Kaneza Initiative for Dialogue and Empowerment, Berlin
- Costa Rica – Ms Rina Cáceres Gómez, Chair in African and Caribbean Studies, University of Costa Rica
- Canada – Mr Eugene Chevy, Executive Director of Caribbean Creative Arts Alliance at the York Centre for Research in Latin America and the Caribbean, York University, Toronto

12.40 – 1.00 pm

Interaction with the audience

1.00 – 3.00 pm

Lunch

3.00 – 4.00 pm

Session 3 - How to Strengthen Actions and Synergies to Mark the Decade? Proposals by the Representatives of Civil Society Organizations

Moderator:

Ms Rokhaya Diallo, activist, author and journalist, founding member of the anti-racism association “Les Indivisibles”, France

- Mr Lilian Thuram, President of “Education Foundation against Racism and for Equality”, France
- Mr Luwezi Kinshasa, “Uhuru” movement, France
- Ms Fania Noël, “Collectif Mwasi”, France
- Mr Malcolm Momodou Jallow, President of the Afro-Swedish National Association and Vice-Chair of the European Network against Racism (ENAR), Stockholm
- Mr Celeste D. Ugochukwu, President of the African Diaspora Council of Switzerland, Bern
- Mr Moctar Kamara, President of the High Council of the African Community in Germany, Hanover

4.00 – 5.30 pm

Interaction with the audience

5.30 – 5.50 pm

Synthesis of the debates by Mr Doudou Diene, Vice-President of the International Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Slave Route project; former United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (2002-2008)

5.50 – 6.00 pm

Closure ceremony

Mr Firmin E. Matoko, Assistant Director-General, Africa Department of UNESCO