

Regional Launch of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent in Europe (28 October, Online)



WELCOME

Christina Meinecke

Regional Representative for Europe
OHCHR



MODERATOR

Mila Paspalanova

Anti-racial discrimination advisor
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Member of the Working
Group of Experts on
People of African Descent



Dr. Barryl A. Biekman

Head of African Union African
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Council; Coordinator of the
Europe Pan African Forum
People of African Descent



Modi Ntambwe

Europe Pan African Forum of People
of African Descent Chapter Belgium
and PAD Belgium Observatory



Michaela Moua

European Commission
Anti-racism Coordinator



Leroy Lucas

Cultural promoter,
Community leader and
Diversity Advisor



Miryam Taylor

Global Strategist & Co-
Founder of MUXIMA,
Humanity Summit



Dr. Amina Tall

writer and publicist,
Berlin Women's
Advisory Council

SPEAKERS

Agenda

9.30 - 9.40

Opening remarks: Christina Meinecke

9.40 - 10.00

Presentation on the Second International Decade: Isabelle Mamadou

10.00 - 10.20

People of African Descent: From Pain to Power: Dr. Barryl A. Biekman

10.20 - 10.40

The way forward: Modi Ntambwe

10.40 - 11.00

The European Union role and anti-racism strategy: Michela Moua

11.00 - 11.20

The role of Civil Society and strengthening institutional networks: Leroy Lucas

11.20 - 11.40

Humanity Pact: Myriam Taylor

11.40 - 12.00

Interculturality and racism: racialising projections, case study from Germany: Dr. Amina Tall

12.00 - 12.20

Q&A

12.20 - 12.30

Closing remarks and end of the event



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
Regional Office Europe

Regional Launch of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent in Europe

Tuesday 28 October, Online webinar

ONLINE WEBINAR

9.30 – 12.30

OVERVIEW

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for Europe (OHCHR ROE) is organizing and hosting European Regional Launch of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (the Second Decade). The event will provide an overview of the key objectives and actions to be undertaken under the Second International Decade, taking into account the specific context and priorities of the European region. It will feature the powerful voices of people of African descent who are prominent anti-racism pioneers and touch upon persisting challenges related to anti-black racism and the ways to overcome them under the framework of the Second Decade.

BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2025-2034 as the Second International Decade for People of African Descent ([A/RES/79/193](#)), highlighting that the International Decade for People of African Descent has provided a framework that fostered action by States, international and regional organizations, civil society, people of African descent and other stakeholders and contributed to the progressive consolidation of an international agenda for people of African descent. Despite efforts and initiatives undertaken by States and other stakeholders, much remains to be done to engender the full enjoyment of all human rights and benefits of development for all people of African descent. Data and lived experiences of people of African descent show that they continue to face systemic racism, racial discrimination, and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in all areas of life, in different regions of the world, some of which take violent forms.

The Second International Decade's theme of **"People of African descent: recognition, justice and development"** is a continuation of the theme from the 2015-2024 International Decade for People of African Descent. The main objective of the [programme of activities](#) is to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent.

The first International Decade has contributed to gaining greater understanding and visibility of the lived experiences of people of African descent. Considering the challenges for ensuring that all people of African descent can fully and effectively enjoy the benefits of sustainable development and all their human rights, the Second Decade must focus on greater action to create real, positive changes in the lives of people of African descent.

International human rights law and political commitments by States provide a clear framework for attaining substantive racial justice and equality, beyond a purely formal conception of equality. They place obligations on States to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, including systemic racism. The

implementation of the programme of activities under the Second International Decade is an integral part of the full and effective implementation of the [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#), the principal international instrument aimed at eliminating racial discrimination, and of the [Durban Declaration and Programme of Action](#) (DDPA), a comprehensive and visionary document that embodies the world's commitment to tackle the scourge of racism in all its forms and manifestations.

In the context of lack of established administrative registries and human rights indicators capable of capturing the state and dynamics of anti-black racism, data source in the European Union (EU) and remaining European countries are limited. However, the consequence of racism and racial discrimination in Europe is demonstrated by the over 300 [international recommendations](#) on people of African descent and over 2500 on racism and racial discrimination formulated by UN Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures and Universal Periodic Review.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' (FRA) second [Being Black in the EU](#) report highlights that 45% of the respondents face racism and discrimination in their daily life, a 6% rise since 2016. In Germany and Austria, it goes over 70%. Still, 91% of victims do not report the incidents. Discrimination occurs mostly in the areas of work and housing; with young people and people with higher education being most affected. Racist harassment has been reported by 30% and racial profiling by 58% of the respondents. Reporting of these incidents also remains insignificant, since trust in the police and authorities is minimum. Racism affects young people of African descent in the area of education as well, with them being three times more likely to leave school early, compared to young people generally. More parents in 2022 say that their children experienced racism at school than in 2016.

Through the objectives of achieving recognition, justice and development, the Second International Decade provides an opportunity to create a future that is more peaceful, equal, and sustainable. This initiative serves as a powerful reminder that the fight against racism and racial discrimination must be intensified, with strong leadership, political will, and adequate resources being crucial to achieving the goals of protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights of people of African descent. The Second International decade for People of African descent, will provide also strong grounds for the implementation of European civil society initiatives on true and full recognition of the long-lasting detrimental impacts of enslavement and advancing towards reparatory justice, such as the Europe Pan African Coalition on Reparatory Justice and the European African Civil Society Reparations Commission.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the regional online event are to:

- Commemorate and raise awareness about the proclamation of the Second Decade.
- Increase understanding of the objectives and themes of the Second Decade as well as generate support for its implementation.
- Encourage action to promote the Second Decade and strengthen cooperation between non-governmental and governmental stakeholders for its implementation

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience for the regional online event include Member States, people of African descent, civil society leaders - including youth activists, academics, researchers and practitioners working on issues related to people of African descent; national human rights institutions, and international and regional organizations.

METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT

The regional launch for Europe will be convened online for three hours via [TEAMS WEBINAR \(Click here to access\)](#)

A summary of the online launch events will be included in the Secretary- General's annual report to the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the activities of the Decade, pursuant to resolution A/RES/69/16, where possible.

REGISTRATION

Please register here: [REGISTRATION Launch of the Second International Decade](#)