Dear President Villegas

Thanks for the honour of being invited to participate in your meeting with international civil society on 10 February 2022, which I am pleased to accept. The ***UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab - People of African Descent & SDGs E-Team*** acknowledges the general and global nature of Afrophobia/Afriphobia, as Africans and Afro descendants remain marginalised and excluded from universal human rights, globally. Discussions and Documents in our E-Team highlight the need for social, economic, and environmental development of our communities in the Global North as well as in the Global South**.** We therefore share the United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights Council’s convictions regarding diversity and geographical distribution, as well as gender balance of Permanent Forum Members.

**Our Recommendations:**

We advise the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD) should

* **include representatives of European civil society, because of regional and national differences in the implementation of ICERD 1965 and other human rights norms “within and between countries”.**
* **advocate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to monitor progress made by UN member states in achieving IDPAD’s thematic objectives**.
* **acknowledge evidence-based equality data collection is imperative for strategic policy development to address Afrophobia.**

PFPAD representative (s) from international civil society should

* **have knowledge and expertise of international and regional anti-racism and human rights norms, as well as the rule of law**. For example, awareness that individual Council of Europe and European Union member states transpose the ICERD 1965 and the EU Race Equality Directive 2000 into domestic legislation differently. This necessitates normative interventions where domestic policies fail to realise universal human rights for Africans and Afro-Europeans, such as employment, nationality, and migrant rights.
* **champion** **reparatory justice for victims of historic and contemporary Afrophobia/Afriphobia, in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action 2001.** This acknowledges historical and contemporary human rights violations, e.g., the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans, colonialism, systemic racism, “ethnocide,” and modern-day slavery related practices.
* establish a **United Nations Civil Society Network for the Human Rights of People of African Descent to** facilitate effective engagement and collaboration with international civil society in achieving the PFPAD’s mandate.

Yours sincerely

H. B. Adediran Olaiya, M.A.

Partnership Sub-Committee Co-Lead

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