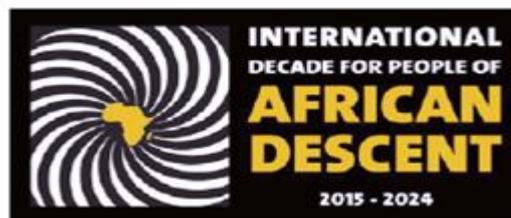


Combine
The International Decade for People of African Descent
Programme of Activities
with
The Post Beijing + 20 & Post-2015 Development Agenda

Written Contribution by
Dr. Barryl A. Biekman (Europe/Netherlands)
(Tiye International & African European Women's Movement "Sophiedela")

At the Side Event
CSW 59 UN Forum
New York: Saturday, March 14, 2014
Global African Women

Birthing the Decade for People of African descent



Recognition, Justice & Development

Sponsored by: Drammeh Institute

Introduction

Tiye International is an Umbrella NGO of 21 National organizations of Black, Migrant and Refugee Women and Youth in the Netherlands, in Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations since 1998. Tiye International is a member of Women in Development Europe (WIDE+); AWID: CIVICUS; Women Against Violence in Europe, (WAVE Network); CEDAW Women's Network NL. Human Rights Security and Sustainability. Tiye's mission is committed on human rights with gender responsive approaches. She promotes, protects and fulfills the human right of all women and girls, especially Black, Migrant and Refugee (BMR) women and Youth. As well as strengthening institutional capacities at local and (inter) national levels to eliminate racism and all forms of discrimination and forms of violence against (BMR) women and girls. Within this context I represent the African European Women's Movement "Sophiedela".

The purpose of my contribution titled *Combine the International Decade for People of African Descent Programme of Activities with the Post Beijing + 20 & Post-2015 Development Agenda*, is based on five main developments in this year 2015. 1) the implementation of the International Decade for People of African descent programme of activities, 2) the adoption of the Post Beijing + 20 Political Declaration; 3) the integration of the Millennium Developments (MDG's) and the Sustainable Developments Goals (SDG's) also named as the Post 2015 Agenda, 4) the five years commemoration of the AU Decade of African Women and 5) the importance of the African Union, African Diaspora Declaration and Programme of Action. What I would like to achieve is to initiate a discussion that results in a Joint Global African Women Plan of Action towards an integrated approach in the area of monitoring and evaluation of all the respective agreed Programmes of Activities. So that as Global African Women we can be more effective and successful in terms of RootsSynergy. The effect must be that more women should be informed about all the developments (the vision, mission, aims and objectives) and that they understand the meaning of the developments and the implications of the decisions for their daily lives and future.

A round of question under African women and of African descent of various backgrounds, in different countries (Europe and the Caribbean) has shown that there is lack of knowledge and comprehensive information about the aforementioned developments. This deficiency also regards Young adults (girls and boys/students, young professionals), men in general, (national) politicians, even African diplomats (ambassadors) are not familiar with the developments and because of that they do not know in what sense they can contribute or support to the debates and the implementation of the programmes of activities. In some countries it is not common to consult the civil society communities or to integrate them in the decision-making process. Because of underrepresentation of women in the various political and other (crucial for them) decision-making bodies this is twice as bad.

Here I think that there is an opportunity for Global African Women, to find strategies (on the level of education, promotion and empowering) so that more women can be involved in the decision-making process. Women on all level of society have to know what is going on. That we care. I think that this “Global African Women *Birthing the Decade for People of African descent*” side event is an excellent opportunity to discuss the various strategies that can lead to 1) an integrated approach towards the implementation, monitoring & evaluation of all these different International Agenda’s and Programme of Activities and 2) the involvement of more civil society grassroots organizations, this includes women, men and young adults (boys and girls and young professionals) become involved in the brainstorming and decision-making process. Here I would like to emphasize that it was not my pretention to go into all the details of the issues of concern. I hope that I succeeded in given a good explanation of the various developments and the topics where we can focus on. I know sure that you as participants on this Side Event have a lot more to contribute to the idea & suggestions.

In the following paragraphs I will give a short explanation of the

- 1) International Decade for people of African descent (2015-2024).
- 2) Beijing Post 20 Agenda
- 3) (MDG-SDG) Post 15 Development Agenda
- 4) AU Decade for African women (2010-2020)
- 5) The African Union African Diaspora Declaration May, 25, 2012

1. International Decade for People of African descent.

The International Decade for people of African descent (2015-2024) is based on a Resolution 68/237 of the UN General Assembly that was adopted on December 23, 2013. The Decade has been launched during the 69th session of the UNGA on December 10th 2014. Again I would like to emphasize that the decision to have this International Decade did not come as a gift from heaven. It came only because of a long struggle by Pan Africanist all around the Global, supported by those civil society organizations, including women’s movements, which were committed to the implementation of the Durban Declaration & the Program of Action.

Historical background

Three World conferences against racism have been organised by the United Nations. The first one in 1978; the second one in 1983; the third one: the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) that took place in Durban/South Africa from 31 August to 8 September 2001. Drawing the lessons of the two first which failed to defeat racism, the WCAR took great care to identify a pragmatic Programme of Action and recommended an efficient monitoring in the follow up, based on the launching of National Action Plan against Racism. Prior to the WCAR in August and September, 2001 over the 700 community based organizations met

for a week in the Durban Soccer Stadium. Some groups were small in terms of membership, and some huge; some were officially registered NGOs within their respective countries, and some were makeshift and bootstrap oriented operations. The primary objective of the meetings was to allow organizations to network, state their missions, describe their track records at getting things done, and basically to speak in their authentic voices and to tell their own stories to a worldwide audience. The secondary objective of the meetings was to realize an Interim Executive Council and produce a written document of issues, aims, principles and approaches toward higher ground that could be used as a reference point for the 155-nation head of states & governments, foreign ministers, and ambassadors who were meeting during the WCAR's second week.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA)

The DDPA constituted the most comprehensive international framework against racism. It provided a profound analysis of the historical roots of modern racism as it emerged from the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade with lasting consequences for a significant proportion of the world's population who are people of African descent and constitute today's global African Diaspora. Issues of critical importance to Africans and African Descendants were also highlighted in the declarations and plans of action adopted by the NGO Forum and the International Youth Summit, prior to the WCAR inter-governmental conference. One of the outcomes of the Durban WCAR is the acknowledgement that: slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, were appalling tragedies in the history of humanity not only because of their abhorrent barbarism but also in terms of their magnitude, organized nature and especially their negation of the essence of the victims, and further acknowledge that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity and should always have been so, especially the transatlantic slave trade and are among the major sources and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples were victims of these acts and continue to be victims of their consequences (2002: Art.13, pg.16) . Another outcome is the acknowledgement that combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is a primary responsibility of States. It therefore encourages States to develop or elaborate national action plans to promote diversity, equality, equity, social justice, equality of opportunity and the participation of all. Through, among other things, affirmative or positive actions and strategies, these plans should aim at creating conditions for all to participate effectively in decision-making and realize civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights in all spheres of life on the basis of non-discrimination (2002: Art.99; pg. 82) . Further the DDPA recognizes that the historical injustices have undeniably contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparities, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world, in particular in developing countries. It recognizes the need to develop programmes for the social and economic development of these societies and the Diaspora, within the framework of a new partnership based on

the spirit of solidarity and mutual respect (2002: Art. 158; pg. 103) in several areas of concern. It was strongly reaffirmed in the light of a pressing requirement of justice that victims of human rights violations resulting from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, especially in the light of their vulnerable situation socially, culturally and economically, should be assured of having access to justice, including legal assistance where appropriate, and effective and appropriate protection and remedies, including the right to seek just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered as a result of such discrimination (2002: Art. 104; pg. 39).

DDPA Centre of the Programme of Activities

That the DDPA became the Centre of the Programme of Activities of the International Decade for People of African descents can be defined as another victory of the active response from the International Pan African Movements, Civil Society, including Global African Women's Coalitions, during the several sessions of the UN Bodies (Human Rights Council, The Commission on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Intergovernmental Working Group, as well the Working Group of Experts of People of African descents). This, after we experienced lack of political will by nation states to implement the DDPA as well the outcomes of the Durban Review 2009 & affiliated resolutions such as in the context of the 2011 UN International Year for People of African descents Programme of Activities.

Mission & objectives

The *mission* of the Decade is defined in its theme entitled: "People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development". The *main objective* is to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent, as recognized in the Universal declaration of Human Rights. The Decade shall focus on the following objectives:

- 1) To strengthen, national, regional and international action and cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society;
- 2) To promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture, and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies;
- 3) To adopt and strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, and to ensure their full and effective implementation.

2. Post Beijing +20

From March 9 to 20, 2015 states authorities (ministers and representatives of governments) will meet at the 59th session of the CSW (commission on the status of women) in New York, on the occasion of

the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. This is to undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995: United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13, chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II) and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, (See General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.2) including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the realization of women’s and girls’ full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout their life cycle, as well as to ensure the acceleration of the implementation of the Platform for Action and to use opportunities, in the post-2015 development agenda, for the integration of a gender perspective into economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and with a commitment to ensuring the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the preparations for and the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to all the major United

3. Post-2015 Development Agenda

What is the Post 15 Development Agenda?

The outcome document of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the MDGs requested the Secretary-General to initiate thinking on a Post-2015 Development Agenda and include recommendations in his annual report on efforts to accelerate MDG progress. In June 2012 as a result of the 3rd World Summit on sustainable development, better known as RIO + 20, it has been decided that after 2015 the MDG’s will be integrated within a broader set of the SDG’s. (Source: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml/>). This Post-2015 Development Agenda is expected to tackle many issues, including ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests, as well as financing and other means of implementation. The scoping explored in detail the possible changes in national monitoring, review and accountability mechanisms and challenges, and made proposals to respond to these changes and challenges. The critical points emerging from the analyses are:

1. All countries will require effective national development cooperation policies for a post-2015 development agenda. Governments should ensure that they have the requisite policy development capacities to formulate national development cooperation policies that: 1) Link closely with broader sustainable development policies; 2) Reflect a broader range of financing and means of implementation beyond traditional ODA; 3) Reflect clear roles and responsibilities of the many different actors in development cooperation: governmental actors at the national and sub-national levels; parliamentarians; bi-lateral and multi-lateral development partners; civil society and other non-state actors, including philanthropic foundations and the private sector; and 4) Have robust indicators and the means to monitor these national development cooperation policies.

2. National monitoring frameworks for development cooperation in a post-2015 development agenda could potentially be resource intensive and not easy to develop, as they will need to cater for complex inter-linkages between the SDGs. Programme countries should be supported in developing new national monitoring frameworks or adapting existing ones to ensure country ownership in this area.

3. All governments will need to generate better quality and more disaggregated data on development cooperation to cater for the broad range of substantive objectives, finance and means of implementation in a Post-2015 Development Agenda. There should be investment in developing national capacities for data analysis, and reviewing and modernising existing development cooperation information systems. With the MDGs concluding at the end of 2015, world leaders have called for an ambitious, long-term agenda to improve people's lives and protect the planet for future generations.

4. National development cooperation coordination forums will need to be established in all countries, and where they exist change their orientation to make reviews mutual, among national governments and their development cooperation partners, and reach out to non-state actors and local government. Governments in programme Scoping Study on Monitoring, Review & Accountability for Development Cooperation to support implementation of a post-2015 Development Agenda (final draft February 2015) x countries should invest in capacitating these forums with adequate resources and systems to track and follow-up on decisions.

5. Effective design, implementation and use of a monitoring, review and accountability framework for development cooperation at national level will require sound institutional capacity on the part of development cooperation actors at the national level. Programme and partner countries alike should invest in developing national capacities of national coordinating ministries, line ministries, local government, parliamentarians, in-country representatives of partner countries, and civil society.

This Post-2015 Development Agenda is expected to tackle many issues, including ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests, as well as financing and other means of implementation.

World leaders, Head of states and governments are expected to adopt the Agenda at the United Nations Summit on Development, in New York in, September 2015.

Here we, Global African Women's Coalitions have the opportunity to promote the issues of our concern within the perspective of the 17 Development Goals taking in consideration the analyses (in the Draft International Decade Programme of Activities) by the Working Group of Experts on People of African descents, regarding the global situation of People of African descents including the situation of women of African descent. (Defined in the Human Rights Council Twenty-first session, Agenda item 9, Augustus 3, 2012, doc: A/HRC/21/60/Add.2, pg4). And further all other outcomes of the African Women's side events during the 57th and 58th session of the CSW. The Concept Document of the Conference "Challenges and Opportunities of the Economic Empowerment of Afrodescendant Women" (ECLAC. Brasilia, 13-16 July, 2010) can be used as a framework to

evaluate respective analyse the critical issues of African (and in Diaspora) women concern with the aim to develop a joint position paper that can use as a Lobby Document in perspective of the September 2015 Summit on Development.

4. AU Decade for African women (2010-2020)

2015 is the year of commemoration of five years the AU Decade for African women. This Decade was launched in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2010. The Decade provides the ability to integrate and strengthen the links created in the activities for the human rights of women by integrating them into the social, economic, political and cultural rights of women's programme. The objectives of the decade are interlinked Beijing Program of Activities; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The aim of this African Women's Decade is to advance gender equality by accelerating implementation of Dakar, Beijing and AU Assembly Decisions on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), through dual top-down and bottom-up approach which is inclusive of grassroots participation. The objective of the African Women's Decade is to re-invigorate commitments to accelerated implementation of agreed global and regional commitments of gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE). Special focus will be on these ten themes: 1. Fighting Poverty and Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women and Entrepreneurship; 2. Agriculture and Food Security; 3. Women's Health, Maternal Mortality and HIV&AIDS; 4. Education, Science and Technology; 5. Environment and Climate Change; 6. Peace and Security and Violence Against Women; 7. Governance and Legal Protection; 8. Finance and Gender Budgets; 9. Women In Decision Making position; 10. Mentoring Youth (Men and Women) to be champions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. (Source: AU Declarations African Women's decade).

It intended for: - finding strong movements of African women and support young leaders and professionals, both in Africa and in the diaspora so that they promote gender equality and empower women. - applying the principle of parity in accordance with the AU policy on gender equality and ensure that the objectives set in terms of equal opportunities for women in decision-making positions in the areas of judicial and executive power are achieved. - working with the Department of Peace and Security of the African Union (DPS), the Council of Peace and Security (CPS) and the Panel of the Wise of the African Union on the resolutions of the Security Council of UN 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889, - focusing on Violence against Women (VAW), the consolidation of peace and reconstruction.

Here we have another opportunity to discuss the new development model and propose concrete actions in perspective of the Post-2015. We have to take action to collectively support a model of inclusive development, endogenous, sustainable and respectful related to human rights in Africa, including all stakeholders, including the diaspora.

5. African Diaspora Declaration and Programme of Action (2012)

May, 25th 2012, the African Union African Summit was held in South Africa. In preparation of the Summit two pre-summits were organised:

- May 17- 19 a Technical Committee for invited African Diaspora Experts;
- May 23, a Ministerial Conference.

The outcomes of both conferences that took in consideration the consolidated outcomes of the five Regional Consultation Conferences that was organized by the African Union (Diaspora Directory CIDO) led to the Draft African Diaspora Declaration and Programme of Action. It was adopted on May, 25, 2012 during the Global African Union African Diaspora, Head of States Summit. Prior to the adoption, Head of States and governments of the African Union and from the Caribbean and South America, deliver their statements. In Chapter Programme of Action, paragraph I. Political Cooperation, sub. Paragraph A. Intergovernmental Cooperation the following article is mentioned:

“Encourage the Diaspora to organize themselves in regional networks and establish appropriate mechanisms that will enable their inverting participation in the affairs of the African Union as observers and eventually, in the future as a sixth region of the continent that would contribute substantially to the implementation of policies and programmes”. Under Paragraph implementation and follow up the following articles has mentioned “Consider the possibility of setting up a mechanism, such as a Diaspora Consultative Forum that would support closer collaboration between the AU and the Diaspora community “ and “Agree to set up a Diaspora Advisory Board, which will address overarching issues of concern to Africa and its Diaspora such as reparations, right to return and follow up to WCAR Plan of Action, amongst others”.

Here must be say that it is a pity that despite efforts from the side of the Diaspora, this includes effort form Global African Women’s Coalition, the promised effects from the side of the AU has not been realized yet until to date. 20 seats were reserves in the AU ECOSOC committee since 2007 for the Diaspora. Until to date the decision has not been implemented yet.

Under p. is mentioned: Encourage and support the adoption and implementation, in different Diaspora countries, of policies that will facilitate the elimination of racism and the promotion of equality among races.

In my opinion here we have a new opportunity to seek for support from the members of the African Group and the GRULAC to integrate the issue of ‘race equality’ in the Post 15 Development Agenda with reference to the International Decade for People of African descent. My recommendation is the introduction of RACE EQUALITY next to GENDER EQUALITY.

About the Author



biekmanb@xs4all.nl

She is board member of Tiye International. Represents (as Chair) the African European Women's Movement "Sophiedela". Is member of: the Advisory Board of the MDG Global Watch; the African Union African Diaspora Facilitators Working Group in Europe. In this regards she is involved in activities regarding the implementation of the African Union 6th region African Diaspora Declaration & Program of Action that was adopted on May 25th 2012. The judicial context is article 3 q of the AU Constitution. Further: she is involved in the Leadership of the Pan African, Research and Strategic Working Group (PANAFSTRAG/EU); The Pan African Diaspora Union; The African World studies Institute and the National Platform of the Dutch Slavery Past. She is initiator and member of the DDPA Monitoring and Coordinating Working Group and the UN DECADE POAD Coordinating Working Group based in the Netherlands. She is member of the Global Coalition International Decade for People of African Descent: section Europe and (board) member of the African Union African Diaspora Leaders Forum.