



COMMUNIQUE ON DECADE OF THE AFRICAN DESCENDENT

WHEREAS out of the 520 million inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean, over 150 million are of African origin,

That studies by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) estimate that more than 40% of the poor in the region are Afro-descendants,

That Afro - descendants continue to be the victims of exclusion, racism and racial discrimination, and have been made invisibles despite the fact that they represent around 30% of the population of the Americas,

That the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action states that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are a clear affront to human dignity and urges all member states to promote policies to combat those practices, their causes and consequences,

That UN resolution 67/155 (2012) request to the President of United Nations General Assembly to make informal consultations among Member States, civil society and United Nations organs and specialized agencies with the view to declare the Decade of the Afro - descendants in the framework of 67 session of UNGAS,

That Human Rights Council Resolution 21/33 entitled "From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", welcomed the Programme of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent proposed by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (A/HRC/21/60/Add.2), and transmitted to the UNGAS for consideration and adoption,

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) decide:

1. Declare the Latin American and Caribbean Decade of the Afro-Descendants to begin on January 1, 2014 with the purpose of strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure the human rights of the Afro – Descendants, including education, health, identity, dignity, cultural values and economic and social development.
2. To urge the CELAC' Member State Permanent Missions to United Nations, in New York and Geneva, to work for the fulfillment of the mandate given to the President of the General Assembly for informal consultations aimed at the adoption of the Decade of Afro - Descendants and its Programme of Action.
3. To urge the CELAC' Member State Permanent Missions to United Nations, in New York and Geneva, to contribute to the proclamation of the Decade of Afro – Descendants in 2013, in accordance with Resolution 67/155 of the United Nations General Assembly.
4. To set up a Working Group within CELAC to develop a Plan of Action for the Decade, in the frame work of the guidelines of participation, rights and inclusion of Afro – Descendants and to promote, in coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Racial Equity Institutions or those responsible for the implementation of policies aimed at the Afro – Descendants population, the follow up of the actions provided in this Decision.

New York, September 27TH 2013.