



Activities of the VI Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas

March 20-25, 2023

The Organization of American States (OAS) will celebrate the **Sixth Annual Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas**, under the theme “*Fighting Slavery’s Legacy of Racism Through Transformative Education in the Americas.*” The Week’s activities seek to bring conscious awareness of the legacy of slavery and the slave trade, and their consequences on the lives of people of African descent who continue to confront racism. This year’s activities are designed to shed light on the importance of transformative education in addressing the deep-rooted historical legacy of slavery and engender new perspectives and action items on raising awareness of the subject matter.

The OAS will host a series of events to celebrate the Week in keeping with the aforementioned theme:

A. Launch of the Week – Monday, March 20

The Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General will open the Week at a cultural event featuring an artistic performance by youth at OAS Headquarters in Washington, DC.

B. Special Session of the Permanent Council to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade – Wednesday, March 22

The OAS Plan of Action for the Decade for Persons of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025), AG/RES.2891 (XL VI-O/16), provides that the OAS must “*Commemorate every year on March 25, the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, by focusing on eminent persons of African descent who*

made significant contributions to the abolition of the slave trade, slavery and in favour of civil rights in the Americas.”

The Special Session will also commemorate the Inter-American Week and will be structured in a manner which offers a reflective discussion pertinent to the Week’s theme.

C. Podcast Series

The podcast on “*Blockchain technology: a transformative technology for persons of African descent*” will examine how Afro-descendants are over-represented in the statistics of marginalized groups and have limited access to sources of wealth such as home-ownership and financing. The podcast will analyze the possibilities for inclusion and wealth-creation which transformative technologies such as blockchain present. The podcast is intended to draw on expertise available in other organizations (such as the IDB), and academia (such as Howard University), and is geared towards expanding the reach of the Organization, particularly toward the youth.

D. Lecture Series (National Offices)

Organized by the Representatives in the Country Offices, prominent individuals in the field of education will be featured and interviewed on the impact of their work on students. National authorities will also be invited to discuss how the shifting needs of education have the potential to contribute to the development agenda of their nations and the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

E. A Chat with the OAS- Special Edition

A live, online virtual conversation between a high-level official from the OAS Member Countries and a senior official from the OAS/GS on a topic that pertains to this year’s theme.

F. Literary Exhibition – Monday, March 20-Friday, March 24

Literary works of fiction or non-fiction of Afro-descendant authors which align with the theme as well as approved additional works from Member States and General Secretariat personnel will be displayed at OAS Headquarters.

G. Webinar on Ethno-Education in Curricular Programs

Organized by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the webinar would focus on the topic of *Good practices in the Incorporation of Ethno-education in Curricular Programs* and feature speakers who will address salient sub-themes of the Week.

H. Children and Youth Reading Corner

Member States will submit works of fiction or non-fiction from their countries that showcase the fortitude, perseverance and heritage of people of African descent, and inspire critical thinking and promote racial justice. Submissions will be compiled and featured on a dedicated OAS website.

I. Profiles and Video Messages from Pioneers of Transformative Education

Member States will submit profiles of transformative education advocates who have played a role in empowering students and communities to think beyond their own realities and cultural constructs. Submission will be featured on a dedicated OAS Website.

Video Messages by national authorities or community representatives related to the Week's theme will be shared by Member States and uploaded from their official social media accounts.

J. Guided Tour of the National Museum of African American History – Tuesday, March 21

A delegation comprised of Permanent Representatives to the OAS, Permanent Observer States, and senior staff at the General Secretariat will visit the National Museum of African American History. The guided tour will help to raise awareness of the history, heritage, and culture of people of African descent and their contribution to the development of societies in the region.