

AG/RES. 2708 (XLII-O/12)

RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE
OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2012)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2550 (XL-O/10), “Recognition of the International Year for People of African Descent,” and resolution AG/RES. 2693 (XLI-O/11), “Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas”;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes as one of the principles of the Organization recognition of the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex;

That the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man establishes that all men are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter proclaims that respect for ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity in the Americas contributes to strengthening democracy and citizen participation; and

That in February 2005, in recognition of the racial discrimination that persists against persons of African descent in the Americas, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) established a Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, in order to promote the recognition and the rights of those persons;

RECALLING the relevant provisions on people of African descent contained in the declarations of the Summits of the Americas, as well as in the Declaration of the Regional Conference of the Americas (Preparatory Meeting for the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance), held in Santiago, Chile, in 2000; and the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to the Durban Review Conference, held in Brasilia, Brazil, in 2008;

RECALLING ALSO the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993; the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001; and the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2009;

RECOGNIZING the work of the Department of International Law, and that of other areas of the OAS General Secretariat, through projects and other activities on people of African descent in the Americas, especially the seminar on leadership training for people of African descent in the Americas, held in Panama City, Panama, from March 27 to 29, 2012;

REAFFIRMING the steadfast commitment of the member states to confront, through various mechanisms, the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in their societies as a problem that affects society in general; and

TAKING NOTE of the efforts of member states to move forward with the drafting of a “Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance,”

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of the full, free, and equal participation of people of African descent in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life in the countries of the Americas.
2. To take note of the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and its Special Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, as well as the work of the Department of International Law and of other areas of the General Secretariat that seeks to promote and protect the rights of persons of African descent in the member states.
3. To condemn the practices of racism, discrimination, and intolerance, of which people of African descent in the Hemisphere are victims, and to urge states to take necessary measures to address and combat those practices.
4. To instruct the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to include on its agenda, prior to the forty-third regular session of the General Assembly, the issue of people of African descent in the Americas.
5. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third regular session on the implementation of this resolution.
6. That execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.