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AG/RES. 2784 (XLIII-O/13)  
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AG/RES. 2784 (XLIII-O/13)

RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE  
OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS<sup>1/</sup>

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 5, 2013)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolutions AG/RES. 2550 (XL-O/10), AG/RES 2693 (XLI-O/11), and AG/RES. 2708 (XLII-O/12);

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; and 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 Social Charter of the Americas states that “[m]ember states recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and migrant communities to the historical process of the Hemisphere and will promote recognition of their value. Member states also recognize the need to adopt policies to promote inclusion and to prevent, combat, and eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination, especially gender, ethnic, and race discrimination, in order to safeguard equal rights and opportunities and strengthen democratic values”;

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;

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

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1. While Canada supports the essence and objectives of this resolution, it opposes the references to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, ...

adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001; and the Durban Review Conference held in Geneva, in 2009;

RECOGNIZING the work of the Department of International Law and other areas of the OAS General Secretariat, through projects and other activities on people of African descent in the Americas, especially the replications of the Workshop for Training of Trainers of Afro-descendant Leaders in the Americas, held in several of the region's countries;

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 that all of its individual, structural, and institutional manifestations must be fought; and

TAKING NOTE that the member states have concluded the drafting of the "Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance" and "Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance,"

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the importance of the full, free, and equal participation and opportunities for people of African descent in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life in the states of the Americas, some of which consider themselves to be, *inter alia*, plurinational, intercultural, pluriethnic, and/or multicultural.

2. To take note of the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 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 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 recognize the political, economic, social, and cultural influence of organizations representing people of African descent and their communities as one of the social actors in the Summits of the Americas Process, and to facilitate their participation therein.

4. 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.

5. 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, and to promote the exchange of successful experiences for the social inclusion of people of African descent.

6. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

7. 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.



#### FOOTNOTE

1. ... Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001 and related processes contained in the perambulatory section of this resolution. Instead of fostering concerted global action against racism, the 2001 Conference degenerated into a politicized forum which served to promote intolerance and anti-Semitism, rather than combat it. Canada firmly believes that the Durban process remains highly politicized to this day and that it has been unable to distance itself from its controversial past, including its open and divisive expressions of intolerance and anti-Semitism. While Canada disapproves of the reference to this process in this resolution, Canada will nevertheless continue to work in practical ways with the OAS and its member states towards addressing racism, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, as well recognizing and promoting the rights of people of African descent in the Hemisphere.