



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Persons of African Descent Stakeholder Group – PAD SG

A. Background

B. Objectives

C. Membership

D. Governance Structure of the PAD SG -

- (a) Steering Committee
- (b) Consultative Committee
- (c) Secretariat
- (d) Sub-committees

E. Amendment of policies and procedures

Addendum: Functions and responsibilities

A. BACKGROUND

1. The Stakeholder Group on People of African Descent brings together global and national organizations, including networks, concerned with the promotion and protection of the rights of people of African descent worldwide.

2. It was formed in 2025 to advance the human rights of people of African descent in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, taking into account the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action, the International Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the outcomes of the meetings of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, and the Rio +20 outcome document “The Future We Want”. The Stakeholder Group on People of African Descent is actively engaged in areas related to sustainable development, as contemplated in paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 67/290 (A/RES/67/290).

3. The purpose of the PAD SG is to ensure and facilitate effective participation of organizations involved in combating racism and involved in the promotion of the well being of people of African descent in the negotiations for sustainable development processes leading according to the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1).

4. For the purposes of the PAD SG, people of African descent follows the definition of African descent population as highlighted by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent in 2003 (E/CN.4/2003/WG.20/WP.3), which states that "Afro-descendants can be defined as descendants of African victims of the transatlantic slave trade and the Mediterranean Sea. The group includes those from the sub-Saharan slave trade. Descendants of transatlantic trade victims mainly reside in the diaspora of North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean".

B. OBJECTIVES

4. The PAD SG's objectives are to:

1. make the challenges that people of African descent face visible and embed within the 2030 Agenda and the Pact of the Future, including the implementation, follow-up and review process at national, regional and global levels;
2. provide input to and monitor actions related to the 2030 Agenda and the Pact of the Future, including the High Level Political Forum processes and accountability mechanisms;
3. provide a platform for engagement to organizations of, and organizations working with, people of African descent issues, as well as individuals engaged in this agenda, in intergovernmental negotiations, including providing guidance and support on actions that need to be taken at global, regional and national levels;

4. foster collaborative working relationships with Member States and relevant organizations of the United Nations system;
5. Coordinate and communicate with Major Groups and Other Stakeholders concerned with United Nations intergovernmental sustainable development processes.

C. MEMBERSHIP

5. The Stakeholder Group on People of African Descent (PAD SG) comprises members that are non-governmental organizations and individuals working in the field of the elimination of racism and racial discrimination against people of African descent, at the global, regional and national levels. Registration requires completion of an online registration form. There is no registration fee but voluntary financial contributions may be sought from members when necessary.

6. Members at the national level are expected to participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Pact for the Future, as part of their activities. Members will be expected to provide support to the Regional Focal Points for action to be taken at the regional level.

7. Members are expected to contribute to the work of the PAD SG by active participation in the various committees/task forces, providing expertise where appropriate. Individual representatives to the PAD SG will be chosen by their respective organizations and are expected to have the support of their organizations in participating in the work of the PAD SG. Members will also be expected to promote the work of the PAD SG into their own organizations and act as a conduit for giving and receiving information.

8. The Steering Committee reserves the right to withdraw membership of any organization or individual that is not acting in accordance with the principles and rules of the PAD SG as set out in this document.

D. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE PAD SG

(a) Steering Committee

The work of the PAD SG shall be led by a Steering Committee, which shall be comprised of three co-chairs, who take responsibility for leading the Steering Committee and ensuring the PAD SG is fulfilling its mandate to its members. The Co-Chairs take on the role of Global Focal Points when representing the PAD SG at United Nations intergovernmental meetings and when collaborating and coordinating with organizations of the United Nations system. They may delegate this responsibility.

(b) Consultative Committee

The Steering Committee will be supported by a consultative committee that has the role of offering recommendations for decision to be taken by the steering committee. The consultative committee will be comprised of:

I. The three Co-Chairs of the steering committee

II. Up to 5 Regional Focal Points to facilitate information sharing and collective action across all geographic areas. The regions are: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East (Western Asia). The Regional Focal Points shall facilitate national NGO participation in the United Nations Regional Commissions and other regional entities.

III. Three United Nations Focal Points, one in each of the UN headquarters locations in New York, Geneva and Nairobi – to help build relationships and ensure that the PAD SG is aware of and linked into relevant UN intergovernmental processes, including participation therein.

IV. All Focal Points shall submit annual reports on their activities.

10. Decisions taken within the Consultative Committee will be by consensus. If consensus is not possible, then a vote shall be taken. Reservations may be expressed and recorded, but once a decision has been reached, this becomes the position of the Consultative Committee to be forwarded to the Steering Committee.

11. Only representatives of organizations can lead as Co Chairs and will be elected by PAD SG members and will serve for a three-year term. They can be re-elected for additional terms of three years, without restrictions.

12. All members of the PAD SG are eligible to be nominated by their organizations for the role as Co- Chair.

(c) Secretariat

13. One individual will be invited, not necessarily a member of the PAD SG, to fulfil the role of Secretariat, supporting the work of the Steering and Consultative Committees. The Secretariat has no voting rights in the discussions, but may vocalize suggestions, recommendations and perceptions.

(d) Sub-committees

The Steering Committee will establish subcommittees to support the work of the PAD SG. The sub-committees will include, but not be limited to:

- Nominations and elections
- Membership
- Research and analysis
- Advocacy
- Communications and outreach

- Resource mobilization and management

14. Each sub-committee will prepare its own terms of reference, to be agreed by the Steering Committee, with the recommendations of the Consultative Committee, and will be led by a sub-committee chair, to be selected by members of the sub-committee.

15. Each sub-committee must include the participation of at least one Consultative Committee member to ensure effective coordination and communication across the work of the PAD SG and with the Steering Committee.

16. Regional Focal Points can establish sub-Committees in coordination with the Steering Committee to facilitate their work at the regional level.

E. AMENDMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

17. Any PAD SG member may submit proposals for amendments in writing to the Steering Committee who shall, with the Consultative Committee, make recommendations for approval by the PAD SG membership.

Addendum: Functions and Responsibilities

- A. Steering Committee
- B. Consultative Committee (Regional and UN Focal Points)
- C. Secretariat
- D. Sub-Committees

1. Nominations

2. Membership
3. Research and Analysis
4. Advocacy
5. Resource mobilization and management

E. General working methods

F. LIAISON WITH UN DESA/DSD and the MGOS High Level Political Forum Coordination Mechanism (MGOS/HLPF/CM)

A. STEERING COMMITTEE

1. The Steering Committee has three co-chairs who take on the role (as per United Nations procedures) of Global Focal Points. The Co-Chairs should have proper and valued knowledge of the United Nations in general and the sustainable development processes in particular.

2. The primary role of the Co-Chairs is to encourage and enable the participation of all PAD SG members in the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future intergovernmental processes. They provide leadership and support, ensuring inclusion of diverse voices with regard to race, gender, region, age and other intersectionalities. Integral to this, the co-chairs ensure information is unconditionally shared, seek expertise to develop policy positions, finalize statements and agree on representation through PAD SG dialogues.

3. The Co-Chairs, together with committees established to support the PAD SG, will identify opportunities and needs for upcoming events related to Agenda 2030 and the Pact for the Future and others, and to consider members' views on a range of policy issues.

4. The Co-Chairs also have the responsibility for:

- a) convening regular and ad hoc meetings of members and prompt reporting through the most appropriate lines of communication

- b) encouraging participation on broad geographical basis in regular intergovernmental meetings and those made possible by the Agenda 2030 and the Pact for the Future, or other processes;
- c) establishing internal mechanisms (subcommittees/working groups/task forces etc.) to manage and provide input to substantive issues related to Agenda 2030 and the Pact for the Future and other processes;
- d) establishing internal mechanisms (subcommittees/working groups/task forces etc.) for the efficient and effective functioning of the PAD SG (e.g. procedures for nominations and elections, membership issues, outreach and communications strategies, etc.);
- e) assigning functions and responsibilities of members;
- f) oversight and ensuring the preparation of required reports and strategy review;
- g) regular PAD SG liaison and coordination with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- h) regular liaison and coordination with the MGOS Coordination Mechanism; and
- i) oversight of PAD SG regular liaison with Member States.

B. REGIONAL AND UN FOCAL POINTS

5. The UN Focal Points will ensure adequate participation in UN processes, including at intergovernmental meetings, organized in New York, Geneva and Nairobi.

6. The Regional and UN Focal Points shall be in close contact with the Global Focal Points to relay information on emerging issues and events where the PAD SG may wish to play a role.

7. The Regional Focal Points shall facilitate national NGO participation in the United Nations Regional Commissions (Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa; Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva; Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago; Economic Commission for Western Asia, Beirut) and in other regional entities involved in implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future and other processes.

8. All Regional and UN Focal Points shall submit annual reports on their activities.

C. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9. The work of the Steering Committee shall be supported by a Consultative Committee, which shall be comprised of the three co-chairs, up to five Regional Focal Points and three United Nations Focal Points.

10. The Consultative Committee shall meet regularly, in person or remotely, and review the reports of its members. The Consultative Committee shall also review the work of the Sub-Committees and provide overall direction and guidance, for the final consideration of the Steering Committee.

D. SUB-COMMITTEES

11. In addition to the list of Committees hereunder, the Global and Regional Focal Points may also establish ad hoc committees or task forces as and when the occasion requires it. Members of PAD SG shall designate representatives to participate in the Committees or task forces.

(a) Nominations Sub-Committee

12. The Nominations Committee shall comprise at least two Focal Points and three other members of the PAD SG, to solicit nominations for the positions of Global, Regional and UN Focal Points and to conduct elections.

13. All members of the PAD SG are eligible to nominate their representatives for the position of Global, Regional and UN Focal Points.

14. Global, Regional and UN Focal Points shall be elected for a period of three years and can be re- elected for an additional term of three years, without restrictions.

(b) Membership Sub-Committee

15. The Membership Sub-Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) outreach for new members;
- b) issuing application form and maintaining membership database;
- c) establishing mailing lists;
- d) general listserv for sharing information

(c) Research and Analysis Sub-Committee

16. The Research and Analysis Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) keeping abreast of issues and events, particularly those related to the United Nations sustainable development processes and recommending areas for possible action and involvement by PAD SG, taking due account of available expertise;
- b) gathering data, undertaking research and analysis on issues where the PAD SG is already playing, or may wish to play a role with input from PAD SG members who have the necessary expertise;
- c) establishing, as decided by the Steering Committee, thematic groups or task forces comprising PAD SG members with the relevant expertise, with chair or co-chairs, to focus on specific issues such as urbanization, health, NCDs, migration, social protection, food security, humanitarian crises, disaster reduction, climate change, inequalities, gender, reparatory justice, digital education, sexual and reproductive rights, children rights, digital divide, etc... making recommendations to the Steering Committee for decision-making.

(d) Communications and Outreach Sub-Committee

17. The Communications Sub-Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) establishing and maintaining PAD SG website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and other relevant social media platforms;
- b) convening meetings and conference calls for discussions and decision-making purposes;
- c) providing regular updates of UN related issues and events for dissemination to PAD SG members;
- d) disseminating information on the work of the PAD SG;
- e) soliciting information/reports on work of PAD SG members for sharing on the website.
- f) preparing handouts, information materials for distribution as well as for placement on the website;
- g) preparing training materials to maximize PAD SG members' understanding of and presence at the HLPF and other intergovernmental processes established to implement, monitor and follow-up and maximize the role of the PAD SG in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future and other processes.
- h) assisting the Steering Committee in finalization of oral statements and position papers;
- i) liaising with Major Groups and Other Stakeholders on possible collaboration and coordination, including submission of joint position papers;
- j) collaborating with the Research and Analysis Sub-Committee;
- k) preparing annual reports on PAD SG work and accomplishments for approval by the Steering Committee.
- l) making recommendations to the Steering Committee for decision-making;

(e) Resource Mobilization and Management Committee

18. The Resource Mobilization and Management Committee shall be responsible for fundraising and managing the funds received. Such funds may be used for travel of representatives to intergovernmental and other meetings of relevance to the work of the PAD SG, and for administrative costs related to the functioning of the PAD SG. The Committee will also make recommendations to the Steering Committee for decision-making.

E. GENERAL WORKING METHODS

19. The Steering Committee, Regional and UN Focal Points will report regularly on their work.

20. Member organizations of the PAD SG are expected to keep abreast of actions taken at the national, regional and global levels with respect to their specific areas of work, in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future and other processes. Regular sharing of information and lessons learned and drawing attention to challenges and difficulties encountered will help all members become better informed and better equipped to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future and other processes.

21. The sharing of information on a routine basis will also facilitate decision-making by those who prepare position papers or oral statements and are working within severe time constraints and there is no time to obtain input or clearances. In this connection, every effort will be made by the Steering Committee, Regional and UN Focal Points to solicit information ahead of time on data, analyses, results achieved, challenges, proposals for action, etc - for possible input into position papers or oral statements. The Research and Analysis Committee will play a key role in ensuring that relevant information is available for effective participation and involvement in the sustainable development processes.

F. LIAISON WITH UN DESA and the MGOS Coordination Mechanism (MGOS)

22. The Steering Committee is responsible for:

- a) liaising with UN DESA, in particular with the Stakeholder Engagement Programme;
- b) responding to requests from DESA for information, reports and other types of participation in meetings it organizes and in UN intergovernmental and other processes;
- c) participating in the work of the MGOS as requested.
