

Regional Launch of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent in the Asia Pacific Region

Friday, 27 June 2025 / Manila, the Philippines & Online

8:30-10:30 Islamabad	12:30-14:30 Seoul, Tokyo
9:00-11:00 New Delhi	14:30-16:30 Melbourne
10:30-12:30 Bangkok, Jakarta	15:30-17:30 Fiji
11:30-13:30 Manila, Beijing	16:30-18:30 Auckland

OVERVIEW

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Asia Pacific Network for People of African Descent (APN) will organize the Regional Launch of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent. The event will provide an overview of the key objectives and actions to be undertaken under the Second International Decade, taking into account the specific context and priorities of the Asia Pacific region, and outline OHCHR would support these efforts as coordinator of the Decade. It will also feature inspirational stories from people of African descent who are influencers and/or have realized impactful projects and initiatives under the first International Decade.

BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2025-2034 as the Second International Decade for People of African Descent ([A/RES/79/193](#)), highlighting that the International Decade for People of African Descent has provided a framework that fostered action by States, international and regional organizations, civil society, people of African descent and other stakeholders and contributed to the progressive consolidation of an international agenda for people of African descent, and despite efforts and initiatives undertaken by States and other stakeholders, much remains to be done to engender the full enjoyment of all human rights and benefits of development for all people of African descent. Data and lived experiences of people of African descent show that they continue to face systemic racism, racial discrimination, and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in all areas of life, in different regions of the world, some of which take violent forms.

The Second International Decade's theme of **"People of African descent: recognition, justice and development"** is a continuation of the theme from the 2015-2024 International Decade for People of African Descent. The main objective of the [programme of activities](#) is to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent.

The first International Decade has contributed to gaining greater understanding and visibility of the lived experiences of people of African descent. However, much remains to be done to ensure that all people of African descent can fully and effectively enjoy the benefits of sustainable development and all their human rights. The Second International Decade must focus on greater action to create real, positive changes in the lives of people of African descent.

International human rights law and political commitments by States provide a clear framework for attaining substantive racial justice and equality, beyond a purely formal conception of equality. They place obligations on States to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, including systemic racism. The implementation of the programme of activities under the Second International Decade is an integral part of the full and effective implementation of the [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#), the principal international instrument aimed at eliminating racial discrimination, and of the [Durban Declaration and Programme of Action](#) (DDPA), a comprehensive and visionary document that embodies the world's commitment to tackle the scourge of racism in all its forms and manifestations.

While there are no official statistics available on the demography of people of African descent living in Asia and the Pacific region, there is a long historical presence of Africans and communities of African descent in the region who have contributed to its cultural and social fabric. The [Regional Meeting for Asia and the Pacific Region on the International Decade for People of African Descent](#), held on 15-16 January 2024, as well as online [consultations held for North-East Asia, South-East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific](#) on 27 July and 3 August 2024, highlighted the urgent need to address the multifaceted challenges faced by people of African descent in the region. Through the objectives of achieving recognition, justice and development, the Second International Decade provides an opportunity to create a future that is more peaceful, equal, and sustainable. This initiative serves as a powerful reminder that the fight against racism and racial discrimination must be intensified, with strong leadership, political will, and adequate resources being crucial to achieving the goals of protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights of people of African descent.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ONLINE EVENTS

The objectives of the regional online events are to:

- Commemorate and raise awareness about the proclamation of the Second International Decade and increase understanding of its objectives and themes;
- Generate buy-in for the objectives of the Second International Decade;
- Encourage action to promote the Second International Decade and support the implementation of its programme of activities; and
- Receive updates on concrete plans by States and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the International Decade.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience for the regional online events include Member States, people of African descent, civil society leaders - including youth activists, academics, researchers and practitioners working on issues related to people of African descent; national human rights institutions, and international and regional organizations.

METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT

The regional launch for Asia and the Pacific will be convened in a hybrid format for two hours, with online platform on Zoom as well as the in-person venue at the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines in Manila, the Philippines.

A summary of the online launch events will be included in the Secretary- General's annual report to the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the activities of the Decade, pursuant to resolution A/RES/69/16, where possible.

DATE AND TIME

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AGENDA

- Opening remarks
- Keynote speech
- Presentation by the Asia Pacific Network for People of African Descent
- Presentation on the Second International Decade by OHCHR
- Presentations featuring inspirational stories
- Q&A
- Closing remarks

LANGUAGE

The event will be conducted in English.