

Representatives of States from Europe, Central Asia and North America participated in a regional meeting which took place in Geneva on 23 and 24 November 2017, with the participation of experts from UN bodies, civil society organizations and academia, in the framework of the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent:

- i. They expressed their appreciation for the opening statement made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Coordinator of the International Decade for People of African Descent. They also expressed their gratitude to his Office for hosting the regional meeting and organizing the different panels. They welcomed the active participation of representatives of UN bodies, civil society organizations as well as academia in the meeting and thanked them for their contributions.
- ii. They reaffirmed that all peoples and individuals constitute one human family, rich in diversity. They have contributed to the progress of civilizations and cultures that form the common heritage of humanity. Preservation and promotion of tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity can produce more inclusive societies.
- iii. They recalled General Assembly resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, by which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-

manifestations, such as the use of the new information and communications technologies,

and, in this regard, to implement educational, cultural and awareness-raising programs aiming at promoting a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies while stressing the importance that textbooks and other educational materials reflect historical facts accurately as they relate to past tragedies and atrocities, in particular slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism.

- xi. They expressed their continued engagement to dialogue in an open, constructive and transparent manner with all relevant stakeholders, particularly with States from Africa and other regional groups, with regard to the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent, including on the establishment of a Forum to serve as a consultation mechanism, to be provided by one of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms, as well as the consideration of the possible elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.