Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2009

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/64/439/Add.2 (Part II))]

64/169. International Year for People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind,


Recalling also the relevant provisions of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action⁹ and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,¹⁰

Recalling further its resolutions 62/122 of 17 December 2007, 63/5 of 20 October 2008 and 64/15 of 16 November 2009 on the permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

1. Proclaims the year beginning on 1 January 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent, with a view to strengthening national actions and

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).
² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
⁴ Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
⁵ Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
⁶ Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.
⁷ Resolution 61/106, annex I.
⁸ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, their participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture;

2. Encourages Member States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and civil society to make preparations for and identify possible initiatives that can contribute to the success of the Year;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report containing a draft programme of activities for the Year, taking into account the views and recommendations of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent of the Human Rights Council and other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as appropriate.

65th plenary meeting
18 December 2009