

Africans Rising

For Justice, Peace & Dignity

MEDIA RELEASE

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Africans Rising issues appeal for Racial Equality at the UN and Other Global Governance Institutions in #IfNotNowWhen Campaign

On December 9 and on Human Rights Day (December 10), two letters were sent to the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet, signed by Kumi Naidoo, Muhammed Lamin Saidykhan, and Coumba Toure on behalf of [Africans Rising for Dignity, Peace and Justice](#), and co-signed by 100 other civil society organizations and professors across Africa and its diaspora.

[The 17-page open letter #IfNotNowWhen](#) is part of a sustained campaign to end racism at the UN and other institutions of global governance. Written in the style of a UN Treaty or Declaration preamble, the letter calls on the UN to consider adopting three new treaties towards mainstreaming racial equality throughout the UN system, in the implementation of the sustainable development goals and among as well as within countries.

“Humanity is at a crossroads. Will we choose ever increasing racial, ethnic and national divisions on a road towards environmental and existential cataclysms? Or will we choose a road towards an international order that affirms our common humanity, interconnectedness and symbiotic relationship with nature?” comments one of its signatories, Kumi Naidoo, a Global Ambassador for Africans Rising and former Director of Amnesty International and Greenpeace International.

In particular, the letter calls for an end to the domination of so-called developed countries of the Global North over so-called developing countries of the Global South. The letter also calls for an end to the domination of countries of the Global North in all the major institutions of global governance – the UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization – and an end to the domination of countries of the Global North in a global economy which largely is premised on the exploitation of human and natural resources in countries of the Global South.

As Movement Coordinator of Africans Rising Coumba Toure puts it: “Africa, Africans and people of African descent have for too long been the epicenter of this exploitation. We are now letting the world know that we are critical to the solution of this mindless ravishing of our humanity and nature. A more humane and sustainable world begins with and includes us.”

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ABOUT AFRICANS RISING

Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity is a Pan-African social movement, launched in 2017, that seeks to foster an Africa-wide solidarity and unity of purpose of the peoples of Africa to ensure a right to peace, social inclusion and shared prosperity. With more than 30,000 members, the movement amplifies broad demands, connects struggles, and builds cooperation within and amongst campaigns for social, economic, environmental and gender justice.

For more information, or to arrange comment, please contact Aleesa Mann, Communications Assistant, Africans Rising, at aleesa@africans-rising.org.