Panelists and Facilitators:

E. Tendayi Achiume (UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance)
E. Tendayi Achiume is Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law, and Faculty Director of the UCLA Law Promise Institute for Human Rights. She is also a Research Associate with the African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of Witwatersrand. The current focus of her work is the global governance of racism and xenophobia; and the legal and ethical implications of colonialism for contemporary international migration. More generally, her research and teaching interests lie in international human rights law, international refugee law, international migration, and property. In November 2017, the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Professor Achiume the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, making her the first woman to serve in this role since its creation in 1993. In 2016, she was appointed to co-chair the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), and she is currently the co-chair of the ASIL Migration Law Interest Group. In 2018, she was named an Emerging Scholar by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

Ana Luiza A. e Silva (Human Rights Specialist, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights)
Ana Luiza A. e Silva is a Human Rights Specialist at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, an autonomous body of the Organization of American States (OAS). Her professional experience has focused on democratic governance, rule of law and citizen security, emphasizing the impact of these issues on particular groups based on gender and race. Throughout the last 10 years, Ms. Silva has provided technical assistance to states in the implementation of ratified international conventions through law reform, policy design and social programs implementation. Ms. Silva holds a J.D. and a master's degree in law, state and constitution from University of Brasilia, Brazil, and a master's degree in human rights from University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Cristian Alejandro Báez Lazcano (Founder and Director, Lumbanga)
Cristian Alejandro Báez Lazcano is an activist-leader of the Afro-Chilean social and political movement, and researcher of Afro-Chilean culture, human rights, and the pedagogy of memory. He currently works as a Researcher and Coordinator of the Afro-descendant programming at the University of Tarapacá in Arica, Chile. Báez is one of the leading activists of the Afro-Chilean political movement, pushing the political and social agenda
towards the recognition of the Afro-Chilean people. Likewise, he participates and leads in Afro-descendant international spaces and groups, influencing and articulating the demands and human rights agenda of Afro-descendant people in the Inter-American system, United Nations, and SEGIB.

Sakira Cook (Justice Reform Program Director, The Leadership Conference Education Fund)

Sakira Cook is director of the justice reform program of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund. The Leadership Conference is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States. The justice reform program works to advance transformative policy solutions that eliminate structural inequity, racism, and injustice at every stage of the justice system — from policing and pretrial justice, to sentencing and incarceration, to reentry. Cook is also engaged in human rights advocacy at the United Nations and with the federal government, including promoting the US ratification of important human rights treaties, monitoring domestic implementation of US human rights commitments under the Universal Periodic Review, Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and International Covenant on Civil Political Rights, and advancing the established goals and outcomes of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Chevy Eugene (Caribbeanist/Scholar/Filmmaker)

Chevy Eugene is an “artivist” — a dedicated community worker, a filmmaker and an emerging scholar. He is the founder of the Caribbean Creative Arts Alliance (CCAA) and an ambassador for the Pan-African Council (PAC). In 2015, Chevy represented the Caribbean in the Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent, at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. In the summer of 2019, he was the visiting scholar at the Centre for Reparations Research (CRR), at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica. Currently, Chevy is a PhD student at York University, Toronto, Canada in the Social and Political Thought (SPTH) program. His research focuses on the creative arts as a key instrument in the advocacy for Caribbean Reparations. Drawing on the intersections of postcolonial theory and theories of Black radicalism, his research explores various forms of political, cultural, legal and economic based drives geared towards advocacy for Caribbean reparations.

Mireille Fanon-Mendès France (Former Expert Member, United Nations PAD Working Group)

Mireille Fanon-Mendès France is a scholar of decolonialism, former UN expert on people of African descent, legal advisor and human rights activist on Palestine and other places where the right to self-determination is in question. She also works on issues of land tenure in countries where people were enslaved and indigenous people annihilated after colonization. She is a member of the Frantz Fanon Foundation.
Salimah Hankins (Deputy Director, US Human Rights Network)

Salimah K. Hankins, Esq. began her engagement with the Network in 2013 and has served as a human rights consultant advising domestic civil and human rights groups on their advocacy efforts before various United Nations human rights bodies. In 2014, Salimah organized the civil society side of the U.S government review before the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to this, Salimah has produced the last six annual human rights reports for the Network which chronicles human rights abuses in the United States through the lens of local grassroots groups and national organizations. Salimah has also served as Director of Human Rights for a Brooklyn-based human rights organization working primarily with Black women survivors of sexual violence. Salimah began her legal career as an associate at the ACLU of Maryland, advocating for the rights of low-income communities of color living in Baltimore’s public housing. Admitted to practice law in Massachusetts, the District of Columbia, and California, Salimah most recently served as Senior Staff Attorney for Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, CA. While there, she worked on anti-gentrification and displacement issues and employed a community lawyering approach to legal representation. In this role, Salimah worked with community groups to secure a $20 million settlement from Facebook which created an affordable housing fund worth $75 million. Salimah was given the Marriage Equality Advocate award from the ACLU, served as a human rights fellow at the Urban Justice Center, and was selected for the Whitney M. Young fellowship at Columbia University.

Justin Hansford (Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Center for Civil Rights, Law Professor at Howard University)

Justin Hansford is an associate professor of Law and executive director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center. He has a B.A. from Howard University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was a founder of the Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Perspectives. Hansford also has received a Fulbright Scholar award to study the legal career of Nelson Mandela, and served as a clerk for Judge Damon J. Keith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Hansford is a leading scholar and activist in the areas of critical race theory, human rights, and law and social movements. He is a co-author of the forthcoming Seventh Edition of “Race, Racism and American Law,” the celebrated legal textbook that was the first casebook published specifically for teaching race-related law courses. In the wake of the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Hansford worked to empower the Ferguson community through community-based legal advocacy. He has served as a policy advisor for proposed post-Ferguson reforms at the local, state, and federal level, testifying before the Ferguson Commission, the Missouri Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights Commission, the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
Keith Jennings (President of the African American Center on Global Politics and Human Rights and Former US Human Rights Network Board Member) Dr. Keith Jennings is the President of the African American Center on Global Politics and Human Rights (CHR). He is a democratic development and human rights specialist with extensive comparative experience derived from working over the past 25 years in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin American and the Caribbean. He has worked in senior positions with Amnesty International, the Carter Center, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and the World Council of Churches. Dr. Jennings has been a resident country director, promoting democratic governance, in Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa and Zamb. He has spoken before the African Union, the Center for Disease Control, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States and the United Nations and the United States’ Congress. He has been an adjunct Professor at American University, Clark Atlanta University, Howard University and Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Jennings received his Bachelor’s degree from Fisk University and his PhD from Clark Atlanta University. He is also the recipient of the Interfaith Alliances’ prestigious Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award.

Isabelle Mamadou (2016 PAD Fellow)
With an extensive background in defending the rights of people of African descent, Isabelle Mamadou became the first Spanish woman selected to participate in the United Nations Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent. Empowered by the knowledge learned during the course of the programme, she is now coordinating civil society initiatives for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent in Spain. She provides support to civil society organizations to combat racial discrimination and guides public institutions in the implementation of the Decade’s Programme of Activities. Based in Valencia, Spain, Isabelle also serves as a regional coordinator for the non- governmental organization, Movimiento por la Paz (Movement for Peace). Passionate about advocating for the rights of African migrants in her country, she coordinates the organization’s programmes for immigrants and ethnic minorities, specifically in the areas of humanitarian aid, education, awareness, citizen participation, legal advice, employment integration and gender- based violence prevention.

Thenjiwe McHarris (Co-founder, Blackbird)
Thenjiwe McHarris has spent her entire political and professional career challenging the injustices that imprison people and their communities in a life of poverty or behind bars. That commitment has led her to campaign on human rights issues in the United States and around the world. She honed her human rights campaign development and organizing skills at
the Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Amnesty International USA. From working to prevent the execution of Troy Anthony Davis, to launching an economic and social rights campaign in South Africa, to helping lead high profile mobilizations around the country, she has become a highly skilled campaigner for social justice and human rights. Thenjiwe has worked with a number of social justice organizations and movements in the US and is helping to establish a global activist collective for organizers engaged in movement building work around the world.

**Kerry McLean (National Lawyers Guild)**

Kerry McLean is an international human rights lawyer and international development consultant. Over the past 15 years she has lived and worked in Africa, Europe and Asia, and collaborated with NGOs in the Americas. Her expertise with the UN includes litigation with the treaty monitoring bodies, work with UN Special Rapporteurs and the Working Group of Experts for People of African Descent, and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. She has written shadow reports concerning compliance with CERD, CEDAW and CAT, contributed to UPR reports, and participated in report-related advocacy at the UN in New York and Geneva. McClean has been involved with the International Decade for People of African Descent since its inception, and has provided numerous trainings on and delivered lectures on international human rights.

**Crista Noel (President/CEO, Women’s All Points Bulletin)**

Crista Noel is a proud citizen of Chicago, Illinois, the greatest American city founded by an African businessman. Her family is First Wave migrants from Tennessee and she traced 200 years of her American family roots. A graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in Education and Social Policy, she worked for a Fortune 8 company until she was attacked by a cop in Westchester, Illinois on January 1, 2009. She turned her traumatization and malicious prosecution into advocacy, and together with Beverly Wilson Ellison, Sr. she founded a non-profit organization created by women, for women, who have been victimized by violence during policing encounters. Her study of the criminal justice system and research project on police violence against women is memorialized in the 2014 UN CERD shadow report, American Police Crimes Against African Women and Women of Color; the 2014 CAT shadow report Invisible Betrayal 1, and the 2013 UN ICCPR shadow report collaboration, Raising The Issue Of Continued Discrimination Via Police Misconduct And Extra-judicial/Summary Executions Committed With Impunity On American Born People of Afrikan Descent.

**Modi Ntambwe (European Network of People of African Descent-Belgium member organisation CCAEB representative)**

Modi Ntambwe is Chair of the Federation of African Associations of Flanders, Chair of Migrant Women Network in Belgium, member of the advocacy group within the European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD). She also coordinates the RIFAD, an International Network of Women of African Descent. She has conducted the WGEPAD visit to the civil society during the country visit in Belgium with an organising committee of 8 belgian based organizations that is now an organisation PADBelgium Observatory they cofounded and will be the
platform for all initiative to participate in the planning and implementing activities in the framework of the IDPAD. Mrs Ntambwe specializes in African women empowerment, migration, and development issues. She is passionate about culture and arts, and is currently working on developing and itinerant Art Gallery named ‘ArtDéCycles among other projects.

Esther Ojulari (Doctoral Candidate, University of London)
Esther Ojulari is a South African-Nigerian UK-born human rights activist and academic. She is a PhD candidate at the Institute for Commonwealth Studies (ICWS), University of London, where she is researching collective reparations and territorial rights struggles of Afro-descendant peoples in the framework of transitional justice in Colombia. Esther has over 7 years’ experience working as a consultant at the Anti-Discrimination Unit of the OHCHR in Geneva during which time she has worked on several projects accompanying the work of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African descent including drafting the initial Programme of Action for the UN Decade for people of African descent, accompanying country missions and writing publications on the human rights of people of African descent in the framework of the Decade. She currently works as Regional Coordinator in Buenaventura for the Colombian Human Rights NGO, The Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (CODHES) where she works mainly with Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples’ organizations on issues of human rights, ethno-territorial rights, collective reparations, peace building and transitional justice.

Adediran Olaiya (Doctoral Candidate, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK)
Adediran Olaiya began advocating IDPAD as part of his doctoral research in 2015, which has facilitated Black Emancipatory Action Research through action research, participatory research, and African centred research. He has collaborated with ENAR Steering Group on Afrophobia to raise awareness of IDPAD’s thematic objectives of recognition, justice and development. Olaiya participated with other representatives of civil society and public bodies, in drafting the Resolution on the fundamental Rights of Afro-Europeans and people of African descent in Europe, which was adopted by the European Parliament in March 2019, and has represented IDPAD Coalition UK at UN OHCHR hosted Regional Meetings between the WGEPAD and civil society, and in the Consultation on the Permanent Forum. In that regard, I advocate linking the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to IDPAD for more successful outcomes.

Luis Ernesto Olave Coordinador Afro-descendant Populations - REDLAD (Colombia)
Luis Ernesto is a Political Scientist specializing in Human Rights and International Relations. He has carried out research analysing the situation of the Afro-descendant population in Colombia and Mexico, which has generated actions to address cases of exclusion and racism, statistical visibility and recognition of rights of Afro-descendant peoples. He has twice been a candidate for the Senate of the Republic of
Colombia and has held positions as a political and social advisor, addressing processes for the defense of the rights of Afro-descendant people. His work has had wide and positive impact in decision-making around the rights of Afro-descendant people, including in particular in his role as leader and co-author of the Law 1482 of 2011 that penalizes racism in Colombia. He is Deputy Coordinator of the Coalition of Organizations and People of African Descent of the Americas before the Organization of American States OAS and member of the Coordinating Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD) where he is coordinator of Afro-descendant Peoples and Delegate for Human Rights Affairs. He is founding member of the Latin American Articulation for the Decade of People of African Descent before the United Nations (ALDA) and of the Network - INTEGRA which was created with the support of the Human Rights Division of the Organization of American States (OAS) and whose mission is to work against Racism in the Americas of which he was one of the founders on January 31 of 2014 in Mexico City.

**Eric Phillips (Chair of the Guyana Reparations Committee, Vice Chair of the Caricom Reparations Commission)**

Eric Phillips is the Chair of the Guyana Reparations Committee and the Vice Chair of the Caricom Reparations Commission. He is a 1990-91 White House Fellow and the Chairman of the esseQuibo Group, a consulting firm which advises Guyana Goldfields Inc., a listed company on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Eric has been the Managing Director of AT&T Africa &The Middle East, Vice President of AT&T Network Systems, the Managing Director for AT&T Central Europe (Ukraine) and the Deputy Director for AT&T Globalization in Europe. He was also a Director of ASC Inc. in London, United Kingdom. Eric spent seven years in South Africa where he was a Director for Africa Union Holdings, a Director for Combination Therapy Medical Solutions and the COO for Safika Holdings Pty. Eric Phillips has served internationally as Chairman of the Board, CEO, MD, VP, COO, Program Director and Engineer in seven countries. Eric Phillips is both a Chemical and Telecommunications Engineer and has an MBA in Marketing and International Business from New York University. He has been featured on the cover of Business Week International and Black Engineering Magazines. Eric Phillips is an author, poet, producer of 26 HIV & AIDS half hour inspirational A-Z alphabet tapes He is an Executive Director of the African Cultural & Development Association and a Director of COLLACO, a school for children aged 2 to 10. He is a 3rd degree Black Belt and has over 200 trophies in athletics, cricket, soccer, table tennis and karate.

**Marcos Rezende (Founder, Collective of Black Entities of Brazil)**

Marcos Rezende is a Brazilian activist who founded the Collective of Black Entities of Brazil. He also works as a human rights strategist and race and human rights expert and is internationally recognized for his work with African Descendent communities. His Masters’ degree research detailed how racism in its various forms (structural, institutional, religious, etc) is detrimental to the process of overturning the Afro-Brazilian Cultural Heritage throughout the country’s history and this impairs understanding of Brazil cultural diversity. He has also published and conducted research on the following issues: analyzing news on the participation of black people in World War II; drug policies and their impacts within black communities in
several Brazilian states; two hundreds of women’s involvement in Afro Brazilian religions who built the tradition and maintenance of the black cultural tradition in Bahia. In 2013 this research was launched how a hardcover book in 446 pages and a year later the English version was released in New York in the Adam Clayton Powell Building as the request of New York Senator Bill Perkins in partnership with Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute in Harlem.

Kwesi Shaddai (Treasurer, Global African Congress UK)
Kwesi Shaddai is a Pan-African grassroots community organiser and social entrepreneur, born in the United Kingdom. He was raised by his single mother — a Black Panther — on the Patmore Estate in South London, where over two-thirds of adults have never been employed. His radical and intersectional politics are shaped by his family history, as well as the police racism and youth violence he witnessed growing up. Today, he is the chair of the Queen Mother Moore Supplementary School, the treasurer of Global African Congress UK, and the co-owner of a South London recording studio. As a committed advocate for Afrikan reparation, Kwesi is in the process of repatriating to The Gambia, where he owns farmland and works closely with local grassroots activists and organisations.

Nkechi Taifa (Founder and CEO, The Taifa Group & Co-Founder, N’COBRA)
Nkechi Taifa is founder and principal of The Taifa Group, LLC. She convenes and directs the Justice Roundtable, an advocacy coalition advancing progressive justice system reform, and serves as Senior Fellow for the Center for Justice at Columbia University. She was recently appointed to the board of the Corrections Information Council, which provides oversight over District residents imprisoned throughout the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Taifa served as Advocacy Director for Criminal Justice at the Open Society Foundations and Open Society Policy Center for 16 years, focusing on federal sentencing reform, law enforcement accountability, prison reform, reentry, executive clemency, and racial justice. Taifa has spoken extensively across the country on justice reform and human rights issues, and has testified before the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, the Council of the District of Colombia and the American Bar Association Justice Kennedy Commission. Nkechi Taifa received her Juris Doctorate from George Washington University Law School and graduated magna cum laude from Howard University.

Melissa Varswyk (2017 PAD Fellow, Chairwoman of IDPAD Summit, Guyana)
Dr. Melissa Varswyk is an entrepreneur, educator and philanthropist born in Georgetown, Guyana. She holds a Doctor of Medicine Degree and is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Georgetown American University. Dr. Varswyk has an extensive knowledge of the healthcare and training industry of Guyana and is currently working diligently to expand emergency response programs delivery for the oil and gas, and other local sectors. She is committed to producing innovative and creative solutions towards transformative development of her country. This being reflected in her being selected for several local and international awards,
most recently, 25 most influential women leaders award. As Chairwoman of the IDPAD Summit in Guyana, 2018, she facilitated the bringing together of experts in the fields of Health, Education, Business and Finance, ICT and Geopolitics to audit the state of people of African Descent and to create a Plan of Action for the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Organizers:

**The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center**
The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center fuels social change by fostering collaboration between law, policy, scholarship, and grassroots organizing. The Center’s vision is to help build a world where civil rights, human rights, freedom, and equal justice under law flourishes for all people who have historically suffered oppression or subordination on the grounds of difference. The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center is Howard University’s flagship institutional setting for the study and practice of civil rights, human rights, racial justice law and advocacy.

**The Leadership Conference Education Fund**
The Leadership Conference Education Fund builds public will for laws and policies that promote and protect the civil and human rights of every person in the United States. The issues they work on — from voting rights to educational equity to justice reform — have deep roots in our organizational history and across the communities it represents. The Education Fund was founded in 1969 as the education and research arm of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the nation’s oldest and largest civil and human rights coalition of more than 200 national organizations. Because of their unique proximity to a leading coalition, the Education Fund is able to create public education campaigns that leverage a range of diverse voices to empower and mobilize advocates at the local, state, and federal levels.

**US Human Rights Network**
The US Human Rights Network is a national network of organizations and individuals working to strengthen a human rights movement and culture within the United States led by the people most directly impacted by human rights violations. USHRN remains an anchor of the domestic rights movement and supports a bold, broad-based people-centered human rights movement—one that is led by people most directly impacted by rights violations; comprised primarily of grassroots and community based groups and individuals working collectively and across issue areas; and highlights the human rights concerns of the least popular and most overlooked groups in our society.

**European Network of People of African Descent**
The European Network of People of African Descent - ENPAD - is a trans-European Network that brings together Black-led organisations in Europe to actively share their knowledge, campaign together and push for the political empowerment and representation of People of African Descent in Europe. Through their grassroots approach, ENPAD is particularly aiming for Black communities to be more engaged in the liberation struggle of Black people in Europe.