

AA4RR Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation, Inc.

Speech for ECOSOC Partnership Forum – 2025

Advancing the IDESR Ecosystem Initiative as the "Antarctica of Africa"

Leslie Sapp, President, Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation (Africa-SARR) February 5, 2025

Distinguished Delegates, Member States, and Stakeholders,

It is a privilege to speak with you today as the President of Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation (Africa-SARR). Our mission is aligned with the UN Secretary-General's Pact for the Future, which calls for global cooperation, sustainability, and social justice. This vision is reflected in our proposal for the International Desert, Environmental, Scientific, and Research (IDESR) Ecosystem, situated in Bir Tawil, an unclaimed desert land between Sudan and Egypt.

Bir Tawil represents a unique opportunity to establish a **sovereign state** and create a globally recognized **scientific hub**. This initiative focuses on **environmental restoration**, **renewable energy**, and **regional security**, contributing to **sustainable development** that benefits African nations and the global community. The **IDESR Ecosystem** will foster **scientific innovation**, **economic development**, and **social inclusion**, helping address critical global challenges such as climate change and poverty. Bir Tawil, in this context, has the potential to become the **Antarctica of Africa**, a neutral, collaborative zone for scientific discovery and international cooperation.

This project directly contributes to the **Pact for the Future** by creating new avenues for **economic growth** and **regional cooperation**. By transforming Bir Tawil into an international hub for **sustainability** and **innovation**, we aim to drive collaborative solutions that benefit not only the African continent but also the global community. The **IDESR Ecosystem** offers a platform for **African Americans** to engage in meaningful resettlement and development opportunities that promote growth and empowerment.

As we gather here at the **ECOSOC Partnership Forum**, I urge **UN agencies**, **member states**, and **stakeholders** to support the development of the **IDESR Ecosystem** in Bir Tawil. Together, we can transform this unclaimed land into a beacon of **sustainability**, **innovation**, and **global justice**, contributing to a more secure and prosperous future for all.

Thank you.