



## **State Of the African Diaspora Parliament**

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**SOADPLLAW003**

### **LAW ON SPIRITUALITY, RELIGIONS AND CITIZENSHIP**

#### **LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

In the Pan-African communities, spirituality plays a crucial role. It represents the link with nature, with the world, and with the ancestors. This spirituality is expressed in different shapes, doctrines, rites, traditions, and denominations, all of them forming the diversity of religions in the world.

The State of the African Diaspora recognizes the huge role that religions have played, and still play in our communities. For example, the voodoo Ceremony that happened in Bois Caïman, 1791, was the trigger that launched the Haitian Revolution.

In 1825, the Muslim slaves in the State of Bahia, Brazil, decided to launch a very important revolt on the day of Ramadan, hoping to receive the support of Allah.

In 1831, Nat Turner, a Baptist Minister working in North Carolina, found in his faith the resources to lead one of the most important slave revolts in the United States.

These examples among many others show the importance that religions have had on our history of liberation.

However, religions can also be used as an instrument of alienation and domination. In 1455, Pope Nicolas V published a bull, *Romanus Pontifex*, that legalized colonization and slavery; and many merchants also tried to use Islam to reinforce their criminal activities in the context of the oriental slave trade. Moreover, sometimes, conflicts happen among communities connected to different religious traditions.

Therefore, the State of the African Diaspora has decided to pass legislation on spirituality and religions for the benefit of its own citizens.

## **Title I: Principles**

### **Article 1: Neutrality**

The State of the African Diaspora is neutral when it comes to religion. It respects the people who believe, and those who do not believe, but do not support any particular religion.

### **Article 2: Non-discrimination**

The State of the African Diaspora rejects all forms of discrimination based on religious motivations and all forms of discrimination against any particular religion.

### **Article 3: Cooperation**

Though it is neutral, the State of the African Diaspora is ready to cooperate with religious institutions, especially when it is to defend peace and human rights.

## **Title II: Application of the principles**

### **Article 4: SOAD Laws vs religious Laws**

No one can take advantage of his or her particular traditions to impose any religious laws on the citizens of SOAD; no citizen of SOAD can take advantage of his or her particular religious views to violate the laws of the State of the African Diaspora.

### **Article 5: Prayers**

Since the State of the African Diaspora is neutral, in state-sponsored meetings it is possible to allow one minute of silence at the beginning and or end of each session for discretionary purposes.

### **Article 6: Social Medias**

Since the African Diaspora State is neutral, religious messages should be avoided in social media groups.

### **Article 7: Spiritual Caucus**

Articles 5 and 6 do not apply to the spiritual Caucus, an organ of the State of the African Diaspora specially created so that the believers of all denominations can meet, pray, and exchange their views.