

THE ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION 2022 & RESOLUTIONS



**OF THE GLOBAL PAN AFRICAN ROOTS-SYNERGY ROUNDTABLE
ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE
DECLARATION OF THE GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT 2012**

DATE: MAY 23-27, 2022

**VENUE: ELILLY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**DECLARATION OF THE GLOBAL PAN AFRICAN ROOTS
SYNERGY ROUNDTABLE REFERRED TO THEREAFTER AS
“THE ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION 2022”**

In Acknowledgement Of The Adoption Of The Declaration Of The Global African Diaspora Summit 2012 (DGADS 2012)

WE, the Global Pan African RootsSynergy Roundtable (GPARSR) representatives:

RECOGNIZING the African Union (AU) Commission (AUC) as the AU's secretariat who initiates proposals to be submitted to the AU's organs as well as implementing decisions taken by them and thus providing operational support for all AU organs while **ACKNOWLEDGING** the supporting role of the AUC in the implementation of the DGADS 2012;

RECOGNIZING the Citizens & Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) as the AUC focal point and hub for implementing the DGADS 2012 while **ACKNOWLEDGING** CIDO's key role to invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of the African Continent in the building of the African Union;

RECOGNIZING the Economic Social And Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) as an advisory organ of the AU composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the AU referred to as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including those in the African Diaspora while **ACKNOWLEDGING** ECOSOCC's distinctive character to be the opportunity for African CSOs to play an active role in organizing itself in partnership with African governments to contribute to the principles, policies and programmes of the Union;

RECOGNIZING the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) established by the African Charter while **ACKNOWLEDGING** ACHPR's functions to protect and promote human and peoples' rights and interpret the African Charter on Human and People's Rights;

RECALLING the decision by the AU Executive Council under **EX.CL/Dec.406 (XII)** to adopt the current AU definition of the term "African Diaspora" after the Meeting of Experts on the Definition of the African Diaspora, April 2005, Addis Ababa as follows:- "The African Diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside of the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and building of the African Union;"

CALLING FOR the immediate review and updating of the current definition being used to a more specific, accurate and detailed definition as follows:-

“The African Diaspora consists of people of African origin who are the historic diaspora, the descendants of Africans displaced by trans-Atlantic and Arab Slave Trade and further includes the modern migratory Africans, all of whom are all living outside the continent irrespective of their current citizenship and nationality;”

ACCEPTING the invitation of the AU and all AU Member States who have called for the “full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of the African Continent in the building of the African Union,” and who with clarity of purpose amended the Constitutive Act of the AU (Article 3(q)) 2003, to express this mandate, and their willingness to implement this immediately;

ACCEPT AND INTEGRATE the contributions already made and that continue to be made towards the development of the African continent by the Historic African Diaspora who have already repatriated even though still not granted African Citizenship;

COGNISANT of the five hundred years that separated Africa from her Historic African Diaspora as well as the inevitable estrangement and alienation that has occurred as a consequence of this forced experience of separation and its lingering negative psychological legacy;

REMEMBERING those countless millions of Historic African Diasporans who dreamed of participating in the development of their own ancestral lands but were deprived of such an opportunity due to barriers and limitations put in place by colonial and neo-colonial frameworks both on the continent and in the African Diaspora;

DETERMINED to establish an enabling framework that reflects the rights and obligations of the willing African Diaspora in their effort to support the Constitutive Act of the African Union including the creation and implementation of policies which will allow the appointment of the members of the both the Contemporary and the Historic African Diaspora to participate in the review and implementation of AU operations;

BELIEVING that ultimately the onus is upon the African Diaspora itself and those members “who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent”, to play the lead role in the creation of those frameworks relating to their contribution within the African Union;

RECALLING the decision taken by the Executive Council of the AU:- Decision On The Definition Of The African Diaspora Doc. **EX.CL/164 (VII)** which requests the Commission to take necessary steps to facilitate the participation of the Diaspora in the building of the African Union in general and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) in particular;

ENSURING that the AU acknowledge the mandate given to the African Diaspora to assign 6 voting members to the Pan African Parliament, who reflect the main areas around the globe where the African Diaspora are found, elect the 20 delegates to represent the African Diaspora as directed in the Statutes of ECOSOCC. The Statutes state that the African Diaspora should organize itself and the Framework which sets out the process for electing the delegates from North, South, and Central America, Europe, the Caribbean, and any other region where the African Diaspora is to be found;

RECALLING the decision taken by the Executive Council of the AU:- Decision On The Representation Of The Diaspora At Assemblies Of The African Union **EX.CL/Dec.406 (XII)** which requests the Commission to convene a technical experts' meeting of the AU Member States to examine modalities for Diaspora participation in the organs and activities of the Union, including the feasibility study of the concept of the Diaspora as the sixth region and provide a report to the next Ordinary Session of Council and Assembly;

RECALLING the decision taken by the Executive Council of the AU: - Decision On The Outcome Of The Global African Diaspora Summit **EX.CL/Dec.221 (VII)** which requests the Commission to help regional Diaspora groupings to organize themselves into regional networks that will facilitate their representation as "observers" at the AU Summit and eventually as the Sixth Region of the continent that would contribute substantially to implementation of policies and programmes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to accelerate the establishment of a common framework between African governments and people of African origin in the African Diaspora through the legal establishment of the Sixth Region of the African Union including the full ratification by all AU Member States;

CONVINCED that meaningful interaction between African regional communities is the foundation of the process of African integration, thereby rendering the formal establishment of the Sixth Region as the appropriate sphere for building cooperation and renewed fraternalism between Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora;

BEING MINDFUL of the principles and objectives of the African Economic Community and the role of regional and sub-regional economic groups in the integration of the African Diaspora;

CONVINCED of the merit of establishing an effective regime committed to the enhancement of the economic, social and cultural development of the Sixth Region. **HAVING CONFIDENCE** that this will enable the creation and maintenance of a Sixth Region Economic Community;

ANSWERING the clarion call for 'Return' issued by the President of Ghana wherein 2019 has been declared the Year of Return;

TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION the "Accra Declaration 2019" whereby the AU Head of States via the AUC has been encouraged to adopt the recommended "The Decade of Return" as a flagship instrument with the aim to fully implement the DGADS 2012;

ENCOURAGING the AU to urge all remaining AU Member States to implement the appointment of African Diaspora Affairs government officials whose work responsibilities should include the creation of a African Diaspora Desk which maintains the Right To Return Policies and Processes relating to the repatriation for those from both the Historic and Contemporary African Diaspora, who regularly liaise with their Ministry Of Foreign Affairs or other relevant government ministries to advocate for members of the African Diaspora in need of assistance;

COGNISANT of the aspirations of AGENDA 2063 which assures of an African market with free movement of persons, capital, goods and services and that is inclusive of Diaspora participation;

INSPIRED by the successful establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement which provides a viable framework for its own expansion vis-à-vis the integration of economic communities of the Sixth Region;

RECOGNISING that the system of 'divide and conquer' imposed upon Africans shall not be eternally endured in that the re-unification of Africans on the continent and those in the Diaspora is on the increase;

INTENDING to consolidate the links with African Diasporic organizations in Brazil and the Caribbean in order to stimulate exchange and technical cooperation in the cultural, political,

economic, etc. spheres between these regions and, based on the strengthening of these links, accelerate the process of reconnecting this region with the African Continent;

APPRECIATIVE of the support by the international community on whose behalf the United Nations declared 2015 – 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent;

AWARE of the need to strengthen the protection of African Human and Peoples rights, democracy, and international security both on the continent and abroad;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the importance of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action (DDPA 2001, whereby the trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism were declared as crimes against humanity) for Africans / People of African Descendants, and the structural obstacles from the side of some countries to prevent the implementation of this important DDPA;

DEFENDING the right of states and peoples of the African Diaspora to negate and expunge their colonial identities, if they should so choose, while at the same time embracing their African identities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Centenary of Joseph Ki-Zerbo, who was a member of the OAU Group of Eminent personalities, and thus **INSPIRED** to contribute to the dissemination of the archives of these earlier efforts with the support of this Roundtable.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE GLOBAL PAN AFRICAN ROOTS
SYNERGY ROUNDTABLE REFERRED TO THEREAFTER AS
“THE ADDIS ABABA RESOLUTION 2022”**

**In Acknowledgement Of The Adoption Of The
Resolution Of The Global African Diaspora Summit 2012 (DGADS 2012)**

WE, the Global Pan African RootsSynergy Roundtable (GPARSR) representatives have resolved to:-

1. **DECLARE** that we accept and will use the original ECOSOCC statutes for elections created for the CSOs to apply as contained in Articles 4, 5 and 6, **AND VEHEMENTLY URGE the ECOSOCC GENERAL ASSEMBLY** to publish, if already implemented, or to implement the provisions of Article 17 of its statutes to propose and adopt its Rules of Procedure on modalities for selection of its members, and ensure approval of same by the Executive Council of AU, putting into consideration, paragraphs 2 and 3 hereunder, as appropriate.
2. **DECLARE** that each sub-region of the Diaspora will determine its own modality for electing delegates from their sub-region.
3. **URGE** that the African Union General Assembly take the following actions in an expeditious manner:-
 - 1) Ensure that the African Diaspora is adequately represented in the Bureau's officer assignments. In addition, that the Standing Committee includes members of the African Diaspora as this would include members familiar with the cultural nuances of the same.
 - 2) Increase the amount of the African Diaspora on the Credentials Committee from 1 CSO to 3 CSOs (chosen from the 3 main geographical areas).
 - 3) Direct the Technical Committee of the AU to re-establish communication with the CSOs which have made the submission of their Framework of engagement document previously, to commence its review of their submission, and to provide an update to them - within the next 30 days of the meeting of the Executive Council, October 2022.

- 4) Direct CIDO to contact those organizations (referred to in 3) and inform them of the review that is underway, allot a reasonable time for the organizations to acknowledge and respond. Then announce the date, within 3 months, when those organizations shall be notified of the final acceptance of their documents, and to prepare for elections.
- 5) Remind the Committees of their responsibility and obligation to enact laws, and enforce the application of said laws by the member states as they relate to the Africa Diaspora especially as ratification provides an acceptance and implementation commitment.
- 6) Direct the various ministries of all the AU Member States to put in place and enact policies
 - Incentivize investment projects directly for the African Diaspora CSOs and organizations;
 - Offer the African Diaspora better incentives such as those given to non-African Diaspora members;
 - Work with governments agencies such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration, and Home Affairs as well as registered and relevant Pan African CSOs to ensure enforcement of said policies as it relates to African Diaspora repatriates.
- 7) Direct all member states to establish an African Diaspora Desk, and create a direct link to CIDO to implement appropriate Diaspora engagement and assistance strategies.
- 8) Direct all Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Diaspora Desks to work on the realization of Vision 2063 with direct engagement of the African Diaspora with incentive schemes for them to invest in the priority sectors, access to appropriate public and private agencies to work with the Diaspora on their involvement in Agriculture and food security, eco-projects, Medical and Education initiatives.
- 9) Instruct all member states to create, implement, and enforce policies and programs to assist African Diaspora Repatriates, particularly African Descendants, with acquiring residence permits, a favorable path to citizenship, land acquisition, and cultural integration programs.

- 10) Encourage AU to create a conducive environment for the African Diaspora, particularly African Descendants to invest, live, and travel on the African continent based on the AU declaration to issue the African Union passport, in order to facilitate the development of a transnational and transcontinental identity, and ease of travel.
 - 11) Agree to set up a Diaspora Advisory Board at the AU, which will address overarching issues of concern to Africa and its Diaspora such as reparations, Right To Return and follow up with Plan of Action which will be the responsibility of the Board.
 - 12) Agree to set up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs government agencies of AU nations, an African Descendants' Diaspora Desk, that produces a process to be able to provide a fast-track entry and settlement process for African Descendants repatriating to Africa. Visa, permits and passports are suggested areas of attention in this repatriation scheme as well as obtaining residency and citizenship documentation.
4. **RECOMMEND** that the following means of communication and joint efforts goes as follows:-
- a. That this document be delivered to the appropriate desk of The African Union (AU) Commission (AUC) as the AU's secretariat who initiates proposals to be submitted to the AU's organs as well as implementing decisions taken by them and thus providing operational support for all AU organs while ACKNOWLEDGING the supporting role of the AUC in the implementation of the DGADS 2012;
 - b. That this document be delivered to the appropriate desk of The Citizens & Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) as the AUC focal point and hub for implementing the DGADS 2012 while ACKNOWLEDGING CIDO's key role to invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of the African Continent in the building of the African Union;
 - c. That this document be delivered to the appropriate desk of The Economic Social And Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) as an advisory organ of the AU composed of different social and professional groups of the Member States of the AU referred to as Civil

Society Organizations (CSOs) including those in the African Diaspora while

- d. ACKNOWLEDGING ECOSOCC's distinctive character to be the facilitator for African CSOs to play an active role in organizing itself in partnership with African governments to contribute to the principles, policies and programmes of the Union;
- e. That this document be delivered to the appropriate desk of The African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) established by the African Charter while ACKNOWLEDGING ACHPR's functions to protect and promote human and peoples' rights and interpret the African Charter on Human and People's Rights;
- f. That this document will be shared with all Ministry of Foreign Affairs or equivalent government office in all AU Member States in order to allow direct implementation;
- g. The authors of this document create a monitoring committee that will follow up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in their regions or countries and the AU Assembly meetings to ensure that this Declaration is brought before the AUC, and goes through the process of implementation;
- h. The expected timeline of implementation is no more than 60 days from the date of dispatch of this Submission;
- i. Non-response to this Submission after the 60 day period shall be construed as acceptance of the Submission as issued.