



SOAD PARLIAMENT

SOAD PLLAW 0016

LAW ON CONTINUITY, SOVEREIGN STEWARDSHIP, AND ANCESTRAL JUSTICE

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PREAMBLE

TERRA AETHIOPUM — The Ancestral Continuum

Before the modern designation of “Africa” came into common use, vast regions of the continent were known in classical geography as *Aethiopia*, the land of the dark-skinned peoples beyond Egypt. In the writings of ancient historians such as Herodotus, Strabo, and Diodorus Siculus, and in the epic tradition attributed to Homer, Aethiopia signified not merely a territory but a civilizational sphere, a vast and interconnected world of kingdoms, cultures, and sacred traditions extending across the Nile Valley, the Sahel, West Africa, and the eastern and southern coasts of the continent.

In the cartographic works of Claudius Ptolemy in *Geographia*, and later in early modern atlases such as *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* by Abraham Ortelius, large portions of sub-Saharan Africa were designated *Aethiopia Interior* and *Aethiopia Exterior*. Even the surrounding seas bore the name *Oceanus Aethiopicus*. These designations reflected an enduring recognition: that the lands and peoples south of the Mediterranean world formed a continuous civilizational family.

Long before colonial partition and imposed borders, African polities flourished in interconnected sovereignty, from the Nile kingdoms of Kush and Axum, to the Sahelian empires of Mali and Songhai, to the forest and coastal states of Benin, Oyo, and Kongo. These societies possessed systems of governance, jurisprudence, spirituality, trade, and scholarship that operated in continuity across regions. Their legitimacy arose not from external decree but from ancestral covenant, kinship, stewardship of land, and communal affirmation.

The later imposition of colonial nomenclature and administrative boundaries did not extinguish that deeper continuity. The word “Africa,” once applied only to a Roman province, gradually replaced the broader classical conception of Aethiopia; yet the civilizational inheritance remained intact beneath shifting names and maps.

Through displacement and the transatlantic trade, descendants of these Aethiopian civilizations were dispersed across the Americas and beyond. Though separated from ancestral lands, they carried with them cosmologies, languages, spiritual systems, and modes



of resistance that preserved the essence of the ancestral order. Across the Diaspora, memory endured, in worship, in music, in communal law, in ancestral reverence, and in the persistent affirmation of dignity.

Thus, “Terra Aethiopum” signifies more than geography. It denotes a civilizational continuum: a shared ancestral inheritance extending from antiquity to the present, from the Nile Valley to the Sahel, from West and Central Africa to the global African Diaspora.

These historical records reflect recognition that African civilizations formed a continuous network of sovereign societies long before colonial partition.

Among these were the historic kingdoms and empires, which included but not limited to :

- Kush
- Axum
- Mali
- Songhai
- Kanem-Bornu
- Benin
- Oyo
- Kongo

These polities possessed developed systems of law, governance, diplomacy, scholarship, and spiritual order grounded in ancestral covenant and communal stewardship.

The transatlantic trade dispersed millions of descendants of these civilizations across the Americas and the wider world. Despite displacement, African descendants preserved cosmologies, languages, spiritual systems, and communal traditions that maintained continuity with ancestral heritage.

The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice proceeds from this historical and anthropological foundation. It recognizes that sovereignty grounded in ancestral covenant and living customary institutions does not dissolve through conquest, renaming, or dispersion. Names may change; maps may shift; empires may rise and fall. Yet origin remains the foundation of authority. This Act therefore proceeds from the recognition that ancestral continuity survived the disruptions of colonization, enslavement, and renaming.

This Introduction therefore frames the Act not as the creation of new claims, but as the articulation of enduring continuity, a reaffirmation that the descendants of Terra Aethiopum remain bound by shared heritage, intergenerational responsibility, and the inherent dignity of self-determining peoples.

The Law of Continuity Decree

This Act provides a structured legislative framework to formally recognize, implement, and enforce the principles articulated in the **Law of Continuity Decree** which accompanies this Act. Through this Act, the Decree’s guidance is given legal force and effect, ensuring that the



spiritual, historical, and customary foundations it embodies are protected, applied, and integrated within the jurisdiction of SOAD.

Together, they constitute architecture for continuity, affirming that the descendants of Terra Aethiopum remain bound by shared heritage, living covenant, and the inherent dignity of self-determining peoples.

RECITALS

African civilizations—including the ancient Nile Valley polities, the Kingdom of Kush, the Empire of Axum, the Empire of Mali, the Empire of Songhai, the Empire of Kanem-Bornu, and the Hausa city-states of Kano, among many others—developed enduring systems of governance, jurisprudence, diplomacy, science, and spiritual order long before colonial disruption. Despite the profound impacts of colonization, displacement, enslavement, and the imposition of artificial borders, African customary law, ancestral covenants, and indigenous governance systems, though administratively altered, continued to persist.

Within the jurisprudential and educational framework of the State of the African Diaspora (SOAD), there is a clear and deliberate commitment to rectify historical constructs that were falsely established to advance European domination over African peoples and territories. These constructs, including papal decrees, doctrines of discovery, and colonial agreements, are understood not as legitimate sources of law, but as instruments designed to justify the usurpation of indigenous sovereignty despite lacking lawful foundation even within their own legal traditions.

SOAD affirms that such edicts were imposed without rightful authority, consent, or jurisdiction, and therefore hold no binding validity within African natural law or indigenous governance systems. Their primary function was to displace, dispossess, and subordinate indigenous populations under frameworks that were inherently unjust and legally defective. As such, within the sphere of SOAD, these measures are not merely reinterpreted but fundamentally set aside.

In their place, SOAD advances a restoration grounded in ancestral sovereignty, lawful consent, and continuity of indigenous governance. This approach does not seek conflict or erasure of current political realities, but instead establishes a corrective legal and moral order, one that acknowledges that what was imposed to dominate and dispossess was illegitimate from its inception, and must now be set right through principles that honor historical truth, lawful authority, and enduring indigenous rights.

The right of peoples to self-determination is firmly established in international law, including its affirmation in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its reflection in principles recognized by the International Court of Justice. Within this context, the State of the African Diaspora (SOAD) is understood as a transnational polity composed of African people and their descendants, exercising internal governance through covenant and collective consent. The Law of Continuity Decree further articulates and affirms the historical, spiritual, and legal foundations of African ancestral sovereignty.



The Scope and Limits of the Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice

The following shall serve as interpretive guidance and clarification of intent.

I. Nature of the Law of Continuity

The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice Act is operative and restorative. It affirms that African Indigenous sovereignty originates in Divine Order, ancestral covenant, and customary governance systems that predate colonial disruption.

It does not create new sovereignty; it articulates the ongoing existence of inherent sovereignty.

II. Jurisdictional Scope

The Law of Continuity applies:

- Within SOAD institutions;
- Among its members where acceptance has been given;
- Within recognized customary governance structures, where accepted;
- In matters of cultural, spiritual, and personal jurisdiction.

It does not automatically displace the civil jurisdiction of internationally recognized states absent treaty or negotiated agreement.

III. The Jurisprudential Foundations of this Act

1. In the interpretation and application of this Act, it is well noted that Admiralty Law, Maritime Law, or any commercial legal frameworks' primary function was and is the regulation of trade, finance, or mercantile relations. Such systems, historically and structurally, have operated to:

- Facilitate and legitimize transnational commerce
- Provide legal infrastructure for colonial extraction
- Prioritize contractual and proprietary claims over human dignity

Accordingly, they are inapplicable and insufficient as instruments of justice in matters concerning:

- Crimes against humanity
- Enslavement
- Unlawful dispossession and expropriation of property, land, labor, and sovereignty.

2. The governing standards shall be that no system of law may legitimize or perpetuate injustice, and that all wrongs of such magnitude carry an enduring obligation of restoration, restitution, and repair.
3. **Higher-Order Legal Traditions & Doctrines Supporting the Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice Act**

This Act shall be interpreted and enforced through higher-order legal traditions, each of which provides a legitimate foundation for restitution, restoration, and reparative justice. As examples:

a) **Law of Equity (Conscience-Based Jurisdiction)**

Nature: A superior corrective system that overrides rigid legal rules where injustice would result.

b) **Natural Law (Universal Moral Authority)**

Nature: Law derived from inherent human dignity and universal justice.

c) **Customary Law (Indigenous & Living Law)**

Nature: Law derived from long-standing practices, traditions, and community governance.

d) **Restitution & Unjust Enrichment**

Nature: Prevents one party from benefiting at another's expense.

e) **Doctrine of Continuing Harm / Continuing Wrong**

Nature: Where harm persists, legal claims remain active.

f) **Peremptory Norms (Jus Cogens)**

Nature: Highest norms in international law, cannot be overridden.

g) **Doctrine of Self-Determination**

Nature: Peoples have the right to determine their political and legal status.

h) **Fiduciary Principles**

Nature: Power must be exercised in trust for others.

i) **Doctrine of Stewardship (Intergenerational Equity)**

Nature: Resources and authority must be preserved for future generations.

j) **Doctrine of Illegality & Public Policy**

Nature: Courts will not uphold illegal or immoral acts.

k) **Principles of Human Dignity (Foundational Constitutional Norm)**

Nature: Human dignity is the foundation of all law.

l) **Doctrine of Reparative Justice**

Nature: Justice requires repairing harm, not just acknowledging it.

m) **Historical Title & Original Sovereignty Doctrine**

Nature: Original occupation and cultural continuity establish enduring rights.

4. The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice Act and the accompanying Decree, shall be supported by the highest recognized traditions of jurisprudence, including Equity, Natural Law, Customary Law, and universally accepted doctrines of justice.
5. These traditions collectively affirm that sovereignty cannot be extinguished through injustice, that unlawful enrichment creates a duty of restitution, and that no legal system may legitimize its own contradictions and/or where it has sanctioned harm. Accordingly, all claims arising from enslavement, colonization, and dispossession remain active, enforceable, and grounded in enduring legal authority.

IV. Relationship to International Law

The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice Act aligns with:

- The principle of self-determination;
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);
- The preservation of cultural and political institutions;
- The doctrine that sovereignty cannot be extinguished without consent[

It does not assert unilateral supremacy over international legal order but seeks harmonization grounded in mutual recognition of each other's inherent sovereignty and coexisting lawful traditions.

V. Non-Confrontational Orientation

The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice Act:

- Does not challenge external systems;
- Does not declare secession;
- Does not authorize insurrection;
- Does not deny coexistence.

Its function is restorative alignment, not retaliatory displacement.



VI. Spiritual Dimension

The spiritual language within the Law reflects cosmological foundations of African governance traditions. Such language:

- Serves as interpretive guidance;
- Grounds legitimacy in Divine and Natural Law, Customary Law, Equity and Maxims of Law;
- Does not impose religious doctrine upon others.

VII. Limits of Enforcement

The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice Act operates through:

- Institutional recognition;
- Customary authority;
- Voluntary affiliation;
- Diplomatic engagement;
- Educational and cultural restoration.

It does not claim enforcement power beyond its recognized jurisdictional domains.

VIII. Purpose

The purpose of The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice Act is:

- To restore historical balance;
- To affirm dignity;
- To protect culture, heritage and ancestral knowledge;
- To sustain intergenerational responsibility;
- To enable peaceful coexistence rooted in truth.

It is architecture for continuity.



PART I

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Act:

Ancestral Territory

Lands, underground, air space, waters, sacred sites, ecological domains, and cultural landscapes historically stewarded by African Kingdoms and Nations, including diasporic cultural extensions.

Ancestral Territory includes spiritual and cultural dimensions but does not automatically displace existing state jurisdiction absent agreement.

Knowledge Systems

Living customary, spiritual, ecological, linguistic, and legal traditions transmitted intergenerationally and governed by recognized custodial authorities.

External Authority

Any government, institution, corporation, or entity asserting jurisdiction without free, prior, and informed consent.

Sovereignty

Inherent authority arising from ancestral covenant, collective identity, and recognized customary governance, expressed through stewardship and self-determination.

Genetic or biological lineage alone shall not constitute political authority absent community recognition.

PART II

PRELIMINARY

Article 1 - Short Title

This Act shall be cited as the **Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice**.

Foundational Doctrine

The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice is normative in nature and affirms that sovereignty:

- originates in ancestral covenant
- persists through living communities and lineage



- cannot be extinguished through external imposition.

Article 2 - Scope and Jurisdiction

1. This Act applies exclusively within the institutions and recognized communities of the State of the African Diaspora (SOAD).
2. The Act governs matters relating to:
 - cultural jurisdiction
 - cultural heritage and restitution
 - internal governance
 - customary recognition
 - ancestral stewardship
3. It supports internal affairs, recognition of customary authorities, and institutional development within SOAD.
4. Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as asserting coercive authority over non-members or territorial supremacy over existing states.
5. Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as declaring secession, authorize insurrection, or displace state civil jurisdiction absent treaty or voluntary agreement.

Article 3 — Objectives of the Act

The objectives of this Act are to:

1. Affirm that the principles of Continuity exists and endures through African kingdoms, queendoms, customary law, and ancestral traditions;
2. Establish stewardship as a guiding principle of governance within SOAD;
3. Provide criteria for recognition of ancestral institutions;
4. Clarify jurisdictional limits and safeguards;
5. Promote truth, repair, and restorative justice;
6. Promote intergenerational responsibility
7. Ensure peaceful coexistence with other legal systems.

Jurisprudential Clarification and Rectification

These objectives recognize that certain historical instruments and doctrines, including externally generated decrees (such as the Papal Bulls, Dum Diversas, Inter Caetera), the Doctrine of Discovery, colonial-era arrangements, and agreements concluded and executed under conditions of duress or without free, prior, and informed consent, were established without sufficient lawful authority or legitimate jurisdiction and were constructed to facilitate the domination and dispossession of indigenous African peoples, the effects of which persist to the present day.

Accordingly, within the jurisdiction, legal, jurisprudential and educational framework of the State of the African Diaspora (SOAD), such instruments shall not be recognized as legal or



binding to the extent that they are inconsistent with principles of ancestral sovereignty, lawful consent, and indigenous governance. Any legal, administrative, or conceptual structures derived therefrom are hereby deemed null and void to the extent of their inconsistency with principles of natural law, ancestral sovereignty, and consent-based governance.

This provision affirms that such clarification and rectification are necessary to restore coherence in customary and traditional law and governance, recognizing the continuity of indigenous sovereignty and its enduring legal and spiritual foundations. It further establishes that governance within SOAD shall proceed on the basis of free, prior, and informed consent, mutual respect, and the reestablishment of legitimate juridical order,

PART III

PRINCIPLES OF THE LAW AND DECREE OF CONTINUITY

Article 4 — Principle of Continuity

1. The Principles of the Law and Decree of Continuity affirms that ancestral sovereignty persists through:
 - Historically rooted kingdoms and queendoms;
 - Customary law and governance systems transmitted intergenerationally;
 - Ancestral, cultural traditions and spiritual covenants;
 - Living communal institutions.
 - Ancestral lineage
 - Existing Kingdoms and Queendoms
 - Communal institutions.
2. Colonization, displacement, enslavement, and administrative restructuring altered political structures but cannot extinguish ancestral covenant, identity, or customary authority.
3. Sovereignty under this Act is normative of continuity; it is not a re-creation of authority.

Article 5 — Living Institutions

1. The Law of Continuity exists where communities continue to recognize and uphold:
 - Kingdoms and Queendoms
 - Customary governance structures;
 - Councils of elders and traditional leadership;
 - Ceremonial and spiritual custodianship;



- Communal legal processes grounded in precedent
- 2. Recognition under this Act shall be grounded in demonstrable continuity and present community affirmation.

PART IV SOVEREIGN STEWARDSHIP

Article 6 — Stewardship Principle

1. Sovereignty within SOAD shall be exercised as stewardship, not domination.
2. Governance shall preserve and prioritize:
 - Protection of Cultural heritage;
 - Dignity of all peoples;
 - Ecological balance;
 - Intergenerational wellbeing.
3. All acts of governance within SOAD jurisdiction shall consider impacts upon:
 - Ancestors;
 - The Living;
 - Future Generations.

Article 7 — Non-Domination Safeguard

1. This Act protects:
 - Legitimate resistance;
 - Against unlawful seizure of property;
 - Against insurrection or destabilization of SOAD civil institutions.
2. Authority operates through consent, recognition, and lawful institutional processes.



PART V
**RECOGNITION OF KINGDOMS, QUEENDOMS, AND
CUSTOMARY AUTHORITIES**

Article 8 — Recognition

Consistent with LAW 6 on the Royal Chamber enacted in April, 2023, this Act recognises Kingdoms, Queendoms, and other customary institutions where they preserve:

- a) Historical continuity;
- b) Community legacy and affirmation;
- c) Functioning customary governance structures;
- d) Commitment to peaceful coexistence;
- e) Adherence to dignity and non-discrimination principles.

Article 9 — Domains of Customary Authority

Recognized institutions may exercise collaboration within SOAD in matters including:

- a) Cultural preservation and language protection;
- b) Customary mediation among consenting members;
- c) Protection of ancestral knowledge and heritage;
- d) Ceremonial and spiritual stewardship;
- e) Internal community governance
- f) Digital and intellectual protection of cultural identity.

Such authority operates by consent and does not displace state jurisdiction except by lawful agreement or treaty.

PART VI
DOCTRINE OF PARALLEL LEGITIMACY

Article 10 – Parallel Legitimacy

1. Indigenous governance systems and contemporary state systems shall operate in parallel.
2. Recognition of ancestral continuity strengthens lawful coexistence.
3. Engagement with states shall proceed through dialogue, treaty, cooperative agreements, and peaceful mechanisms consistent with international law.
4. This Act withdraws spiritual and moral assent from historical premises inconsistent with equality, dignity, and natural law, without hostility or retaliation.
5. Recognition under this Act shall not be construed as a declaration of hostility toward any state, nation, Kingdom or Queendom.



PART VII JURISDICTIONAL AREAS

Article 11 — Areas of Jurisdiction

SOAD may exercise authority in:

1. Cultural Jurisdiction;
2. Personal Jurisdiction with recognized members;
3. Digital and Intellectual Protection of cultural heritage;
4. Spiritual and Ceremonial Jurisdiction;
5. Invited Customary Dispute Resolution.

PART VIII TRUTH, REPAIR, AND RESTORATION

Article 12 — Truth and Restoration

SOAD may establish

- Truth commissions or forums to examine historical disruptions affecting African Descendant Peoples for purposes of acknowledgment, reparation and restoration of dignity.
- Cultural Restitution Programs
- Historical correction initiatives such as decolonization programs.

Article 13 — Duty of Repair

Recognizing that the legacies of historical injustices continue to affect African peoples both on the African continent and throughout the diaspora, it is the duty of SOAD to take all necessary restorative measures to address and correct these enduring harms. Such measures shall include, but are not limited to:

- a) Cultural restitution initiatives;
- b) Repatriation initiatives;
- c) Educational and historical correction measures;
- d) Institutional reform;
- e) Legal measures;
- f) Economic redress programs within lawful capacity;
- g) Ecological stewardship and restoration partnerships.

Restoration shall pursue balance and reconciliation.



PART IX INTERPRETATION AND HIERARCHY OF LAW

Article 14 — Hierarchy of Interpretation

Within SOAD jurisdiction, interpretation shall follow:

1. Divine Law / Natural Law, Equity and Maxims of Law;
2. Ratified Constitutional Instruments of SOAD;
3. Indigenous Customary Law (as expressed through established and recognized customary interpretation);
4. International Indigenous Recognition Instruments;
5. International Law;
6. National Law (where voluntarily accepted);
7. Local Law (where voluntarily accepted).

Article 15 — Reasoned Determination

Any invocation of Natural or Customary Law shall include:

- Statement of customary precedent;
- Explanation of governing principle;
- Application to present circumstances.

No single office-holder shall claim unilateral spiritual interpretive authority.

PART X LIMITATIONS AND SAFEGUARDS

Article 16

1. Authority under this Act shall not authorize violence, coercion, unlawful seizure, or destabilization of external civil institutions.
2. The Law of Continuity, Sovereign Stewardship and Ancestral Justice is operative and restorative in nature.
3. It does not claim unilateral supremacy over international legal order but seeks harmonization grounded in mutual recognition.
4. Its enforcement operates through voluntary affiliation, institutional recognition, diplomatic engagement, and cultural restoration.



PART XI
IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

Article 17

1. All SOAD instruments shall be harmonized with this Act.
2. Intermittent review shall occur to ensure alignment with:
 - Ancestral Knowledge Systems
 - evolving governance needs
 - Welfare of future generations.

This Act establishes a clear framework for internal ancestral recognition of restorative justice, and cooperative engagement within the community of Kingdoms, Queendoms and Traditional Communities. It is architecture for continuity and reparatory justice.
