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**OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT,  
SANDTON, SOUTH AFRICA, 25 MAY 2012**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Global African Diaspora Summit took place on 25 May 2012 at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa under the theme “**Towards the Realisation of a United and Integrated Africa and its Diaspora**”. The goal of the meeting was to explore concrete ways and means of harnessing the abundant human and material resources in Africa and beyond, to advance the Socio-economic development of the Continent, in close and sustainable partnership with the African Diaspora. The Summit was preceded by a preparatory Ministerial meeting, from 23 to 24 May 2012 at the Oliver Tambo Building in Pretoria, South Africa, which reviewed the Summit documents.

2. The deliberations of the Global African Diaspora Summit were chaired by His Excellency, Mr. Yayi Boni, current Chairperson of the African Union and President of the Republic of Bénin. He opened deliberations by thanking President Jacob Zuma for the important contribution of South Africa to the holding of the Summit, and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality of the South African people. He welcomed the presence of eminent dignitaries from the Caribbean and the civil society, and expressed satisfaction at the participation of former Heads of State, namely, Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo, Thabo Mbeki Sam Nujoma and John Kufuor.

**II. Purpose and Objective**

3. The Global Diaspora Summit was the culmination of a worldwide dialogue process among Africans on the continent and the Diaspora on the content, programs and plan of action for the AU’s Diaspora program. The outcome of the various consultations were consolidated by three African Diaspora Ministerial Conferences between 2007 and 2012 into a Draft Declaration to be considered by the Summit. The Declaration would establish the Magna Carta of the Diaspora Process, a fundamental law that would guide the Diaspora Process and put in place effective plans and mechanisms for facilitating its successful implementation as well as benchmarks and indicators for monitoring and evaluating its progress.

**III. ATTENDANCE**

4. The Summit was composed as an extended version of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government comprising leaders of Independent African States and leaders of countries with significant African population in various parts of the world including the Caribbean community, Europe, South, Latin and North America. The Summit was attended by representatives of sixty-eight (68) countries including fifty-one (51) Members States of the African Union and 17 non-AU Member States representing the African Diaspora. Among the Member States of the Africa Union, the countries present included Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire,

Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe in Africa. Non-Member States of the Union included Argentina, The Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, U.S.A., Uruguay and Venezuela outside Africa.

#### **IV. OPENING SESSION**

**5.** The opening session began with welcome remarks by the Host, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa. This was followed by the remarks of Dr. Jean Ping, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Honorable David Dinkins, former Mayor of New York, as an Eminent person from the African Diaspora, the Right Honorable Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister of the Republic of Guyana on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), H.E. Mr. Esteban Lasto, the Vice-President of the Republic of Cuba and President Obiang Niguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. It then concluded with the remarks of President Boni Yayi of the Republic of Benin and Chairperson of the African Union.

##### **a) Welcome Remarks by President Jacob Zuma**

**6.** The President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Jacob Zuma in his statement extended a warm welcome to all the Heads of State and Government and delegations to the historic Global African Diaspora Summit. He acknowledged the high level representation of the South American delegations while extending a special welcome message to all the brothers and sisters in the Diaspora that attended the Summit.

**7.** He acknowledged the work done by the AU Commission in the preparation of the Summit and thanked the African Union for the opportunity granted South Africa to host the Global Africa Diaspora Summit.

**8.** He recognized the efforts and struggles of great African compatriots that fought hard to free Africans from the shackles of colonization, poverty and dependency, which resulted in the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, now transformed into the African Union in 2002.

**9.** In order to sustain the efforts and to address the African Agenda world-wide, President Zuma noted the urgent need for Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora to work together, and collectively focus on realizing the African Agenda that would tackle their common political and economic difficulties.

**10.** He indicated that the Summit would aim at defining a new story of the rising Africa that would lead to new hope. He called on all Africans in the continent and those

in the Diaspora to create a platform to review what has been done so far and things that needed to be done for the growth of the continent and Africans in the Diaspora.

**11.** He wished all participants fruitful deliberations and a “Happy Africa Day” Celebration.

**b) Statement by Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission**

**12.** The Chairperson of the Commission first thanked President Jacob Zuma, the Government and the people of South Africa, for the efforts invested to ensure the smooth conduct of the Summit. This concord was also reflected in the constant consultations and collaboration between the Commission and South Africa in the course of preparations for the holding of the Summit.

**13.** The Chairperson then underscored the exceptional nature of the Summit, the holding of which was the translation into concrete action of the project for the unity and cohesion of Africa envisioned by the first generation of pan-Africanists from Africa and the Diaspora, as well as the very first Heads of State and Government of independent Africa. It was also being held within the legal context of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which makes the unity of African peoples the key lever for development. By extending to the Diaspora, the unity was consolidated and took on a true historical meaning, particularly since it coincided with the celebration of Africa Day, the date on which the continental organization was established.

**14.** From that end point, the Chairperson of the Commission went back in history to recall not only all the humiliation and frustrations imposed on the peoples of Africa through the slave trade and colonization, but also the political efforts deployed first for the liberation of the Continent, and afterwards for its development. Since the primary development challenge entails the widest possible mobilization, the Constitutive Act included a provision establishing the principle of partnership between governments and all segments of the civil society. Subsequently, the provision was enriched with an amendment now in the process of ratification, paving the way for the legal recognition of the Diaspora as an integral part of African peoples.

**15.** The Chairperson of the Commission then reviewed the process that led to the holding of the Summit, and in so doing, touched on the role played by various parties. The assessment of that collective effort was reflected in the Declaration, and other projects and programmes designed to lend additional clarity to the expressed will to rebuild the African family. In conclusion, he highlighted the imperative need to give substance to the different projects, and recognize the Declaration, after its adoption, as a genuine constitutional text that will provide a legal framework for the Diaspora Initiative. For its part, the African Union Commission would fulfil all the obligations incumbent upon it in translating the Diaspora Initiative into actions.

c) **Remarks by Honourable David Dikins, former Mayor of New York (an Eminent person from the Diaspora)**

16. Honourable David Dikins expressed gratitude to the organizers of the Global African Diaspora Summit and acknowledged the significance of the Summit holding on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 being the 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). He commended the preparatory steps and efforts and time committed in mobilizing the people of the Diaspora to reflect and review the preparations for the Summit.

17. He indicated that the people of the Diaspora were ready to cooperate with Africans and to collectively bring on board the necessary scientific, economic, social and cultural contribution to improve the living standards of Africans and Africans in the Diaspora.

18. He concluded his remarks, by wishing all participants successful deliberations.

d) **Remarks by Honourable Arnold Joseph Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica**

19. Honourable Arnold Nicholson, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Government and People of South Africa for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation.

20. He recounted the selfless efforts made by key famous Black freedom fighters and noted the importance of the Diaspora Summit to Jamaica. He stated that Jamaica fully agrees with the content of the Draft Diaspora Summit Declaration.

21. He congratulated the ANC on its 100 years Anniversary celebration which forms a platform to highlight the milestones attained since its inception.

22. He called on all the Africans and the Diaspora to be forward looking and not allow the past to envelope and imprison their future and to use the opportunity created by the Summit to build strong a partnership.

23. He emphasized the need for all to join hands to draw a programme that would put the Africans and the Diaspora in the right pedestal to move forward and called on every African and those in the Diaspora in all facets of life to ensure that globalization does not benefit only the other world but rather should be used to build a lasting bridge that would promote education, health and ensure poverty reduction. This effort could be bolstered by bringing politicians, musicians, scholars of African descent to lend their voices to the cause of Africa and the Diaspora.

e) **Statement by Mr. Esteban Lazo, Vice President of the Republic of Cuba**

24. On behalf of the Head of State of Cuba, Mr. Lazo welcomed all participants, and paid tribute to the Africans who were taken to America as a result of the slave trade, the

starting point of the Diaspora. He then reviewed major global challenges, both old and new, which shape the international arena, with special emphasis on the quest for a more equitable economic order. He expressed the hope that the Summit would consider the role it could play in overcoming all the challenges, and that agreements would be reached on all issues that would enable Africa and the Diaspora to put an end to poverty through the creation of wealth.

**25.** Evoking history, he underscored the role that millions of Africans, former slaves, played alongside Cuba, during its liberation struggle. The contribution of Africans led Cuba to establish solidarity as a key principle of the Cuban revolution. It was in the name of that principle that Cuba extended its cooperation with Africa, in armed combat against colonial occupation, as well as in different areas of training. Cuba confirmed its willingness to continue its cooperation with Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. He sensitized the Summit to the fate of Haiti, the first Black Republic that emerged at the end of an uprising against colonial order.

**26.** In conclusion, the Vice President of Cuba denounced the blockade that successive governments of the United States have maintained against Cuba for half a century, in spite of different United Nations resolutions calling for the lifting of the blockade. He expressed the hope that the Summit would in turn condemn Washington's unfair policy vis-à-vis Cuba.

f) **Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of the African Union and President of the Republic of Bénin**

**27.** Having welcomed the presence of all participants, President Boni Yayi dwelt at length on the symbolic power conveyed by the holding of the First Global African Diaspora Summit in South Africa, bringing together Africa and its Diaspora with a view to taking decisions whose implementation should contribute to the wellbeing of the peoples of Africa and the Diaspora, based on the preservation of their cultural values.

**28.** Recalling the objective of the Summit, President Yayi Boni highlighted the legitimate reasons for building a solid partnership between Africa and the Diaspora, in the general context of intensification of South-South cooperation. In doing so, the partnership should be in keeping with the legal framework laid down by the Constitutive Act, which establishes the principle of independent development of States and peoples. The need for development calls for the mobilization of resources, which in turn requires the opening of Africa to its Diaspora as an important African entity. This opening up was achieved firstly through an amendment to the Constitutive Act on the status of the Diaspora, and then through consultations in different regions of the world, sanctioned by ministerial meetings, and the convening of the Summit.

**29.** The assessment of all the preparatory work was summarized in the framework documents that await the unction of the Summit, which will thus carry the Diaspora Initiative to the baptismal font. President Boni Yayi however stressed that the latter would only effectively take form with the commitment of all and through the mobilization of the financial resources required for that purpose.

**30.** President Boni Yayi concluded his remarks by expressing his thanks to all the stakeholders involved in the preparatory process as well as in the actual holding of the Summit.

**g) Statement by Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea**

**31.** The President of Equatorial Guinea commended South Africa and its President for their contribution to the holding of the Global African Diaspora Summit. He aired his views on the significance and the implications of the holding of the Summit, from which he expected the beginnings of a solution to the inequalities affecting Africa. The origin of the inequalities dates back to the slave trade, followed by the colonial era. Their combined effects have been reflected in a profound change to the cultural personality of Africa, and the establishment of the conditions of the Continent's under-development.

**32.** The AU is therefore under obligation to reflect on the best modalities for the integration of the Diaspora, by accurately determining its expectations, particularly since it has decided to make the latter its 6<sup>th</sup> Region. The integration of the Diaspora also implies that at national level, Member States will adopt laws institutionalizing the synergy between them and the Diaspora, which is the basis of the African Renaissance. All that should be reflected in the different areas of cooperation.

**33.** The President of Equatorial Guinea announced that his country would be holding a meeting on the Diaspora in August 2012. In conclusion, he stressed the importance for Africa and the Diaspora of speaking with one voice in the international arena, by defending common positions.

**V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**34.** The proposed draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

**VI. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

**35.** The Global African Diaspora Summit adopted the following working hours:

Morning: 09.00 – 13.00 hours  
Afternoon: 15.00 – 19.00 hours

## **VII. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION, THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND THE LEGACY PROJECTS**

### **a) Presentation of by Hon. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mabashane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa**

**36.** The Draft Declaration to sanction the deliberations of the Summit was presented by H. E. Mrs. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. In her presentation, she reviewed all the preparatory stages leading up to the elaboration of the Draft Declaration. The draft, which right from the onset was part of a developing process, was gradually enriched with many inputs and was meant to be resolutely integrative. The Minister then spoke about the structure of the Draft Declaration, which also contained the Programme of Action, the Implementation Plan, and the Legacy Projects. She drew the attention of the assembly to the following aspects:

- The financing of programmes retained: the need to mobilize financial resources to translate the will for the renaissance of an Africa that is open to its Diaspora remained imperative;
- The effective participation of the Diaspora in the political, economic and social life of the Continent: in that regard, the need to define appropriate mechanisms that will ensure such participation.

### **b) Summit Consideration and Approval**

**37.** Following the presentation, a rich debate on the content of the Draft Declaration ensued. The discussion appreciated the efforts that had consolidated the Draft documents and commended the Ministerial Conferences, in particular for the thoroughness of their efforts.

### **c) Outcome Document**

**38.** Changes and amendments were agreed in some areas. Subsequently, the Summit adopted the Declaration with the amendments. The final outcome document is a Declaration with four basic components: first is a political declaration embodying intentions and statements of purpose, and second is a program of action identifying specific programs that would give practical effect to these intentions. Third is an implementation and follow-up mechanism required to implement the Program of Action and fourth is flagship or Legacy Projects that would give urgent and practical immediate meaning to the framework of action. These priority projects are in five main areas namely: the production of a skills database of African professionals in the Diaspora, the Establishment of African Volunteer Corps, the Program for innovation and entrepreneurs through the Development Marketplace for the Diaspora, the African Diaspora Investment Fund and the African Remittance Institute. .



**VIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

39. Nothing was discussed under this agenda item.

**IX. CLOSING CEREMONY**

40. The Summit ended with closing remarks by the Host, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa and the Chairperson of the Union, President Boni Yayi of Benin.

a) **Closing Remarks by the Chairperson of the AU and President of the Republic of Bénin**

41. President Boni Yayi expressed satisfaction at the smooth conduct of deliberations. He thanked all those who, through their participation or various contributions, ensured the success of the Summit. The latter led to the adoption of an enriched and consensual Declaration. Going back to the symbolic dimension of the event, he recalled its historical connotation in that it is the start of a new chapter in the history of Africa. Furthermore, the new chapter begins on 25 May, the date of the celebration of Africa Day, the date when the OAU was established. That coincidence was an invitation for all stakeholders, far and near, to make firm commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action contained in the Declaration that had been adopted.

42. President Boni Yayi then defined the principal modalities of the commitment. At the legal level, Member States should first ratify the amendment to the relevant provision of the Constitutive Act on the Diaspora. In terms of implementation, the mobilization of financial and other resources remained a prerequisite for the Diaspora Initiative to gain greater visibility.

43. Before declaring the deliberations of the First Global African Diaspora Summit closed, President Yayi Boni once again expressed his gratitude to the participants and the host country, and dwelt further on the role of the Diaspora in the building of a new Africa that is united and prosperous, bearing hope for the whole Continent.

b) **Closing Remarks by President Jacob Zuma**

44. The President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Jacob Zuma, during his closing remarks, described the Global Africa Diaspora Summit as a huge success.

45. He announced that South Africa had won the majority vote to host the world's largest radio telescope, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), with 80% vote against Australia's 20% and noted that it was an African victory.

46. He stated that Africa as a continent has identified the need to inculcate the interest of the Diaspora in the Continental polity and noted the importance of placing Africa's Agenda strategically at the global level.

**47.** While calling on the African leaders and the other participants from the Diaspora to promote good governance, he commended the African Union Commission for the management of the Summit and thanked all the participants for their invaluable contribution, and on this note, declared the Summit closed.

## **X. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**48.** The Global Diaspora Summit concluded with the adoption of the historic Declaration, including its Programme of Action, Implementation mechanism and flagship or legacy projects. The challenge in the aftermath as underlined by the Host President, Chairperson of the Commission and Chairperson of the Union is to ensure its adequate implementation.

**49.** In taking account of the proceedings of the Summits and efforts that were deployed to facilitate its success, we urge the Assembly to also consider the following recommendations of the Global Diaspora Summit that will assist the implementation process:

- a) The Roadmap should continue to be recognized as a vehicle for the implementation process. The previous Roadmaps adopted by the Assembly paved the way for the successful organization of the Summit. The Roadmaps also stipulated measures that should be taken at the implementation stage. The Commission could therefore be directed to review and consolidate the previous roadmaps and align them with the outcome documents as a framework for execution of the decisions of the Global Summit;
- b) The requirement for effective implementation of these decisions emphasize that the Diaspora Program must be adequately resourced. Accordingly, the strategic plans and programs of the Commission and the Union must identify it as a priority project agreed in a global compact with the African Community in the continent and the Diaspora. The commitment should be reflected in resource and budgetary allocations of the Commission and negotiations with partners;
- c) The issue of resource support should link up with implementation of the five legacy projects. In accordance with the decisions of the Global Diaspora Summit, the legacy projects must be recognized as priority projects that would require effective political and material support. In accordance with the Roadmap, the Commission must organize a Seminar to appraise their feasibility studies and then submit appropriate project designs for appraisal by a workshop of Diaspora Ministries of all Member States of the Union in the fourth quarter of the 2012. The outcome and recommendations of the Workshop should then be presented to the next Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in January 2013 for consideration and/or approval;

- d) Fourthly, the issue of setting criteria for increasing presence and participation in AU program and policies must be given urgent attention. However, the establishment of criteria for participation must be done in a systematic manner through the African Union Commission rather than in a piecemeal and uncoordinated fashion through various structures and organs of the African Union. The Assembly has already approved a resolution on having the Diaspora as observers” at Union Summits but the criteria for participation, requisite qualifications and modalities must be worked upon. Similarly, representational issues and formulas for participation in the work of organs must be determined and submitted by the Commission as recommendations for consideration and approval by the AU Assembly;
- e) Fifth, the Commission and its responsible department in CIDO should be strengthened in human resource and material terms to support this objective;
- f) The Commission should continue its process of active cooperation with South Africa and other regional champions that are willing and able to contribute towards the implementation of the outcomes of the Diaspora Summit;
- g) Finally, as the Chairperson of the Union observed in his closing address the development of organizational process must remain a cardinal pillar of efforts to implement Summit outcomes. Inter-regional consultations between African and its Diaspora should continue and be strengthened. The emphasis on the building of regional Diaspora networks must also continue apace as an important component of the process in order to ensure that the AU establishes effective interlocutors that would partner with it to achieve the desired objectives. This must be accompanied by the development of appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess progress of efforts and accelerate the pace of achievement in various areas.

**Assembly/AU/17(XIX)Rev.1  
Annex I**

**DECLARATION OF THE GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA  
SUMMIT SANDTON, JOHANNESBURG,  
SOUTH AFRICA, 25 MAY 2012**

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Diaspora/Assembly/AU//Decl (I)

**DECLARATION OF THE GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA  
SUMMIT SANDTON, JOHANNESBURG,  
SOUTH AFRICA, 25 MAY 2012**

**DRAFT DECLARATION**  
**Draft Declaration of the Global African Diaspora Summit**

**WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Caribbean and South America

**RECOGNIZING** the important presence of Heads of State and Government from the Caribbean Community, South and Latin America and representatives of the African Diaspora;

**EXPRESSING** our appreciation to His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma, the Government and People of the Republic of South Africa and the African Union for the warm reception and for hosting and conducting this Summit;

**TAKING COGNIZANCE** of the dialogue carried out between Africans on the Continent and representatives of the African Diaspora in various regions of the world, including North America, South and Latin America, Europe and elsewhere;

**RECALLING** the Constitutive Act of the African Union that is guided by a common vision of a united and strong Africa based on a partnership between governments and all segments of society in order to strengthen cohesion and solidarity among its peoples;

**RECALLING** the struggle of the Founding Fathers and combatants for Pan-Africanism in Africa as well as in the Diaspora;

**ALSO RECALLING** the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted by the First Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2003, and in particular Article 3(q) which invites the African Diaspora to participate as an important component in the building of the African Union;

**FURTHER RECALLING** relevant African Union Decisions including Decision EX.CL/Dec. 5 (III) on the Development of the Diaspora Initiative adopted by the Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003, Decision EX.CL/Dec. 221 (VII) on the Africa-Diaspora Process adopted by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2006 and Decision EX.CL/Dec. 406 (XII) on the First African Union Diaspora Ministerial Conference adopted by the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2008 on the modalities for Diaspora participation in the organs and activities of the Union and Decision Ass/AU/Dec.205(XI) adopted by the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008 on the Africa Diaspora Summit, Decision, Ass/AU/Dec 354 (XVI) of the Sixteen Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2011 on the Roadmap for the Diaspora Summit, including the convening of a Technical Experts meeting in Pretoria, South Africa in February 2011 and Decision Ass/AU/Dec 367 (XVII) of the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of Assembly of the Union on the convening of a second Ministerial Conference on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New

York in September 2011 as well as Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 393(XVIII) endorsing the outcome and conclusions of the Second Ministerial Conference held in New York in September 2011.

**RECALLING** the commemoration in 2007 of the bicentennial of the trafficking in Africans, an obligation to remember the legacy of history, particularly the era of slavery and colonialism and the enforced separation of African people as a result of that experience, as well as the Declaration of the United Nations of 2011 as the year of the of people of African descent.

**ENDORISING** the initiative led by Member States of the African Union, the Caribbean community and other States in the International community for the establishment of a permanent memorial at the United Nations to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade in fulfilment of paragraph 101 of the 2001 Durban Declaration;

**EXPRESSING** appreciation for contributions made to the voluntary Trust Fund established in this regard;

**TAKING INTO** account the need to put African history in its proper perspective and harness this towards rebuilding the global African family.

**RECOGNIZING** the need to build sustainable partnerships between the African continent and the African Diaspora through sustainable dialogue and effective collaboration with governments and peoples of different regions of the World in which the Diaspora populations are located;

**COGNIZANT** of the fact that culture and identity inform all facets of development;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the need to celebrate and preserve the shared heritage between Africa and peoples of African descent in the Diaspora;

**BEARING IN MIND** that the African Diaspora represents a historical and evolving experience which calls for an approach that is sensitive to the specificities of the different regions;

**AFFIRMING** the need to promote South-South Cooperation as a framework for enhancing mutual development as well as Pan-African Solidarity;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of women and youth as important pillars of our society that should be mainstreamed in all Diaspora discourses and actions;

**LAUDING** the efforts undertaken thus far to support Africa and African Diaspora process including organizational efforts, measures and strategies pursued by the African Union;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the First and Second Conferences of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD I&II) held in Dakar, Senegal and Salvador de Bahia, Brazil in 2004 and 2006 respectively, the outcomes of the First AU-South Africa-Caribbean

Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica in 2005 and the various Regional Consultative Conferences held in different regions of the world in 2007 to consolidate the results;

**NOTING** with appreciation the work of the Ministerial meeting which took place in Midrand, South Africa from 16-18 November 2007 and the Technical Experts meeting held in Pretoria in February 2011 and the second Ministerial Conference held in New York, USA on 24 September 2011 as well as the Third Ministerial Conference held in Pretoria, South Africa on 23 May 2012;

**CONVINCED** of the need to build on these efforts and outcomes as the basis for establishing a solid foundation for the rejuvenation of the global African family as an instrument of wider renaissance;

**REALIZING** the imperative of a sustained and coordinated approach and ownership of the African Diaspora related programmes and projects so as to promote their effective implementation and impact;

**COMMIT** to cooperate in the political, economic and social areas outlined in this Programme of Action, and implementation and follow-up modalities.

## **PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

### **I. POLITICAL COOPERATION**

In the area of political cooperation, we commit to the following:

#### **A. Intergovernmental Cooperation**

- a) Enhance South-South Cooperation through closer collaboration between the African Union (AU) and all inter-governmental entities in regions in which African Diaspora populations are part of;
- b) Leverage the collective efforts of the African Union and all inter-governmental entities in regions in which African Diaspora populations are part of to promote and advance issues of critical importance to Africa and its Diaspora;
- c) Encourage AU Member States to establish more formal relations with the Caribbean and Latin American nations and vice versa; and where practicable, the opening of more Missions in the respective regions;
- d) Continue to support the role of the AU as the focal point and the coordination hub of all Diaspora initiatives in the Continent. To this end, Diaspora issues should be a standing item on the programmes and agenda of AU Summits, and the AU's Directorate tasked with Diaspora matters should be strengthened and capacitated in financial and human resource terms;



- e) Take necessary measures to promote and create effective synergies between national and continental Diaspora programmes;
- f) Create platforms for closer interaction, solidarity and effective collaboration between and amongst governments and civil society of Africa and its Diaspora including continuation of Regional Consultative Conferences and creation and consolidation of Regional Networks as partners and interlocutors for the implementation of the outcome of the Global Diaspora Summit;
- g) Encourage and intensify the participation of the African Diaspora in conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation and disaster mitigation in Africa and the Diaspora regions;
- h) Strengthen the participation of the Diaspora population in the affairs of the African Union so as to enhance its contributions towards the development and integration agenda of the continent;
- i) Encourage and support the development of an African Union Diaspora Volunteer programme as a framework for associating the Diaspora directly with the development of the continent
- j) Encourage African Union Member States to urgently ratify the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act, which, inter alia, invites the African Diaspora, an important part of our continent, to participate in the building of the African Union;
- k) Encourage the Diaspora to organize themselves in regional networks and establish appropriate mechanisms that will enable their increasing participation in the affairs of the African Union as observers and eventually, in the future, as a sixth region of the continent that would contribute substantially to the implementation of policies and programmes.
- l) Continue to integrate the African Diaspora agenda in its engagement with international partners
- m) Encourage AU and CARICOM to create a conducive environment for the African Diaspora to invest, work, and travel on the African continent and the Caribbean;
- n) Support efforts by the AU to accelerate the process of issuing the African Union passport, in order to facilitate the development of a transnational and transcontinental identity;

- o) Explore the possibility of establishing a Pan-African Secretariat in Dakar, Senegal for the Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD) as recommended by CIAD I;
- p) Encourage and support the adoption and implementation, in different Diaspora countries, of policies that will facilitate the elimination of racism and the promotion of equality among races.

**B. Mobilization of Support**

- a) Encourage the civil society in the Diaspora and in Africa to support, advocate and mobilize resources for the development of Africa and its Diaspora;
- b) Express mutual support and solidarity between Africans on the Continent and in the Diaspora in circumstances of violation of human and peoples' rights;
- c) Encourage the full implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the Permanent Memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, express appreciation for contributions made to the Trust Fund in this regard and urge other countries to contribute to the Fund;
- d) Campaign for the ratification and full implementation of all relevant instruments that enhance the protection of women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups, in particular, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Convention against all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
- e) Encourage the ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime as a means of stemming trans-border criminality;
- f) Encourage Africans in the Diaspora to campaign against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa especially in countries where they are domiciled and in those that are arms producers;
- g) Encourage the contribution of the Diaspora in the strengthening of International partnerships of the African Union;
- h) Affirm the Principles of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations that preclude unilateral measures that would create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and

economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries;

## **II. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

In the area of economic cooperation, we commit to the following:

### **A. Government Action to Foster Increased Economic Partnership**

- a) Develop effective regional integration mechanisms that would enhance closer interaction between the African Union and the Diaspora;
- b) Take concrete measures that would promote and sustain linkages between AU and the Diaspora in the following priority areas: trade and investment, science and technology, travel and tourism, communication and transportation infrastructure, energy, information and communication technology and cultural industries;
- c) Create an environment conducive for the growth and development of Small, Medium and Micro-Enterprise and promote entrepreneurship in Africa and the Diaspora;

### **B. Mobilization of Capital**

- d) Use financial instruments focusing on investments to facilitate the mobilization of capital that would strengthen links between Africa and the Diaspora;
- e) Explore the possibility of creating a Development Fund and/or African Diaspora Investment Fund to address development challenges confronting Africans in the continent and the Diaspora.

### **C. Partnership in Business**

- a) Enhance partnership between the African and Diaspora private sectors through efforts such as regular meetings of Chambers of Commerce and listing in African Stock Exchanges and vice-versa;
- b) Build on Africa's and the Diaspora's comparative advantages in culture to translate them into economic gains through collaborative programmes that would facilitate the strategic development and marketing of their cultural goods and services.

**D. Science and Technology**

- a) Promote coordination and development of institutions in Africa and the African Diaspora, dedicated to innovation and invention for social and economic development of Africa and the Diaspora;
- b) Examine the merit of using the decisions of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on Information Society, particularly the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Declaration, as well as the Digital Solidarity Fund as a means of creating e-linkages between Africa and the Diaspora.

**E. Knowledge Transfer and Skills Mobilization**

- a) Promote the utilization of African and Diaspora expertise on economic development issues at regional and continental levels, and explore the possibility of creating a Diaspora Advisory Board(s);
- b) Encourage the use of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Migration for Development in Africa programme to work in concert with the AU Commission to mobilize the skills and resources of the Diaspora to enhance the institutional capacities of national and regional institutions;
- c) Promote trade and investment opportunities linked to indigenous knowledge systems, while ensuring that the related intellectual property rights are secured for the benefit of Africa and the Diaspora;
- d) Promote the establishment of a comprehensive and all-inclusive database that will match the expertise of African professionals in Africa and its Diaspora to African developmental needs;
- e) Adopt and promote the 'Development Market Place for the African Diaspora Model' (DMADA) as a framework for innovation and entrepreneurship that would facilitate development.

**F. Infrastructural Development**

- a) Support the development of Africa related undersea cable and terrestrial fibre optic connectivity initiatives; and
- b) Harmonise regulatory structures related to infrastructure, such as telecommunication and transportation.

**G. Information Gathering and Dissemination Capacity**

- a) Develop an overarching communications strategy for disseminating information on Africa Union programmes (including NEPAD) and Diaspora initiatives;
- b) Support the development of an updated and reliable census and statistics on employment, unemployment and entrepreneurship in Africa and the Diaspora with special focus on the Youth.

**H. Climate Change**

- a) Work closely to advance the international agenda on climate change in international fora given its devastating effects particularly on Africa and the Caribbean.

**III. SOCIAL COOPERATION**

In the area of social cooperation, we commit to the following:

**A. Knowledge and Education**

- a) Design and develop platforms for African and Diaspora educators and scholars to address the developmental agenda of the Continent and the Diaspora. These would include, among others, the establishment of African-centred institutions and programmes and increased collaboration efforts between academic and research institutions in Africa and the Diaspora regions;
- b) Ensure the harmonisation and implementation of regional and international protocols protecting indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property rights;
- c) Emphasize the importance of education as a basic condition of achieving human development and the need to promote literacy campaigns;
- d) Support the creation of linkages between Diaspora Academic, Research and Development Institutions and those in Africa;
- e) Ensure the participation of Diaspora Experts in the development and implementation of AU-Diaspora initiative.

**B. Arts and Culture**

- a) Promote the coordination and funding of cultural exchange programmes between Africa and the Diaspora;

- b) Further encourage and disseminate information to all Member States on African-Diaspora projects which are being implemented such as the Museum of Black Civilisations, an African Remembrance Square, the African Renaissance Monument, the Joseph Project and slave route;
- c) Support, encourage and promote the celebration of global observance days as symbols of solidarity for the commemoration of the common heritage and vision of Africa and its Diaspora, in order to strengthen Pan-African unity and identity, in particular, Africa Day, African Union Day, Black History Month and Emancipation Day;

**C. Media and Image Building**

- a) Coordinate efforts of the existing media and promote new media to re-brand Africa and to counter stereotypes about Africans and people of African descent;
- b) Explore possibilities of creating Africa News Network Service to enhance image branding and imaging of Africa;
- c) Promote national and continental initiatives that aim to enhance good governance and rule of law, so as to strengthen a positive image of Africa among the African Diaspora and the international community at large.

**D. Immigration**

- a) Engage developed countries with a view to creating favourable regulatory mechanisms governing migration; and to address concerns of African immigrants in Diaspora Communities.

**E. Human and People's Rights**

- b) Work for the full implementation of the Plan of Action of the United Nations World Conference Against Racism;
- c) Engage developed countries to address the political and socio-economic marginalisation of Diaspora communities in their countries of domicile;
- d) Strengthen the implementation of legislation and other measures aimed at eradicating child trafficking, human trafficking, child labour, exploitation of children and women in armed conflicts and other modern forms of slavery.

**F. Social and Cultural Issues**

- a) Allocate more resources on social spending programmes such as health, **education** and housing;

- b) Cooperate, in order to make social security institutions more efficient in protecting Africans and members of the Diaspora;
- c) Ensure expansion of access to the Internet for social, health, business and development and trade;
- d) Coordinate with the African Diaspora regarding the question of the illegally acquired cultural goods that exist outside the African continent, with the aim of speeding their return to their countries of origin in Africa;
- e) Ensure the promotion of sports and sports exchange between the AU Member States and the Diaspora.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

We adopt the following implementation and follow-up mechanism/strategy:

1. Host rotational AU Diaspora Conference in Africa and in the Diaspora to review the implementation of this Programme of Action;
2. Involve Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of this Programme of Action;
3. Request the AU Commission to develop mechanisms to ensure that the experiences of women, youth and vulnerable groups are taken into account in the implementation of this Programme of Action;
4. Continue communication efforts to popularize the African Diaspora initiative and promote positive images of Africa that will create a conducive environment for investment opportunities on the continent;
5. Take necessary measures to ensure the establishment of an AU-Diaspora Foundation/Trust to support the AU-Diaspora initiative;
6. Agree to establish multi-stakeholder working groups comprising the AU, CARICOM and representative from the Diaspora in the following priority areas: Economic Cooperation (including infrastructure, sea and air links, trade and investment, and travel and tourism); Science And Technology (including the establishment of Low Earth Orbit satellite, and research in agriculture, biotechnology, renewable energy technologies, infectious and non-infectious diseases);
7. Consider the possibility of setting up a mechanism, such as a Diaspora Consultative Forum that would support closer collaboration between the AU and the Diaspora community;

8. Agree to set up a Diaspora Advisory Board, which will address overarching issues of concern to Africa and its Diaspora such as reparations, right to return and follow up to WCAR Plan of Action, amongst others;
9. Further agree, in principle that the structures and institutions envisaged in this Declaration are established and operate in a streamlined manner, in order to achieve efficiency and value for all Africans on the Continent and the Diaspora;
10. Explore various innovative and practical sources of funding for the Diaspora Programme, to ensure its sustainability.

### **LEGACY PROJECTS**

We further agree to adopt five legacy projects as a way of giving practical meaning to the Diaspora programme and in order to facilitate the post-Summit implementation programme. These are: a) the production of a Skills Database of African Professionals in the Diaspora; b) the establishment of the African Diaspora Volunteers Corps; c) the African Diaspora Investment Fund; d) a programme on the Development Marketplace for the Diaspora, as a framework for facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship among African and Diaspora; and e) The African Remittances Institute.

**Done at Johannesburg, South Africa 25 May 2012**



**LIST OF COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE  
GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT - 25 MAY 2012  
SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE, SOUTH AFRICA**

**List of Countries that participated in the  
Global African Diaspora Summit - 25 May 2012  
Sandton Convention Centre, South Africa**

**A. Member States**

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Benin
4. Botswana
5. Burkina Faso
6. Burundi
7. Cameroon
8. Cape Verde
9. Central Africa Republic
10. Chad
11. Comoros
12. Congo
13. Cote D'Ivoire
14. Democratic Republic of Congo
15. Djibouti
16. Egypt
17. Equatorial Guinea
18. Eritrea
19. Ethiopia
20. Gabon
21. Gambia

22. Ghana
23. Guinea
24. Kenya
25. Lesotho
26. Liberia
27. Libya
28. Malawi
29. Mauritania
30. Mauritius
31. Mozambique
32. Namibia
33. Niger
34. Nigeria
35. Rwanda
36. Sahrawi Republic
37. Sao Tome & Principe
38. Senegal
39. Seychelles
40. Sierra Leone
41. Somalia
42. South Africa
43. South Sudan
44. Sudan
45. Swaziland
46. Tanzania

47. Togo
48. Tunisia
49. Uganda
50. Zambia
51. Zimbabwe

**B. Non AU Member States**

1. Argentina
2. The Bahamas
3. Barbados
4. Brazil
5. Colombia
6. Cuba
7. Ecuador
8. Guyana
9. Haiti
10. Jamaica
11. St. Kitts & Nevis
12. St. Lucia
13. Suriname
14. Trinidad & Tobago
15. USA
16. Uruguay
17. Venezuela

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