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**BUILDING A UNITED FRONT TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE
AND PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS TO AFRICANS**

***[(Item proposed jointly by the Republic of Ghana and the AU
Commission (CIDO)]***

**REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
“BUILDING A UNITED FRONT TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE
AND REPARATIONS TO AFRICANS”
14 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2023
ACCRA, GHANA**

INTRODUCTION

1. In the continuing pursuit of justice and equity, the conversation about reparations has emerged as a critical and transformative dialogue that requires the collective attention and action of Africans and all people of African descent. The scope of this conversation goes beyond historical injustices and into the current fabric of societies around the world. The complexities of addressing past wrongs, whether they stem from colonialism, trans-Atlantic enslavement, apartheid or systemic discrimination, necessitate a thorough examination and strategic approach.
2. The Accra Reparations Conference fulfills the Assembly decision (AU/Dec. 847 (XXXVI)), adopted in February 2023 at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, endorsing the Government of Ghana's proposal to co-organize with relevant stakeholders, an International Conference towards "Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans.
3. The Conference, held in Accra from 14th to 17th November, 2023, convened Heads of States and representatives of governments, luminaries, scholars, policymakers, and activists from Africa, North and Latin Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and the U.K. and other diverse parts of the world to engage in in-depth conversations on the multifaceted dimensions of reparations. With a focus on fostering understanding, reconciliation, and meaningful redress. This report encapsulates the insights, debates, and innovative recommendations presented during the conference.
4. In steering the complex terrain of reparations, the conference examined the historical contexts that have shaped present-day disparities, as well as the ethical requirements that underpin the call for reparatory justice. Recognizing the importance of confronting systemic inequities, the conference provided an opportunity for experts to share ground-breaking research, proposed policy frameworks, and firsthand accounts that shed light on the various ways reparations can be conceptualized and implemented.
5. This report summarizes the various viewpoints that were expressed, ranging from the legal complexities of reparations claims to the ethical considerations and strategic communication inherent in seeking to redress past wrongs. It also investigates the potential socioeconomic consequences of reparations, examining how they can be used as a catalyst for healing, empowerment, and the removal of systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality.

6. The report seeks to contribute to a nuanced and informed global discourse on reparations by drawing on the collective wisdom of conference delegates. In navigating the complexities of redressing historical injustices, Africa and people of African descent seek not only to acknowledge the wounds of the past, but also to chart a course for a more just and inclusive future.

KEY THEMES

PANEL 1 - HISTORICAL CRIMES AND THE CASE FOR REPARATIONS

7. Panelists acknowledged historical injustices such as slavery and colonialism, emphasizing the moral imperative of addressing these issues and promoting social justice in order to achieve global reconciliation.

Key Outcomes of Panel 1

8. The panelists agreed on the importance of forming a global expert committee to strengthen the economic case for reparations for Africans and their descendants. They encouraged the African Union to work with strategic allies, particularly in the Caribbean and Latin America, as well as people of African descent around the world, to strengthen international resolutions addressing reparations specifically. They also emphasized the importance of creating specific programmes with defined budgetary and programmatic dimensions to address specific needs and historical injustices.

9. The panelists also advocated for unity among Africans and persons of African descent, leveraging the uniqueness of various African formations globally. They also encouraged the active involvement of women in the fight for justice. The panel also underscored the need to leverage international law and bilateral competence to hold accountable those responsible for historical injustices.

10. The representative of the CARICOM Secretariat advocated for a multifaceted approach that includes political, socio-economic, legal, and mass mobilization strategies to achieve the overarching goal of reparations, emphasizing the transformative power of creative arts in popularizing reparations and promoting sub-regional conferences on reparations within Africa. This proactive and decentralized strategy recognizes the diversity across the continent and aims to foster inclusivity in the form of sub-regional conferences, acknowledging the varied experiences of different regions.

DAY 2: POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING REPARATIONS

PANEL 2 - THE LAW AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES OF REPARATIONS

11. A panelist that addressed issues related to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), emphasised the importance of using international law to shape narratives and promote reparations implementation in Africa. She emphasized the legal definition of reparations

and mentioned specific cases, such as the Chagos Archipelago, as potential bases for reparation cases.

12. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the 9th Pan African Congress USA, stressed the importance of analysing and approaching reparation initiatives through a pan-African lens. He suggested that reestablishing essential Pan-African unity across geographic and ideological lines is critical for progress on issues such as reparations.

Key Outcomes of Panel 2

13. The recommendations included the need to build on the foundations laid by early Pan-Africanist pioneers, strengthening grassroots networks and organizations, and elevating underrepresented periods, places, and actors in Pan-Africanism history.

14. A founding member of the Africa Judges and Jurists' Forum (AJJF), emphasized the need for a concerted effort to raise awareness and build a movement in Africa demanding reparations. He emphasized the need for both political and legal strategies to reach the "tipping point" of mass support for reparations, including strengthening historical documentation and research efforts, advancing strong economic and developmental arguments for reparations, and targeting policymakers, civil society, faith groups, and the general public to generate grassroots momentum.

PANEL 3 - REPARATIONS IN ACTION

15. A case study of Colombia was used in this panel; albeit the fact that Colombia has taken steps to recognize Afro-descendant communities, including the election of its first Black female Vice President and the formation of a historical reparations Commission, affirmative action policies have been implemented in countries throughout Latin America, including Brazil, and land rights laws such as Colombia's Law 70 recognize collective land titles for Afro communities. Despite progress, racism, violence, and insufficient legal protection remain prevalent in the region.

16. Key recommendations include increasing political participation through quotas, fully implementing affirmative action, strengthening land rights laws, reforming legal frameworks to protect Afro-descendant cultures, enacting anti-racism legislation, and documenting best practices. The significance of reparations as a precondition for meaningful progress was mentioned by another panellist who advocated for direct engagement between African civil society and the AU, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and lessons from Namibia's experience with Germany. Pan-African solidarity, cross-regional learning, and a global review of reparations examples were all cited as critical to achieving a common vision for justice.

PANEL 4 - DEVELOPING AND COUNTERING NARRATIVES AROUND REPARATIONS FOR HISTORICAL CRIMES AGAINST AFRICANS AND PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

17. This session delved into the distinctive characterization of reparations claims related to historical injustices against African communities, drawing comparisons with analogous claims made by other groups. It also put forward a strategy for garnering worldwide public support for reparations aimed at benefiting Africans and individuals of African descent. It suggested strategies for global public support, highlighting Jamaica's efforts in internal reparations, legislative actions, education reform, and intergenerational focus.

Key Outcome of Panel 4

18. The presentations and discussions highlighted the need for a unified, inclusive, and comprehensive approach to reparations, incorporating historical understanding, education, and community empowerment. These recommendations form the basis for future initiatives to advance the reparations cause and promote liberation within the global African community.

19. The panel emphasized strategies for advancing the reparations movement, including mobilizing global public opinion, deconstructing narratives, mobilizing global public opinion, revising educational curricula, and recognizing the cultural contributions of enslaved Africans. It proposed the need to integrate reparations education into high school curricula and digital platforms, acknowledging various roles of the perpetrators of slavery and demanding comprehensive reparations. The panel also highlighted the importance of youth empowerment and leadership, challenging narratives among African descent, and promoting African cultural heritage in Western societies.

PANEL 5 - MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR REPARATIONS: CREATION OF A GLOBAL REPARATIONS LEGACY FUND

20. The discussions on reparations at the conference involved presentations and recommendations from various speakers. Key themes included the importance of international partnerships, youth involvement, leveraging digitalization, and addressing challenges in securing financial support for reparations initiatives.

21. Panellists emphasized the role of youth in funding reparation programmes and advocated for global coalitions, non-monetary support, and collaborative design with communities and governments. The challenges in establishing a Global Reparations Fund were mentioned and the panel recommended a shift from competition to cooperation, emphasizing transparency and an independent fund. Self-managed and self-funded reparations were proposed as well, advocating for community trustees and a practical approach to demands. Mr. Olomofe provided insights into fund management, questioning its purpose, and urging a comprehensive approach beyond financial compensation.

22. Delegates emphasized the need for a Reparations and Dignity Fund, including for addressing the situation of African Americans, adopting a Collective Culture Model, and structured fund management. Recommendations included defining the fund's

purpose, acknowledging African American representation, advocating for collective culture models, and strategic resource mobilization.

DAY 3: BRIDGE BUILDING: COLLABORATION, EDUCATION AND THE NEXT STEPS

PANEL 6 - REPARATIONS AS A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

23. The panel brought together reparations activists and campaigners to discuss critical issues, with a focus on building intercontinental movements in Africa and the global African Diaspora. The panellists discussed key challenges and strategies on reparations with the goal of encouraging collaboration and addressing historical injustices on both the African continent and within the global African Diaspora.

24. There was a presentation on redefining reparations through three approaches; personhood, healing and wellness, and truth. The panellists highlighted the importance of recognizing the humanity of marginalized groups and the need for reparative justice to involve narrating the past and acknowledging voices previously silenced. The dismantling of systems obstructing understanding and the inclusion of diverse experts were underlined.

25. Another panellist discussed the barriers to reparations, drawing parallels with historical lessons from the 1958 conference. He emphasized the need for accounting for historical injustices, addressing structural inequalities, and recognizing Haiti's role in the African Atlantic. Recommendations included acknowledging the debt to Haiti and accounting for the entire period of enslavement.

26. A presenter discussed the challenges and opportunities in the reparations' movement, highlighting the Institute of the Black World 21st Century's united front approach. He emphasized the importance of African nations and leaders actively engaging in the movement, collaboration with civil society, and learning from historical documents like the Accra Declaration.

27. Delegates' contributions suggested actions such as creating an African Remembrance Day, reviving the Liberation Committee, focusing on youth engagement, acknowledging Haiti as a special case, making reparations a priority for the African Union, collaborating internationally, utilizing UN processes, identifying legislative champions, balancing tribunal and arithmetic approaches, organizing a reparations concert series, and exploring the CARICOM model for reparations.

28. Overall, the presentations and contributions emphasized the multifaceted nature of reparations, including acknowledging historical injustices, promoting collaboration, and incorporating diverse voices and strategies for a comprehensive and effective reparations movement.

PANEL 7 - YOUTH AND WOMEN IN REPARATIONS ADVOCACY

29. The Vice President of KEMBA Youth for Reparations, stressed the importance of involving youth in reparations advocacy, citing CARICOM's initiatives. She highlighted the need for a simplified message, meeting youth where they are, and fostering an integrated and collaborative approach. They recommended enhancing capacity building for marginalized youth and empowering small groups, emphasizing the importance of youth understanding the movement and its demands.

30. There was emphasis on the significance of Ubuntu energy in restoring truth, justice, and harmony, as well as the need for civil society and grassroots participation in the reparations' movement. African women's leadership as well as an environment of mutual respects were encouraged.

31. The Vice President of the Caribbean Studies Association, aligned with Dorbrene O'Marde on defining reparations by the damage they seek to repair. He highlighted St. Maarten's claim for reparations from the Netherlands, following the CARICOM Ten Point Plan, including a formal apology, cooperation commitments, and recognition of ancestral rights. Other presenters stressed the importance of addressing the issue of reparation and creating a more conducive environment for women.

PANEL 8: BUILDING AND SUSTAINING A GLOBAL ADVOCACY MOVEMENT

32. The final session proposed a strategy for bringing together coalitions from Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Americas and developing a global joint action plan.

33. The panel recommended acknowledging past efforts in reparations and the promotion of global advocacy, making use of inclusive language. It proposed the establishment of commissions and committees as well as an independent reparations fund, involving youth and women's organizations, in collaboration with mainstream media to promote educational initiatives. The panel emphasized the need for a united front in the provision of financial support, youth and women's involvement, media and narrative building, accountability, justice, and Pan-Africanism as platforms for mobilizing and propelling the reparations agenda.

34. The final session calls for national intersectoral commissions for historical reparations, and financial and non-financial support as well as accountability and justice for colonial powers' crimes of slavery and genocide in the pursuit of the reparations' movement.

CLOSING CEREMONY: STATEMENTS AND CALL TO ACTION

35. The Accra Reparations Conference has provided a blueprint for advancing the global reparations agenda. A proclamation was presented at the concluding session containing some of the key recommendations that included the operationalization of a

Committee of Experts on Reparations, the creation of a Reparations Fund and a proposal for appointment of a Special High Envoy on reparations.

36. There was a call for an enhanced engagement with civil society, transcontinental partnerships, litigation options, empowering marginalized voices, advocacy for a reform of the global financial system, compensation for people of African descent affected by climate change, restitution of cultural artefacts, reforming multilateral institutions, and the regular holding of reparations conferences.

37. The conference also called for international entities to commit themselves to supporting the global and international claim for reparations. It called on academic institutions to lead in producing knowledge and ideation necessary for the reparations movement.

38. It was proposed that resolutions within the UN should involve a budgetary commitment to the second Decade for People of African Descent and African business people to fund the struggle for reparations. Financial contributions of individuals to the cause of reparations was encouraged. Delegates proposed declaring 2025 as the Year of “Justice for Africa Through Reparations”. The Conference requested H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, to serve as a core Champion for the cause, encouraging other AU MS to offer to host the Conference in collaboration with the Commission.

39. In conclusion, the Accra Reparations Conference aims to advance the global reparations agenda through various recommendations, including proposals for the operationalization of a Committee of Experts on Reparations, the creation of an independent Reparations Fund, the appointment of a Special High Envoy on reparations, enhanced engagement with civil society, transcontinental partnerships, and the reform of multilateral institutions.

OFFICIAL CLOSING

40. As part of his reflections, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Hon. Ampratwum-Sarpong, highlighted the enduring legacies of slavery and other forms of oppression and commended the African Union and all stakeholders for providing a platform to articulate a common African position and program of action on reparations for historical crimes. The Republic of Ghana, under the leadership of President Nana Akufo-Addo, was recognized for its vision in advocating for reparatory justice.

41. The significance of the Accra Proclamation on Reparations, derived from the Conference, was underscored as a historic guide, offering momentum to operationalize multi-stakeholder mechanisms and processes. The Honourable Deputy Minister reiterated the crucial role of collaboration, unity, and resilience in the pursuit of restorative justice for Africa and Africans. He quoted President Nana Akufo-Addo,

affirming that the call for reparations is not a plea for charity but a legitimate demand for justice.

42. Drawing a parallel between reparations for the Holocaust victims and the descendants of the transatlantic slave trade victims, he stressed the need for closure after 400 years. As the Conference concluded, the Honourable Minister urged delegates to reflect on the lessons learned and to continue the journey with unwavering determination. He called for harnessing the momentum generated at the Conference and mobilizing various sectors, including grassroots movements, civil society, the private sector, and the next generation, to effect real change.



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
BUILDING A UNITED FRONT TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE
AND REPARATIONS TO AFRICANS
14 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2023
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ACCRA PROCLAMATION ON REPARATIONS

PREAMBLE

We, the delegates participating in the Accra Reparations Conference held in Accra, Ghana from 14 to 17 November 2023, under the theme "*Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and Reparations to Africans*" (hereafter referred to as "Accra Reparations Conference" or "Conference"), and hailing from all the regions of the Continent of Africa and the African Diaspora, including the Caribbean, Latin America, North America, Europe and the U.K.;

EXPRESSING our profound appreciation to His Excellency, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the Government and People of the Republic of Ghana and the African Union for co-organizing and conducting this Conference, and to His Excellency Azali Assoumani President of the Union of Comoros, and Chairperson of the African Union (AU) for the support and contribution provided by the Union to this Conference;

ACKNOWLEDGING, with appreciation, the invaluable statements and contributions of the Prime Ministers of Burundi and Barbados, Ministers of Member States of the AU, the Secretary General of the CARICOM, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Senior Officials attending this Conference;

ALSO NOTING WITH DEEP APPRECIATION, the work led by the Permanent Representative of the Government of Ghana to the African Union in conceptualizing, formulating and shepherding the conduct of the Conference and other pre-conference activities with the AU Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) as well as the substantive and invaluable contributions of the African Union Commission (AUC) in the preparation of the Conference;

RECOGNIZING that the Accra Reparations Conference convened with a shared commitment to addressing historical injustices and injurious crimes committed against Africans and people of African descent, through transatlantic enslavement, colonialism and apartheid, and to addressing the inequities present in the international economic and political orders, is a demonstration of the African Union's commitment to advancing the cause of reparatory justice and healing for Africans and for all people of African descent;

NOTING that the Accra Reparations Conference is in fulfilment of the decision taken in February 2023 at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and

Government of the African Union, endorsing the Government of Ghana's proposal to co-organize with relevant stakeholders and host an International Conference towards "Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans";

COGNIZANT that in July 2023, a High-Level delegation of the African Union conducted a study tour to the Republic of Barbados, with a view to developing stronger AU-CARICOM cooperation in advancing the agenda on reparations and racial healing;

NOTING FURTHER that the findings and recommendations that emerged from the Study Tour called for the need to implement joint initiatives that ensure civil society perspectives are represented in the mobilization and advocacy for reparations;

RECALLING that in November 2022, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) passed a resolution (ACHPR/Res.543 (LXXIII) 2022) reaffirming that accountability and the provision of remedies for historical mass crimes, including slavery, the trade and trafficking of enslaved Africans, colonialism and racial segregation are integral to combatting ongoing systemic racism and to the advancement of the human rights of Africans and people of African descent;

FURTHER RECALLING that in August 2022, the Government of the Republic of Ghana and the African Union, in collaboration with global civil society, held the Accra Summit on Reparations and Healing to build on ongoing conversations in and outside of the African Continent and explore ways to create a platform for adoption of a single transcontinental plan for reparations;

REITERATING our respective and collective understanding and abhorrence of the profound and lasting impacts of slavery, colonialism, racial discrimination and neo-colonialism on Africans and people of African descent, and how these continue to cause immense suffering, cultural disruption, economic exploitation, emotional trauma and unending discrimination endured by Africans and people of African descent throughout history;

AFFIRMING that the fulfilment of reparations is a moral as well as a legal imperative rooted in principles of justice, human rights and human dignity, and that the claim for reparations represents a concrete step towards remedying historical wrongs and fostering healing among the people of Africa and people of African descent;

UNDERSCORING the historic importance of this gathering and the impetus to operationalize proposed and/or existing multi-stakeholder mechanisms and processes as recommended by the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, including but not limited to the establishment of an African Committee of Experts on Reparations for the purpose of developing a Common African Position on Reparations and Healing and incorporate therein, an African-Caribbean Programme of Action; and to consider the establishment of an AU – diaspora-wide program of action in pursuit of the objective of realizing a global African community;

FIRMLY CONVINCED of the need to build on these efforts and outcomes as the basis for establishing a solid foundation for the reinforcement of unity and revitalization of the global African community as a panacea for a much wider and sustained transcontinental campaign for reparations;

RE-EMPHASIZING the essentiality of resourcing and collectively strengthening the relevant civil society-led actions and initiatives in and outside the African Continent, and promoting a global African reparatory justice campaign that is devoid of unnecessary duplication of efforts;

HEREBY COMMIT to undertaking the following social, cultural, political and economic areas of action;

Guided by the rich deliberations of the Conference attended by legal experts, policymakers, academics, and stakeholders from, among others, the African Union, the global African diaspora and peoples of African descent, and the Caribbean Region

Commitments of the Accra Reparations Conference and Recommendations for Member States of the African Union:

1. **Establishment by the African Union Commission and inauguration of a Committee of Experts on Reparations, in consultation with Member States, ECOSOCC and other AU Organs as well as the RECs, for the purpose of developing a Common African Policy on Reparations and incorporating therein, an African Reparatory Programme of Action, in accordance with due process and taking into consideration the following proposals:**
 - a. To serve as a principal point of reference for the African Union on matters relating to reparations and healing;
 - b. To solicit, nurture and promote reparatory justice knowledge at the African Union, by developing and implementing knowledge about reparations between and among different AU organs, Member States and the global African community;
 - c. Liaise with and support the mandate of an AU Special Envoy on Reparations for Africa; and
 - d. Undertake any other tasks which may be assigned and determined by the African Union.
2. **Establishment of a Global Reparations Fund, based in Africa and supported by multilateral institutions and agencies aligned with the reparatory justice agenda. Such a Fund will complement the efforts of similar initiatives in and outside the Continent, while operating as an autonomous entity geared towards ensuring the judicious utilization of a pool of resources to advance the campaign for reparations, in close cooperation with the African Union Commission and for consideration by Member States, according to due process;**

3. **Establishment of the Office of AU Special Envoy on Reparations for Africans**, to be recommended for consideration according to the AUC due process, and with a view to help champion the international advocacy and campaign for reparations at the global level. The full mandate of this Special **Envoy** will be determined, in consultation with the Executive Council of the African Union. The postholder of this office will reinforce the work of the Committee of Experts on Reparations and Healing.
4. **Recognition of African civil society efforts on reparations:** The African Union Commission, through the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), have made tremendous progress in engaging and collaborating with African peoples through civil society actors, and expanding engagement with the African Diaspora community through State and non-state institutions. To build on this and continue the advancement of equitable representation and participation that will inform the day-to-day discourses on reparations and reparative justice, we commit to supporting relevant African networks, coalitions and initiatives that foster synergy and cooperation between and among the relevant actors of the reparatory justice movement.
5. **Creation of a transcontinental partnership framework between the AU, CARICOM Latin American States, and the African diaspora in Europe and all other regions in the world, including, where appropriate, relevant CSOs:** This will seek to enhance Global South cooperation, in close coordination with the African Union Commission, through stronger collaboration between the African Union (AU) and other inter- governmental entities in the Global South with significant African and people of African descent. The framework will support efforts by the AU to accelerate processes that will catalyse the development of transcontinental messaging around reparations, including the need to emphasize that reparations are an integral pillar for the achievement of sustainable development. It will also be deployed to foster intercontinental knowledge building and exchange on reparations and healing.
6. **Exploration of legal and judicial options for reparations:** This will involve engagement, in close coordination with the African Union Commission, on the question of how international law interacts with or supports the quest for reparations, including the potential for exploring litigation options in regional and international court systems. This effort will require the African Union, including the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, CARICOM and Latin American states, Europe and all other regions of the world, among others, in collaboration with civil society, to engage the United Nations and other multilateral bodies on the legal merits of the call for reparations, including on the question of whether acts of enslavement, colonialism and apartheid against Africans, constitute grave violations of human rights at the time they were committed. In addition, we support actions being taken in and outside the Continent by individual Member States and descendants of

victims of these historical crimes and call on the African Union to lend its weight behind future litigatory actions for reparations.

7. **Increased role for the United Nations:** Conference Members call on the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, to convene, in close coordination with the African Union Commission, an International Conference, involving former colonial powers, on the issue of reparations as well as to extend the Decade for People of African Descent, for acknowledgement and healing with regard to the Trans-Atlantic enslavement, colonialism, and apartheid.
8. **Establishment of a Legal Reference Group,** in close coordination with the African Union Commission, to be set up to support the AU Committee of Experts and the AU Special Envoy, through the provision of legal advice on the question of reparations, including best practice on the law, practice and litigation of the reparation's agenda. The Legal/Expert Reference Group will further provide thought leadership and advice, drawing from global case studies, for influencing policy and advocating for the application of global norms in support of reparatory justice.
9. **Amplification of marginalized voices in the reparatory justice movement.** The Conference acknowledges that contemporary forms of discrimination, especially against women and young people, stem from long-standing discriminatory and non-representative policies rooted in colonialism, apartheid and neo-colonialism, which have further strained the overall development of former colonized countries in the Global South. As such, the Conference calls for political discussions on reparations accompanied by actions that demonstrate genuine socio-political equality through fair representation of marginalized voices.
10. **A united front for the reform of global financial systems and structures:** The delegates commit to supporting the advocacy campaign headlined by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and the Republic of Ghana for the reform of the global financial infrastructure with a view to achieving a new global financial pact that is reparatory in nature and economically equitable in scope and practice. Member States of the AU, CARICOM and other developing and Least Developed Countries that have been adversely impacted by trans-Atlantic enslavement, colonialism, apartheid and other forms of extractivism, are urged to support the Government of Ghana and similar efforts, including the Bridgetown Initiative championed by Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of the Republic of Barbados, to pursue joint reparatory efforts within the global multilateral system.
11. **Increased and active role for AU organs Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the reparations campaign:** Conference delegates further call on AU organs, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union, to take concrete measures, in close coordination with the African Union Commission, that would promote and sustain linkages between the various AU organs, the RECs and Civil Society, including through the use of information and communication

technology as well as the arts and culture industries to advance reparatory justice and healing.

12. **Climate justice and reparatory justice:** The delegates of the Conference note that descendants of the victims of Trans-Atlantic enslavement and colonialism have also been exposed to the dangers of climate change, including the impact of environmental damage caused by the exploitative forces of colonialism and through the forced relocation of enslaved African labour to other regions. Delegates, therefore, commit to supporting efforts campaigning for the compensation of the people of African descent suffering from those effects.
13. **Repatriation, restitution and safeguarding of African cultural artifacts:** Developing a strong Common African Position on the Restitution of Cultural Property and Heritage and producing a Framework for Action on the Negotiations for the Return/Restitution of illicitly trafficked cultural property from the Continent in accordance with the Continental Consultations on the Restitution of Cultural Property and Heritage held from 30 November to 2 December 2021. African experts should endeavour to establish networks of African cultural experts, policymakers, certified dealers and auctioneers, and museum curators, among others, working in combatting illicit trafficking in cultural property and heritage. As the African Union Agenda 2063 underscored, Africa's stolen culture, heritage and artifacts should be fully repatriated and safeguarded.
14. **Neo-colonialism:** Highlight that African States are still facing the repercussions of trans- Atlantic enslavement, colonialism, and apartheid through the persistence of neo- colonialism and dependency on former colonial powers. Hence, they call for immediate, just and comprehensive reforms of the prevailing architecture of multilateral institutions by fully realizing related African Common Positions. Particularly in regard to the composition and working methods of the United Nations Security Council, and the Bretton Woods Institutions, as well as ensuring an equitable and just international system through concrete measures including, but not limited to, special and differential treatment, common but differentiated responsibility and mechanisms for loss and damage, debt relief, curbing illicit financial flows and return of African cultural artifacts.
15. **Propose** the holding of the International Conference on Reparations regularly and **encourage** other AU Member States to offer to host the Conference in collaboration with the AU Commission, alongside other relevant mechanisms for dialogue relating to specific aspects of reparations to sustain the momentum.
16. **Recommend** that the Theme of the Year 2025 be “**Justice for Africa Through Reparations**”.

2024-01-15

Building a United Front to Promote the cause of Justice and Payment of Reparations to Africans [(Item proposed jointly by the Republic of Ghana and the AU)]

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