



**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thirty-Sixth Ordinary Session
06 - 07 February 2020
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

EX.CL/1213(XXXVI) Add.3
Original : English

**PROMOTING CLOSER COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION, THE AFRICAN DIASPORA (6TH
REGION) PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND THE CARIBBEAN
AND PACIFIC REGIONS**
(Item proposed by the Republic of Kenya)

**PROMOTING CLOSER COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
AFRICAN UNION, THE AFRICAN DIASPORA (6TH REGION) PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN DESCENT AND THE CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC REGIONS
*(Item proposed by the Republic of Kenya)***

Context:

The Member States of the African Union in adopting the Constitutive Act, affirmed, inter alia, their inspiration by the noble ideals which guided the founding fathers of our Continental Organization and generations of Pan-Africanists in their determination to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States;

The precursor to the African Union, the Organization of African Unity, played a determining and invaluable role in the liberation of the continent, the affirmation of a common identity and the process of attainment of the unity of our continent and has provided a unique framework for our collective action in Africa and in our relations with the rest of the world

The United Nations General Assembly, adopted resolution 68/237 adopted on 23rd December, 2013, proclaimed 1 January 2015 to 31st December, 2024 as the International Decade for people of African Descent under the Theme; People of African descent: recognition, justice and development;

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its 32nd Ordinary Session in February, 2019 adopted a Declaration on the AU Recognition of the 400th Anniversary of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Assembly/AU/Decl.2(XXXII). In the Declaration, the Assembly, inter alia:

- i. Reaffirmed our commitment to the Unity of African People, to building an integrated Africa, to forging cultural, political, social and economic linkages that further the Pan Africanist dream among all peoples of African descent;
- ii. Urged all Member States of the Union to consider immigration, economic, cultural and social policies that allow the Africans descended from the victims and survivors of the transatlantic Slave Trade to reconnect and re-engage with their brethren in the African Continent;

The African Union, in the context of the Constitutive Act, has established institutions; adopted policies and frameworks, including Agenda 2063 to advance the objectives of the Union, which include, to:

- i. Achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa;
- ii. Encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- iii. Promote peace, security, and stability on the continent;

- iv. Establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations.

Agenda 2063 has been adopted by Member States of the African Union as Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

Aspiration number two (2) of Agenda 2063 speaks to "An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance". Africa commits to have dynamic and mutually beneficial links with her Diaspora

There is an important nexus between sustainable development on the one hand, and peace and security on the other; and in this regard, a strong partnership between African people with the African Diaspora and all people of African descent has great potential to harness significant resources, both human and capital for: employment creation; public service provision; economic transformation; and, human development in Africa and thereby enhancing security stability in the continent, realizing the objective of the African agenda of Silencing the Guns by 2020.

The strong cultural heritage between Africa, its Diaspora and people of African descent as an important ingredient for promoting national cohesion. Cooperation and collaboration between Africa, its Diaspora and people of African Descent presents opportunities for sharing important lessons on embracing diversity to forge cohesive inclusive societies, a prerequisite for good governance.

The African Diaspora and People of African Descent spread across the world are better placed to lobby and galvanize support for Africa and African Initiatives in the countries live in. Partnering with the Diaspora and People of African Descent, Africa will be able to call on them to be its advocates in their respective areas of jurisdiction; pushing the case for Africa and lobbying decision makers to adopt pro-African policies.

Purpose of the Declaration:

1. To reaffirm that strong cultural linkages between African People, the African Diaspora and all Peoples of African descent.
2. To recognize the important role that the African Diaspora and the people of African Descent can play in:
 - i. Promoting Africa and the African Agenda;
 - ii. Advancing Africa's commitment to an integrated, Peaceful and prosperous Africa, and specifically to the aspiration to silence the guns by 2020;
 - iii. Bridging the gap in financing and human resources requirements for the implementation of African agenda;
 - iv. Providing competencies and experiences that can advance the cause for sustainable peace, stability and development, by addressing the drivers of conflict in society;

3. To give political impetus to a partnership between the African Union and countries of CARICOM, the Caribbean and the Pacific; and assist in advancing Africa's commitment to an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa;
4. To provide political goodwill and affirmation for activities aimed at forging closer ties with the African diaspora and people of African Descent, including the proposed Africa – CARICOM summit in 2020 to be hosted by Kenya in early 2020 and the R400 Summit to be hosted by Ghana in August, 2020
5. To endorse the holding of a summit between African and the Caribbean and Pacific States in 2021, and invite Member States in a position to do so to offer to host the Summit.

**Kenya Embassy,
Addis Ababa.
23rd December, 2019**

Draft Declaration on Promoting closer collaboration and cooperation between the African Union, the African Diaspora (6th Region) People of African Descent and the Caribbean and Pacific Regions:

We, Heads of State and Government of the African Union, assembled on 10 February 2020 at our 33rd Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

Evoking the Unity of the African peoples, bound together by neighbourliness, cultural affinity, historical experiences, our common struggles for independence and dignity, our civilizational heritage and our common destiny with all peoples of African Descent;

Reaffirming our commitment to the Unity of African People, to building an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa, to forging Cultural, Political, Social and Economic linkages that further the Pan-Africanist dream among all peoples of African Descent:

Recognizing the important role played by Pan-Africanists and peoples of African descent across many continents in the liberation struggles and movements in Africa;

Inspired by United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/237 by which the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1 January 2015 to 31st December, 2024 as the International Decade for people of African Descent under the Theme; People of African descent: recognition, justice and development;

Determined to explore and harness the historic links between Africa and all people of African descent in 2019 as part of the commemoration of 400th anniversary of transatlantic slave trade;

Recalling our Assembly declaration on the AU Recognition of the 400th Anniversary of transatlantic slave trade adopted during our 32nd Ordinary Session on 11th February, 2019 by which we, inter alia, urged all Member States of the Union to consider immigration, economic, cultural and social policies that allow the Africans descended from the victims and survivors of the transatlantic Slave Trade to reconnect and re-engage with their brethren in the African Continent;

Hereby:

1. *Affirm* the strong cultural and historical linkages between the people of Africa, the African diaspora and all the people of African descent and commit to strengthen these linkages so as to realize the aspirations of all our people for peace and stability, post conflict reconstruction and development, and the transformation of our economies to deliver a prosperity for all the African people and people of African descent;
2. *Note with appreciation* the dialogue on AU Recognition of the 400th Anniversary of transatlantic Slave Trade, hosted by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya on 11th February, 2019 during which a number of African Leaders promised to upscale engagement and linkages with all People of African descent;

3. *Also note with appreciation* the programme of events and summits, organized within the framework of the commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of transatlantic Slave Trade, including the R400 Summit held from 27th – 29th September, 2019 in Charlotte, North Carolina, which served as forum for cultural celebration, exchange information, a space to foster leadership, a venture platform impacting on agriculture, commerce, education, female empowerment and leadership, food security, healthcare and investing in the next generation;
4. *Welcome with appreciation* the commitment by Kenya to host an Africa – CARICOM summit in 2020 to advance the agenda of upscaling engagement and linkages with all People of African descent;
5. *Also welcome with appreciation* the R400 Summit proposed to be held in August 2020 in Ghana*;
6. Commit to host a summit between African and the Caribbean and Pacific States in 2021, and in this regard invites Member States in a position to do so to offer to host the Summit;
7. Encourage all Member States to enhance their programmes in upscaling engagement and linkages with all People of African descent, and to participate in the planned activities.

* to confirm with Ghana whether they will host the R400-US Summit in 2020.

2020-02-07

Promoting Closer Collaboration and Cooperation Between the African Union, the African Diaspora (6th Region) People of African Descent and the Caribbean and Pacific Regions (Item proposed by the Republic of Kenya)

African Union

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