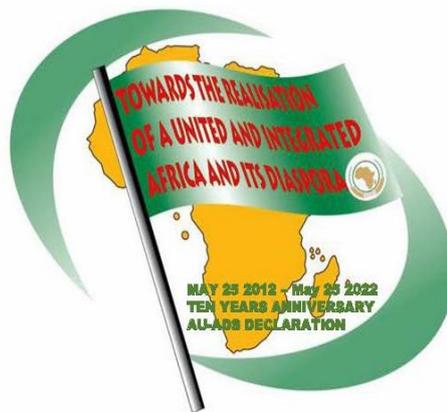


THE ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION 2022

SUMMARY STATEMENT & AGREEMENTS TO ACCOMPANY THE DECLARATION (P19) & RESOLUTIONS (P25)



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

DATE: MAY 23-27, 2022

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Global Pan African RootsSynergy Roundtable was a self-supported and independent event. Thanks and appreciation is extended to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the Roundtable. The Roundtable was supported by interested Pan Africanists, Activists, Scientists and Scholars and brought together delegates from interested Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from the Global African World a selection of whom participated as Speakers and Panelists as well as other Authorities from: - Africa, Australia/Asia/Oceanic, USA and Canada, The Caribbean, Europe, South (including Brazil), Central America and the Middle East.

The Roundtable Hosts and Coordinators would like to acknowledge:-

- the support of Citizens & Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) and Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) by sending representation during the Roundtable;
- the contribution of Caribbean Community and Commons Market (CARICOM) Official and founder of the Clement Payne Movement (CPAN), H.E. Ambassador Dr. David Comissiong;
- the role of the government of the Federal Republic Ethiopia and an enabling environment;
- the participation of the Ethiopia Community and especially the Rastafari Community;
- the African Union Commission (AUC) for facilitation of the African Union Building Tour including the historical information for the Roundtable Diasporan Delegation;
- The 'on the Ground'-Facilitators and the Ellilly International Management.

Further, we also acknowledge: - the Representatives at the Roundtable, Speakers, Panelists and Working Group Moderators, The Masters of Ceremony, the contribution from Dr. Leonard Jeffries during the first series of the Honourable Ambassador Baba Dudley Thompson's Lecture and his management. We owe the Thompson's Family respect for their support and contribution during the special celebration of the life of the late Honourable Ambassador Baba Dudley Thompson that was one of the central aspect of this Roundtable.

Supreme appreciation is extended to His Royal Majesty King Alfred Diète Spiff and the Special Envoy from the African Diaspora for being physically present and participating throughout the duration of the Roundtable.

Additionally, thanks to the CEOAfrica Media Manager Prince Cletus.

HOSTS AND COORDINATORS:-

Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus (SRDC)

Professor Dr. David Horne

African Union African Diaspora 6th Region FWG Europe (AUADSFWG) &

African Diaspora Union (AFRIDU)

Dr. Barryl A. Biekman

African Diaspora Union (AFRIDU)

Archbishop Professor Dr. Chidiebere Anelechi Ogbu

Right To Return Alliance (RTRA), and 6th Region African Diaspora Alliance In Tanzania (6RADAT),

Mrs. Grace Abena James

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(i) INTRODUCTION

Governments and Representatives of the African Union (AU), the West Indies, Latin America, South America and various representatives from the African Diaspora met during the Global African Diaspora Summit in Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa and witnessed the historic adoption of the Declaration of The Global African Diaspora Summit (DGADS 2012).

The same included a commitment to enable the African Diaspora to increase their participation in the affairs of the AU as observers and eventually as a Sixth Region of the African Continent which substantially contributed to the implementation of policies and programmes.

Many Africans in the African Diaspora, including Pan Africanists, other civil society activists and those who had already passed away, had been working and waiting for decades for this pivotal moment in 2012 for the adoption of this kind of Declaration. That moment had been preceded by many sessions over a series of years at various levels of government and community expertise.

Following consultations with the Citizens & Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) as the African Diasporan focal point of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the co-ordination hub for implementing the DGADS 2012 about what the African Union Commission intended to do on May 25, 2022 or thereabouts, to review the progress that has occurred during the past ten years. The fact that there was no plan to do so was brought to our attention during January 2022. As such, African Diaspora Civil Society Organizations, Pan Africanists, and African Activist Organizations decided to organize this special Roundtable on that AU Diaspora Declaration: Ten Years After. It was not only a challenge but their duty.

This collective of African Diasporan delegates, continue to call on the AU, CIDO and the Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) to support and facilitate the Roundtable. As GPASR representatives understand that it is imperative to walk in tandem with the leadership of the AU, CIDO and ECOSOCC towards the realization of the Sixth Region mandate. In accepting that it is continuing the work of our great Pan African Heroes and Sheroes, with devotion, dedication and oneness. With CIDO and ECOSOCC finding the Roundtable important enough to contribute to the Roundtable program, in their own way, is to be considered as recognition of the mission of the Roundtable.

(ii) SUMMARY STATEMENT AND AGREEMENTS

During three of the days of this independent and self-supported Roundtable the GPARSR representatives achieved:-

- 1) A review of the DGADS 2012 after its ten year milestone. An analysis and discussion of the progress of the implementation plan was completed.
- 2) The development and additions of new recommendations relevant to NOW;
- 3) An agreement to present these recommendations for review to the AUC, CIDO, ECOSOCC and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), while we continue to work in partnership with these important Organs towards achieving the expected implementation goals.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ROUNDTABLE:-

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Akalu Abraham | Mr. Howard Zemenkhu James |
| King Alfred Diète Spiff | Mrs. Iman T Uqdah Hameen |
| Mr. Alonzo Young | Ms. Janelle Hoilett |
| Ms. Amanthla Masiswe Mimi Biekman | Mrs. Jasmin V H Rowe |
| Ms. Amir Askia James | Mr. Jerry Egemba |
| Ms. Angela Marie Sayles | Mr. Leslie Sapp |
| Ms. Arall Charles | Ms. Marilyn Keturah Amoako Mitchell |
| Mr. Avondre Sayles | Mrs. Marva Helena Biekman |
| Mrs. Barryl A. Biekman | Mr. Melkamsira Fekadu Gezahegn |
| Mr. Cletus Prince | Mr. Ogbu Chidiebere Anelechi |
| Mr. David Gonza | Mrs. Olagoke-Sotola Abiola Oluponle |
| Mr. David Horne | Mr. Prosper Ayawei |
| Ms. Earna Williams Terefe-Kassa | Mr. Ras Wolde Tegassa King |
| Mr. Elvis Sylvester Alfonsus Biekman | Mr. Rene Doris Irakoze |
| Mrs. Grace A James | Ms. Rinah Samuel Haileyesus |
| Mr. Guthrie Kemuel Zeri | Ms. Yaa Asantewa |
| Mrs. Hadjaratou Fatoumata | Mr. Yaw Owusu Akyeaw |
| Mr. Haileab Meressa | |
| Mr. Haki Ammi | |

SPEAKERS:-

Statements on

The significance and importance of May 25th, the African Liberation Day for Africa and its Diaspora. Roundtable Organization & Planning Committee, President of the Sixth Region African Diaspora Caucus,
Professor Dr. David Horne

The CARICOM experience: What can we learn from the African Union –Caricom – CPAN Process? ambassador of the Republic of Barbados to Cuba,
H.E. Honorable Dr. David Comissiong

Solidarity Statement from the Diaspora Region African Union African Diaspora Facilitators Working Group EU, **Dr. Tumenta Kenedy**

Solidarity Statement from the Diaspora Region Middle East African Diaspora Community Council,
Dr. Khazriel Ben Yehuda

Solidarity Statement from the Diaspora Region Coordinator Celebration African Australian
Honorable John Nze-Bertram LLB, LLM, MPAbus

Message of encouragement towards the African Royal Kingdoms in perspective of the Right to Return National President Community Centre International Nigeria,
His Royal Majesty King Alfred Diete Spiff

Presented the first “Ambassador †Baba Dudley Thompson Lecture” World African Diaspora Union, **Professor Dr. Leonard Jeffries**

We acknowledge the written statement of the Confidant and wife of the late Ambassador Dudley Thompson **Mrs. Cecile Eistrup Thompson**

Co-referents Ambassador †Baba Dudley Thompson Family **Mr. Elliott Thompson & Mrs. Kathleen Thompson, Esq.**

The Achievements of the Sixth Executive Director of the African Roots and Heritage

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Region towards Integration and Representation to the African Union: "The Manifestation of the Vision in Ten Years"</p> | <p>Foundation and Professor of African American and American History at Hopkinsville Community, Professor Dr. Anita Diop</p> |
| <p>Historical African Diaspora blueprint to end all forms of multiple racism, as a result of the trans-Atlantic Slave trade, Slavery and Colonialism, globally.</p> | <p>IPL expert, Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation, Dr. Leslie Sapp</p> |
| <p>How African governments can make the Return easier? The Senegal Experience</p> | <p>Ambassador State of African Diaspora, H.E. R.J. Mahdi</p> |
| <p>The importance of Diaspora Ambassadors in every African, Union country</p> | <p>The Afro Atlantic Theologies & Treaties Institute, Majesty Queen Mother of the African Diaspora Benin, H.E. Dr. Dowoti Semevo Desir 1st</p> |
| <p>Solidarity Statement from the Diaspora Region</p> | <p>Board member of the Pan African Strategic & Policy Group, Section Brazil, Dr. Eduardo Lourenco Viana</p> |
| <p>The importance of the African Diaspora in perspective of the twenty seats for the Diaspora</p> | <p>AU ECOSOCC, Mr. Bright Sefah</p> |
| <p>Presentation Headlines of the adopted Declaration and Resolution</p> | <p>Roundtable Organization & Planning Committee, Chair of "The Right to Return Alliance", Mrs. Abena Grace James</p> |
| <p>The importance of the Roundtable & its Achievements</p> | <p>Roundtable Organization & Planning Committee; Ambassador African Diaspora Union and Coordinator African Union African Diaspora Facilitators Working Group EU, Dr. Barryl A. Biekman</p> |

WORKINGGROUP MODERATORS & PANELIST:-

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Perspective of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement & The Impact on African Diaspora Relations including Gender Perspectives

Moderator

Mrs. Angela Sayles

International Host Global African SHEROES Union

Panelist

Mrs. Davisha L. Johnson

International African Investors Council

POLITICAL COOPERATION

The African Union Definition of the African Diaspora. Strategies & Modalities to engage with the African Union.

Moderator

Professor Dr. David Horne President of the Sixth Region African Diaspora Caucus Professor

The 6th Region African Diaspora as a Regional Economic Community.

Panelists

Dr. Eduardo Lourenco Viana

Board member of the Pan African Strategic & Policy Group, Section Brazil

Ms. Manal Harrouche

CIDO.

Legal and Political Framework for the integration in the various Originated Organs of the African Union.

Moderator

Mrs. Abena Grace James

Chair of The Right to Return Alliance & 6RADAT

The Right to Return Campaign: Repatriation Policies and Facilities. Including good practices amongst others, the Ethiopia Ghana & Liberia Experience.

Panelist

Mr. Jerry Egemba

Chief Barrister, Ambassador African Diaspora Union

SOCIAL COOPERATION

Reparatory-, Restorative- & Climate Justice. Creation of mechanisms for Restitution and Repatriation for descendants of enslaved Africans

Moderator

Dr. Leslie Sapp

IPL expert, Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation

Knowledge transfer, Science, Technology and Education; Arts & Culture, Media & Image building

Moderator

Dr. Haki Ammi

Scholar and award-winning best-selling author/ President of the Teaching Artist Institute

Panelist

Mrs. Janelle Holett

Youth Connecting to Africa

Moderator
Mr. Avandre Sayles

Panelist
Ms. Rinah Samuel Haileyesus

1) OUTCOME OF REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM/ STRATEGY OF THE DGADS 2012

The Roundtable participants provided an analysis that appraised the collective needs in several areas of concerns for African (Diaspora) people such as:-

- The AU Definition of the African Diaspora.
- The status of developments in terms of the topics mentioned in the different paragraphs of the DGADS 2012.
- Agenda 2063 & the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA).
- Communication strategy with the AU.
- Legal and Political Framework for the integration of the African Diaspora into the key Organs of the AU.
- Human Rights' issues in general, particularly the Fundamental Human Rights of African People and the implementation of the UN Durban Declaration and Program of Action, issues relating to the September 2021 Commemoration of the Durban Declaration and its Program of Action and the UN International Decade for People of African Descent.
- Repatriation, Restorative and Reparatory Justice.
- The Right to Return Campaign: Repatriation Policies and Facilities.
- All other topics mentioned while taking into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals and Youth & Gender Issues.

These were the types of questions amongst others with which the Roundtable participants engaged:-

- What have we achieved since 25 May, 2012?
- What more still has to be done?
- What worked and did not work?
- What strategies were successful and which were not?
- Does there need to be more specificity in what the AU requires from the Diaspora and what the Diaspora expects from the AU?
- How can elements of the African Diaspora increase their operational unity and their joint efforts to help build African sustainability and strength?
- How does the issue of Right of Return / Dual Citizenship get addressed, if at all, through the Declaration?
- How is the fulfilment of the agreements valued in relation to the identified areas of Political, Economic and Social Cooperation?

| DGADS 2012 IMPLEMENTATION ACTION POINTS | ROUNDTABLE 2022 REVIEW CONCLUSIONS |
|---|--|
| 1. Host rotational AU Diaspora Conference in Africa and in the Diaspora to review the implementation of this Programme of Action. | This has not been implemented as indicated here - they have had 1 meeting in 2020 in EU, no record of periodic general review across Africa nor its Diaspora, not virtually nor otherwise. |
| 2. Involve Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of this Programme of Action. | This has not been implemented. There has been member states that have hosted Trade Conferences/Summits, however, not the AU and with Diaspora organs that are similar to RECs. |
| 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. | This has been done on a small scale with contemporary member states Diasporas. The African Diaspora has not been called as a group and had the challenges relating to gender and youth addressed on the international stage. |
| 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. | There has been direct and progressive steps towards promoting positive images internationally by many Social Media avenues within the Continent. There has not been much concerted efforts to involve the African Diaspora. |
| 5. Take necessary measures to ensure the establishment of an AU-Diaspora Foundation/ Trust to support the AU-Diaspora initiative. | This has not been done for the African Diaspora, neither at AU or states level. |
| 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 | This could take into account the proposed AU/CARICOM MOU to be signed; and other agreements at AU and states level with organs/countries/companies outside of Africa, not solely aimed at the African Diaspora. However, the priority areas show mixed efforts. Working groups for - Economic, non |

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| <p>And Technology (including the establishment of Low Earth Orbit satellite, and research in agriculture, biotechnology, renewable energy technologies, infectious and non-infectious diseases).</p> | <p>with African Diaspora; SAT, many AD have done this on a B2B, B2C by themselves not via AU working group; No satellite launched; research being done via continental CSOs; renewable energy tech is being done on a B2G and not AU and the African Diaspora.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>It is needed however has not been set up, neither at AU level nor states level. There are many African Diaspora CSO that are registered in many member states that are able and available to create & operate this.</p> |
| <p>8. Agree to set up a Diaspora Advisory Board, which will address overarching issues of concern to Africa, its Diaspora such as reparations, Right To Return and follow up to WCAR Plan of Action, amongst others.</p> | <p>It was Agreed, and discussed years later, however, not set up. It is clearly for the historic Diaspora but no attempts have been made to consult with or create it with the stakeholders. No follow up to the WCAR has been implemented either.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>We are not able to agree, neither in Principle nor Actuality, as said structures and institution has not been set up by the AU to include the African Diaspora, and the ones that have been established by the African Diaspora has not been recognized, accepted, nor accredited by the AU to work within the AU for the African Diaspora.</p> |
| <p>10. Explore various innovative and practical sources of funding for the Diaspora Programme, to ensure its sustainability.</p> | <p>As many of us do still have connections with various institutions/organs/companies in many countries outside the Continent, we do have access to varied sources of funding, from a Micro level to Corporate level, we can begin to work on many different initiatives to fund the varied Programmes.</p> <p>This has to be commensurate to the Programmes that the AU and member states have in place - to ensure that we do not lose our investments; graft at any level does not extort those funds; That the African Diaspora</p> |

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| | gets AU support, in every way, to launch an informational, cultural, and history dissemination program to sensitize continental Africans about Best Practices in business and community development with the African Diaspora; that we are able to directly and fully own our assets and everything we are investing in; and that we and our future generations are part of the citizenry of wherever we have funded our Programmes. |
| LEGACY PROJECTS | |
| a) the production of a Skills Database of African Professionals in the Diaspora. | This has not been created/produced for the African Diaspora - neither those currently domiciled on the Continent nor in the Diaspora. We hereby would like to special acknowledge the great work of †the late Lee O. Cherry one of the initiators of the African Scientific Institute. |
| b) the establishment of the African Diaspora Volunteers Corps. | This has been established however, it targets the member states Diaspora. |
| c) the African Diaspora Investment Fund. | We do not have any connections to this as a product for the African Diaspora. |
| d) a programme on the Development Marketplace for the Diaspora, as a framework for facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship among African and Diaspora. | This has been done by Europe and USA, but have not found any by the AU nor member states. However, we the African Diaspora are in a position to create and run this. |
| e) The African Remittances Institute. | Not for the African Diaspora, especially for those domiciled on the Continent. There is no mechanism in place to track how much we bring into the country where we live. |

2) NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PROGRAMME OF ACTION

I. POLITICAL COOPERATION

In the area of political cooperation, the GPARSR representatives commit to the following:-

- A. The African Diaspora seeks to develop and provide RECs for the 6th Region. For example of such an entity is:- The Economic Community of States, Nations, Territories and Realms of the African Diaspora 6th Region.
- B. The African Diaspora is prepared to provide nominations/recommendations for organizations that would be able to fill the need for RECs for the 6th Region. For example of such an entity is:- The Economic Community of States, Nations, Territories and Realms of the African Diaspora 6th Region.
- C. The Diaspora Special Advisors to the AU should be reinstated. However, measures should be put in place to ensure that such Advisors are in a position to report to their African Diaspora constituencies on a regular basis.
- D. Direct the AU to appoint Diaspora Affairs Government officials in each of their African member countries who will include in their work responsibilities the creation of Africa Diaspora Right of Return policies. The implementation of AU hiring policies which will allow greater consideration for the hiring of qualified members of the African Diaspora.
- E. Change the term the African Diaspora is referred to, to include the “6th Region” being reflected in the Constitutive Act. In developing a Diaspora Engagement Policy, it is necessary to begin with definitions with regard to who is included in the Diaspora and what the meaning of African Diaspora entails within the context of the policy.
- F. Develop a conceptual framework to redefine the term African Diaspora in consultation with various African Descendants Groups in the African Diaspora, as the current one is misleading/confusing as it does not adequately describe the Descendants of Slavery, nor include those Descendants that have Repatriated. A generally accepted Framework involves three distinct categories. This typology refers to the amount of years ago that the group in question left the African continent.
 1. Ancient Voluntary Migration Diaspora (thousands of years ago).
 2. Historic Forced Migration Diaspora (centuries of years ago, enslaved).
 3. Current Voluntary Migration Diaspora (decades of years ago), second and third generation Diaspora (born abroad in the recent past).

The Governance committee must be consulted on this, in the spirit of Kujichagulia.

II. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

In the area of economic cooperation, the GPARSR representatives commit to the following:-

- A. Support the development of a current and reliable Database in addition to collecting statistics on employment, and entrepreneurship in Africa and the Repatriated Diaspora with special focus on the Youth and Women.
- B. Create the Development Marketplace specifically for the African Diaspora, as a framework for facilitating innovation, commerce, and entrepreneurship among Africans and Diaspora.
- C. Instruct all member states to reduce the current currency investment amount required of African Diaspora repatriates that are involved in investment activities.
- D. Encourage member states to seriously consider allowing dual citizenship as it helps African Descendants who have income, investments and benefits earned in foreign countries, to be able to access and import these funds.
- E. Create a scheduled actualization of the Economic Cooperation programme as detailed in the declaration with annual review dates of each programme action.
- F. Develop Women Empowerment Zones with modern facilities, equipment and roads for agricultural aggregation and production of raw and finished goods for women entrepreneurship and participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area. As this will attract investments and trade partners from the Africa Diaspora and extend to establishing added value production of locally produced goods.
- G. Allocate educational contractual funding resources for business and financial literacy training, competency building and capacity building - for better success rates with small, medium-size and micro-finance investments, leveraging technology solutions in partnership with highly skilled members of the Africa Diaspora.

III. SOCIAL COOPERATION

In the area of social cooperation, the GPARSR representatives commit to the following:-

- A. Strengthen the implementation of legislation and other measures such as agreed and adopted in Resolutions by the United Nations, aimed at eradicating child trafficking, human trafficking, child labour, exploitation of children and women in armed conflicts and other modern forms of slavery.
- B. Work to create more internships and similar opportunities across Africa and in the Diaspora in order to enhance the transition from students to working adults in society

- and government. In addition, support exchange programs between continental youth and ones in the Diaspora.
- C. Acknowledge the discrimination toward women specifically, and remove ones that have prevented them from fully participating in African society at an equitable rate. In addition, 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.
 - D. Establish institutional protection from Afrophobia (or Afri-phobia) which refers to a specific form of racism, including any act of violence or discrimination, fuelled by historical abuses and negative stereotyping and leading to the exclusion and dehumanization of people of African Descent. This relates to multiple forms of racism against African peoples including all crimes against humanity perpetrated against the African Diaspora as effects of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism.
 - E. Implement the principles of Ubuntu in the areas of education and political spaces to help frame an unifying African mindset in the youth, from childhood to adulthood. Looking through the lenses of unification in the general populace will have an impact throughout society.
 - F. Fund and support Historical Diaspora created/Initiated/led projects - that leverage the unique role of the African Diaspora repatriates, in responding to the need for and building qualified and experienced African youth population.
 - G. Create an International African and African Diaspora student exchange program between Historical 'Black' Colleges and Universities in the USA and Canada, Universities in the Caribbean, other 'Black' institutions in other parts of the world - such as in Europe - with the Pan African University.
 - H. Create and support an African Diaspora-led innovations system, assisting them to repatriate with their innovations - bringing their skills, knowledge, and experience to mentor and work with the youth in Africa.
 - I. Establish African Diaspora repatriates led social initiatives that eliminate the various challenges from repatriation to and within Africa, including poverty, acculturation, education, housing, employment.
 - J. Enforce created policy changes in every member state, with the participation of the various registered African Diaspora organizations in Africa, which are designed to address the needs of repatriates and their families. This would focus on Reparatory Justice, Repatriation and Resettlement programs, with consultative status with the African Union.

- K. Support and accompany inspiring projects led by actors from the African Diaspora by mobilization of support networks in all parts of the sixth region such as in the USA, South America, Caribbean, Europe and Africa to renew, strengthen and expand the mobilization of the talents and financial resources of the African Diaspora including the newly resettled on the African continent.

3) AGREEMENTS

- 1) Considering the requests of the representatives of the Roundtable, an African Union-African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council has been created to: mobilize and integrate the Diaspora into as well to govern the processes and organs of the African Union, towards an United and integrated Africa and it's Diaspora.

Following over 15 years of grassroots processes, this major resolution of the Roundtable seeks to facilitate and coordinate the Federation of the different movements in the Diaspora. In addition, independent of continental diaspora initiative to a High Council, as a continuation of the Organizing process, as well as formalizing a Planning Committee to facilitate the integration of the Diaspora into the processes and organs of the African Union and communities in the Diaspora. Furthermore, with the goal to legitimize the way forward.

It also shows the origin and partnership nature of Diaspora organizations - "African Diaspora" and "AU Sixth Region process", and finally the "High Council" because of the communities of African Diaspora found around the world, in smaller units or communities. Therefore, the High Council will function as the highest unifying organ of these communities in the process of building a united and integrated Africa and its Diaspora.

- 2) The GPARSR representatives agreed and are pleased to present the Global Pan-African Roots Synergy Roundtable Addis Ababa Declaration 2022 (AAD 2022) and Resolutions that will be submitted to all relevant AU Organs and AU Member States for consideration and implementation to the extent to which the contents fall under their jurisdiction. This document will also be circulated to AU CSOs, NGOs, Pan-African organizations, and all African Diaspora stakeholders.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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