



# FivePointsYouthFoundation.org

Support the United Nations Global Compact & Caring For Climate Campaign 2015-2020

## United Nations Global Compact Local Network Communication on Engagement Campaign 2018 - 2028



People and wildlife living in the most high-risk and conflict- affected communities are also most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change whether on small island states like the Caribbean, or in Africa, or in the homeless camps throughout Los Angeles and the United States. Human Right #29 means we are all responsible to leave no one behind, and we are rallying all Angelenos worldwide to join us.

After building a global network of goodwill ambassadors during 2015, FPFY has developed a safe-passage community staging area for monthly [“ThisPlaceLA”](#) events broadcast globally, involving Universal Hip Hop Museum and other artists empowering our youth and dozens of stakeholders who advocate and promote building and connecting community resiliency networks.

On this first day of Kwanzaa 2017, “Umoja”, symbolizing “Unity” we advocate a **United Nations Global Compact Local Network Campaign 2018-2028** as a demonstration model for **Sustainable Development Goals # 17 Multi- Stakeholder Partnerships** inclusive of the 2024 Paris and 2028 Los Angeles Olympics to mobilize the global Diaspora to promote cultural tourism for development.

- **To enhance the global partnership for sustainable development**, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in **underserved, displaced and homeless communities, and people with unmet needs in during this [first 10 year Implementation Strategy of the A.U. Agenda 2063](#), [International Decade for Peoples of African Descent](#) and 400<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the [“First Arrival of Africans”](#) in 2019.**

– **To encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships**, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships, including **[Freelancer](#), [Home-Based](#), [Micro-](#) and [Small-Medium-Enterprise](#) businesses** [emphasis added].

We are recruiting and growing a strategic alliance throughout the Diaspora to identify and register 4,000+ civil society stakeholders (**ngos, nonprofits, business associations, labor organizations, academic institutions and cities**) and 1,000 new, small and medium-sized enterprises to the [United Nations Global Compact](#) to build a [Caring 4 Climate](#) worldwide community resiliency network. Achieving that milestone by promoting multi-cultural events that support causes we care about would also help expand and amplify the number and impact of [Local Networks](#) in distressed communities, particularly Africa, where the most people are expected to die from the effects of climate change, but where there are the fewest Local Networks – so far!

Thanking you, in advance, all the people of the world committed to [“Make That Change”](#) as we Heal Los Angeles to Heal the World for our children, our wildlife and our Earth’s Biosphere to [“Leave No One Behind](#) in a [StandForUnity](#) among conservationists, artists, CEOs and activists worldwide.

Andrew Williams Jr., President  
[fivepointspresident@gmail.com](mailto:fivepointspresident@gmail.com)

December 26, 2017

Andrew Williams, Jr., President Five  
Points Youth Foundation, Inc. 1820  
West Florence Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90047  
Mobile: +01-424-243-6580





August 7, 2017

Mr. Andrew Williams, Jr.  
Five Points Your Foundation Inc.  
1820 W Florence Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90047

Dear Mr. Williams,

You have proven yourself to be a community, national and global leader to help organize the tools and resources from groups, associations and businesses to provide a sustainable and resilient social network to promote a global campaign to stimulate cultural exchanges, historic preservation, technology, entertainment, and social justice.

Your work for social entrepreneurship for youth; women's empowerment programs; and artwalk programs have inspired the youth of Los Angeles and have become models for other cities to emulate. Your work with the Bermuda-St. Croix-Los Angeles Millennium Arch Committee, Global Business Incubation, TRN.tv, the Hip Hop Architecture Camp, the LATT-EncounterLA Community Advisory Board and Think Tank, the Black Emergency Managers Association International and others has provided opportunities where we can collectively exchange news and ideas that can inspire our intellectual conscience to improve our environment and mankind's interactions.

Because of your dedicated involvement, and your support of Project 1619 Inc. in promoting the history of the first Africans who arrived in 1619 at Point Comfort in present day Hampton, Virginia, I am pleased to inform you that Project 1619 Inc. has appointed you to serve on our National Advisory Board.

Thanks for all your support.

Sincerely,

Calvin Pearson, Founder  
Project 1619 Inc.

PO Box 1233, Hampton, VA 23661 \* 757-380-1319

**Project1619.org**



UNIVERSAL HIP HOP MUSEUM

December 3, 2017

Re: Advisory Board Letter

Dear Andrew Williams, Jr.:

This letter is to confirm that you have been invited to join the Advisory Board of the Universal Hip Hop Museum, (UHHM) a New York registered 501(c)(3). As a member of the UHHM's advisory board, you will have the opportunity to advise the UHHM's leadership team on all issues concerning the documentation, preservation, protection and development of Hip Hop culture's past, present and future.

The Universal Hip Hop Museum is dedicated to the preserving the legacies of our pioneers, but also function as a cultural institution and use its resources to shape the future of Hip Hop for the next generation of emcees, DJs, dancers, artists, and creators.

All advisory board members are required to be advocates of the UHHM on social media, while seeking new opportunities to help the museum achieve its mission. You are required to uphold Hip Hop culture to its highest standard. The museum's standards are; excellence, economic empowerment, love, world peace and unity. We expect all board members to uphold these cultural standards in both their public and private life.

Any member who is not able to uphold these standards as set forth by the UHHM, will be asked to remove himself or herself from their role as a Advisory Board member of the organization.

Throughout the year, you will be required to participate in fundraising and planning programs and help support the museum's fundraising cause. You should be prepared to promote the UHHM brand whenever possible on social media.

Congratulations on your appointment! Let's start working together, to make the Universal Hip Hop Museum a global destination for supporters of Hip Hop Culture.

Warmest Regards,

Rocky Bucano  
Executive Director  
Universal Hip Hop Museum





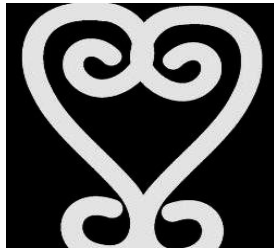
# INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF **AFRICAN DESCENT**

2015 - 2024



# STAND FOR UNITY

**Kwanza Accord 2020 &  
Sankofa Renaissance 2063**  
StandForUnity.org



**Sankofa** (an Afrikan principal from Akan people of Ghana): "reach back and fetch it". Sankofa teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward through a **Third Emancipation** (to free our minds and lives of mental incarceration) using eco-cultural travel, trade and tourism to drive economic development worldwide

The **Sankofa Passage** in **Leimert Park** links all **Diasporans to African** traditions that reconnect the family, transcending language and location, to commemorate the trials and survival of our **Maafa** (holocaust) through the **Middle Passage** from the **Cradle of Humankind** in (**South Africa**).



**Kwanzaa** deriving from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning "first fruits of the harvest") was developed to "give Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history...". The first recorded Africans brought to British America came from the area of the Kwanza River in **Angola (to Bermuda in 1616 and to Hampton, Virginia in 1619)**. 'Kwanza' is the name of the Angolan currency



**StandForUnity.org** elevates the survival culture of the plantations to a transformational experience that celebrates and mobilizes our solidarity, creativity and strategic alliances worldwide through collaborative arts and technology by localizing the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the Diaspora in the underserved urban, rural and tribal communities of color in developed, developing and small island nations".

The **Kwanza Accord 2013-2020** is the inaugural 7-year **Umoja** campaign aligning local communities in the USA with the **Diaspora Legacy Projects** of the **African Union's 6<sup>th</sup> Region** during this **International Decade for Peoples of African Descent** by monetizing and expanding the UNESCO African Diaspora Heritage Trail (founding conference for which was held in Bermuda).



"**AJ Ambassadors**" represent "**Unity in the Community World Vibe, Fighting With Peace and Not For It**" based on the Bermuda **Gombey** cultural mosaic of European, Indigenous Tribes and Africa, also tracing its heritage back to Akan Peoples of **Ghana** and invite all the world to align eco-cultural travel, trade and tourism with **regenerative development**.



The **Black Caucus of California Community Colleges** which is open to membership from students and alumni from institutions throughout the state (including Historically Black University (**HBCU**) Charles Drew Medical University), and stakeholders worldwide, adapted the **Kwanza Accord 2013-2020** and **Ambassador AJ Gombey** as mascot.



**Five Points Youth Foundation** provides the 501c3 framework to empower all community stakeholders with entrepreneurial, educational and vocational curriculum, training and resources localizing the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in compliance with the **United Nations' Global Compact** to champion the **African Union Diaspora Legacy Projects** and celebrate **unity in the global community world vibe by fighting with peace and not for it**.

Contact Andrew Williams Jr. \* +1-424-243-6580 \* [AWJ777@ucmedia.net](mailto:AWJ777@ucmedia.net)

# The Kwanzaa Accord 2013-2020

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of legal enforcement of [US Emancipation](#) at midnight on January 1, 1863 ([issued September 22, 1863](#)), the [elders and advocates](#) of the [Leimert Park Community](#) in [Los Angeles](#) have resolved to become the lead organizers of a 7-cycle campaigns of 7 years each, for 7-days a week (Sunday through Saturday), called the [Kwanzaa Accord](#) to promote atonement, reconciliation and redemption of [America's "original sin"](#) of chattel slavery using the precepts of the annual [Kwanzaa Festival](#) to align [all peoples of African descent](#) with the [African Union Sixth Region \(Diaspora\) Legacy Projects](#) to complement [Agenda 2063](#) Flagship Projects in this [International Decade for People of African Descent](#)

The [Kwanzaa Accord](#) is inspired by the biblical story of Joseph who foresaw seven years of plenty followed by years of famine, with the exception that the present state of human affairs is reversed - with seven years of sacrifice to be followed by seven years of recovery.

The first seven-year [Umoja campaign](#) will be punctuated in 2019 with the global commemoration of the [400 year anniversary](#) of the first arrival of African slaves at Fort Comfort (Hampton) Virginia on [August 20, 1619](#) through the 2019-2020 Kwanzaa Festival

The campaign will ensure that [Kwanzaa](#) and the Seven Principles ([Nguzo Saba](#)) embodied in it, will be celebrated throughout the year, starting with a "**Good Luck Almanac**" (nicknamed the "**Bahati Saba**") that divides the western calendar into the seven themes of [Kwanzaa](#) as a means of benchmarking collective activities regardless of religious, cultural or social differences.

Each theme is extended over a seven-week period, Sunday through Saturday, leaving a surplus of 3 ([Sacred Triangle](#)) shoulder weeks for Christmas, [Kwanzaa](#) and New Beginnings.

Underwriters of the [Kwanzaa Accord](#) agree to be audited annually for their contributions to the **Good Luck Almanac** and to serve as stewards of the wealth reserves created by the combined activities of the first seven years of sacrifice in the spirit of Unity ([Umoja](#)).

This Kwanzaa Value System shall serve as the foundational Principles, around which our Pan African Community can be mobilized to achieve our collective [Sankofa Renaissance 2063](#) Goals, beginning in the context of the [2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) converting [Words into Action](#).

The [Kwanzaa Accord](#) is designed to restore the primacy of the [permaculture sciences](#) that fueled the rebirth of modern civilization and were perverted by the [Transatlantic slave trade](#) to promote the ideology of [racial subjugation](#). The **Good Luck Almanac** will serve as a central clearinghouse for holistic, self-help programs that promote the restoration of a common agenda for wealth creation and sharing in the post-industrial era, coined by the World Economic Forum as the "[Fourth Industrial Revolution](#)"

**Ambassador AJ Gombey** represents "**The African Child In All of Us**" in truth and fact, as the [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO) has designated the province including [Gauteng, South Africa](#) as "[The Cradle of Humankind](#)"

Signatories to this [Kwanzaa Accord](#) agree to practice and demonstrate "**Unity In the Community World Vibe, By Fighting With Peace Not For It**" through Collaborative Arts and Technology that advocate and transcend the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) to "[Leave No One Behind](#)" by embedding the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) as the common benchmark of achieving social justice for all peoples in compliance with the [Ten Principles](#) of the [United Nations Global Compact](#) concurrent with the [United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All](#)).





## 2013-2020 Kwanzaa Accord via Congress of African People (CAP)

Congress of African People (CAP), Los Angeles, welcomes the opportunity to engage with The AJ Action Team (AJAX), in the promotion and implementation of these Kwanzaa Accords as they are outlined in the document commemorating the 150th Anniversary, of the Emancipation Proclamation extending the rights of liberty to African descendants impacted by the Holocaust of Enslavement.

Be it resolved, that we will work in concert with our Bermuda and Global Family to ensure the the rights which were extended 150 years ago, are now, starting in 2003, given the opportunity of being exercised and implementing in a more meaningful and substantive way. As African people, we affirm our right of Self-Determination to shape a vision for our people to become free, proud and productive.

Be it resolved, that the value basis for our unification are embodied in the Seven Principles (Nguzo Saba) of Kwanzaa, Unity (Umoja), Self Determination (Kujichagulia), Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima), Cooperative Economics (Ujamaa), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Faith (Imani). These principles have sacred significance to our people and struggle, in that they were designed by our African Ancestors and passed down through the generations to guide our work and contribution to human progress.

Be it resolved, that CAP applauds the efforts of AJAX for embarking on a path of Sustainable Economic Development, Industry Building and Financial Independence which will serve as a model for Economic Growth and Prosperity of our respective communities, the African continent and its diaspora.

Be it further resolved, that CAP will work to assist in producing and promoting a program of Cultural Restoration and Renaissance in the key areas of Fashion, Art, Music and Entertainment (F.A.M.E.), based in the Los Angeles Leimert Park, (Pan African Village) Community and to coordinate our activities and progress with our Bermuda, Diasporan and African Continental family.

And lastly, it is the hope and intent of all of these efforts, to create a New African Man and Woman, conscious of their historical role, and who are prepared to step back on the Stage of Human History, as free, proud and productive people.

Mwalimu Wesley Kabaila

Simbamaat Consultants - Principal

Blog - [www.simbamaat.blogspot.com](http://www.simbamaat.blogspot.com)

[www.sankofapress.blogspot.com](http://www.sankofapress.blogspot.com)

# **Mobilizing and Organizing Africans in the Diaspora for Economic Development**

Almaz Negash

African Diaspora Network

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## **Abstract:**

In May 2012, the African Union (AU) Commission organized the Global African Diaspora Summit with a view to facilitating further engagement of the African continent with its Diaspora. The Summit was built on earlier programs that were focused on developing a realizable program of action in order to create sustainable dialogue, partnerships and Pan-Africanist solidarity to advance Africa and its Diaspora. The AU declaration's broad-based agenda calls for collaboration on political, economic and social issues between African nations and the millions of Africans living in the diaspora. These include, but are not limited to, private sector and infrastructure development, capacity building, trade and technology. Furthermore, the AU agreed on adopting five legacy projects in order to facilitate the post-Summit program and project implementation. The five legacy projects focus on the following developments to engage Africans in the diaspora: skills database, volunteer corps, investment fund, marketplace, and remittances institute. This paper aims to highlight how Africans in the United States, especially the many highly educated and successful entrepreneurs, can play a role in the legacy projects specifically in the development of a professional African database and the development of a marketplace for the Diaspora in order to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship

## **Context:**

The African community in the United States is diverse, heterogeneous and hardworking. They are well-educated, highly entrepreneurial, and include successful doctors, engineers, educators, nurses, restaurateurs, social workers and laborers. Regardless of their profession, they generously support their families and friends in Africa. However, remittances are not scalable, which gives African governments and diaspora Africans a vested interest in utilizing remittances to better tackle economic and social challenges in the continent. As such, this paper will further examine the resources needed to create a robust professionals database and the infrastructure needed to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship with a keen focus on implementation. The paper will provide practical implementation strategies and best practices on how African public and private sector institutions can draw expertise and financial resources from the Diaspora through mobilization and



engagement. It will demonstrate why it is important for Africa to harness, acquire and apply new knowledge by utilizing the Diaspora.

### **Poverty and Prosperity:**

The global news is filled with information about Africa ranging from the civil wars in Somalia and the Congo, to the destruction of Timbuktu and the challenges of poverty, to the emergence of a few countries as beacons of hope for prosperity. One can get overwhelmed and discouraged by the amount of work that needs to be done. In fact, with all the discouraging news coming out of Africa it often seems as if the continent is on the brink of total collapse. While wars and conflicts do end fortunately, the ensuing struggle for economic development continues.

The issue of poverty is multifaceted and complex, but the leading cause of poverty is economic policy that inadequately addresses the needs of society. With 47 percent of Africans living on less than \$1.25 per day and an estimated 386 million Africans living in extreme poverty without access to basic needs such as education, healthcare and water, change needs to happen.<sup>1</sup> Additionally according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization almost one in three Africans are hungry; this is higher than in any other part of the world. Yet, the International Development Research Center (IDRC) has found that over one trillion dollars has been spent on aid to Africa, without significantly reducing the need for more aid. This is a result of the focus of the aid being on “poverty reduction,” rather than on “wealth creation” or investing in Africans to solve the challenges facing their continent.

Precisely to address the question of lifting people out of poverty, in September 2000 the international community under the leadership of the United Nations (UN) agreed to adapt eight dire global challenges to create sustainable development in countries facing widespread extreme poverty. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015. The UN reports that since 2000 there has been significant success in many areas of the MDGs in some specific parts of the world. According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Africa has made some progress in enrolling children to primary school, women inclusion and participation in parliament, and HIV/Aids prevention. However, the report points that Africa still lags behind in income inequalities, lack of access to good paying jobs and to healthcare. Further, the report points out that with only three years left for the 2015 deadline, African leaders and policy makers

need to emphasize creating and improving access to quality jobs, as well as providing safety net services for the most vulnerable members of society: the youth, children, women and the elders.<sup>ii</sup>

Despite the challenges Africa faces, there has also been tremendous progress made by individual countries to improve the socioeconomic condition and well-being of their communities. African countries that are considered the fastest growing include Ghana, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique and Angola. The UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) rates Ghana as one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, with almost twelve percent economic growth, followed by Ethiopia with ten percent.<sup>iii</sup> The significant economic growth occurring in these nations speaks to the vast opportunities in economic development in the continent.

### **The African Diaspora Role in Improving the Economic Well-being of the Continent:**

Globally there are an estimated 30 million immigrants from North and sub-Saharan Africa and they commit a significant amount of remittances to Africa, providing much needed income. Remittances to Africa in 2010 exceeded \$40 billion and Nigeria receives approximately \$1.3 billion in remittances per year.<sup>iv</sup> The World Bank states that the diaspora Africans who live in North America are the most educated, skilled and resourceful community of Africans anywhere in the world and it is estimated that they save \$53 billion annually. As there is currently no lack of remittances being pushed into Africa, the question is: what needs to take place in order to turn the savings and remittances into investments? One suggestion is an online platform and database to facilitate the needed connections to turn the savings and remittances into investments.

Subsequently, what needs to take place to create a platform to engage the Diaspora to contribute to the well-being of the continent? For one thing, the home country has to be inviting, engaging and willing to implement policies that are conducive to conducting business and other investments. With regards to Africans in the diaspora, it is also important to understand their relationship with the continent in order to figure out the best way to engage them. Some identify with the whole of Africa, while many identify with their nation of origin or with an ethnic or regional identity.

### **Government Role and Best Practices for Diaspora Engagement:**

There are many countries in the world that depend on remittances, one such country is India. India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2003 and it is estimated that in 2008 India received \$52 billion in remittances.<sup>v</sup> The Indian government has made an effort to lure professional Indians to invest in the country

through economic policy liberalization in trade and investment. In addition, to harness the financial and technological resources of the Indian diaspora, the government established the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The ministry coordinates and engages the diaspora through cultural education, youth teaching, and annual awards to eminent Indian diasporans. African governments can learn from India's experience collaborating with the Indian diaspora.

The African Union and individual government leaders have an opportunity to engage the Diaspora in a meaningful and impactful way. The engagement can take many different forms however; it must include a plan with specific goals and objectives. Most importantly, there also needs to be a bridge to foster a relationship and build trust. On the ground engagement and relationships can only be built through coordinated activities at the grassroots level, not only in Washington, D.C., but throughout the United States with individuals, community organizations, local Embassies, Universities and businesses. A sustainable solution demands active participation of the African Diaspora. Since Africans in the diaspora are constantly seeking to expand their experience, share knowledge, mentor and build skill-sets for the benefit of society, a first step must be the development of a database and a marketplace through which they may facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship.

- 1. Develop skilled database and online platform:** Currently there is neither a comprehensive database of professional diaspora Africans nor an online or offline forum where diasporans, friends of Africa and Africa-focused organizations and businesses can communicate, form partnerships, exchange ideas, share expertise and support one another. An interactive platform that offers African organizations and entrepreneurs the tools to grow will result in an Africa that is more competitive in the global market and can combat the many challenges facing the continent.

African Diaspora Network (ADN) will do just this; it will offer Africans and friends of Africa the opportunity to enhance their impact on the continent and grow both professionally and personally. As an online and offline platform, ADN will promote dialogue and action on economic development in sub-Saharan Africa. Indigenous Africans from around the world will benefit through collaboration with one another and other individuals and groups interested in Africa's future. By sharing knowledge and forming partnerships, Africa can harness the intellectual, financial, philanthropic and entrepreneurial capacity of diaspora Africans and friends of Africa for the greater good of the continent. It will do this by creating a safe and trusted communications and knowledge sharing platform directed at:

- **Investors/Entrepreneurs:**

African Diaspora Network will be a forum through which organizations investing in Africa, or African entrepreneurs directly, can detail their projects, share business plans, and seek financial support.

- **Philanthropists/Volunteers:**

The ADN platform will be a vehicle for identifying new members and sources of income. Philanthropists can profile their work and share experiences and best practices with like-minded individuals and organizations. Potential volunteers can identify organizations operating in the countries they would like to work.

- **Donors/Lenders:**

African Diaspora Network can serve as a clearinghouse, or hub, where donors and lenders seeking collaboration can easily access information about ongoing and proposed development projects across Africa.

2. **Creation of a Marketplace:** At the 2012 AU Summit, the African Diaspora was formally recognized as the sixth economic region. AU member countries signed a formal partnership between the African Union, the governments of the Caribbean, South and Latin America, and the World Bank African Diaspora program to implement five legacy projects of which one is the formation of Capital Market Place. To date, there have not been clear goals and objectives set by the AU on the development and scalability of the Diaspora Marketplace. However, there is an existing body of work that is available for the Diaspora to tap into.

### **Entrepreneurship:**

The African Diaspora in the United States and around the world is known for its creativity, ingenuity and risk taking. Africans use their savings to start their own businesses ranging from restaurants to hairdressing shops to small factories. The African Diaspora saves an estimated \$53 billion per year, providing an opportunity for home country governments. Mobilizing and tapping into these funds could bring much needed investment to Africa. In 2011 the International Monetary Fund summarized the possibilities as follows: “If one in every 10 members of the diaspora could be persuaded to invest \$1,000 in his or her country of origin, Africa could raise \$3 billion a year for development financing.”<sup>vi</sup>



African governments know that there is a need for capital investment in order to develop an infrastructure that allows their people to work and earn wages. By reducing the barriers for investments and by providing incentives, the home country governments can lure many from the Diaspora. The Diaspora has a vested interest in investing in their home countries to develop sustainable projects and their participation in the capital market can provide Africa with start-up capital for small and medium sized enterprises. Africans in the diaspora, collectively and individually, if given an opportunity can contribute their knowledge and experience accumulated while working abroad. In fact, many intellectuals and entrepreneurs see giving back to their home country as a privilege. Mr. Gibril Faal, the president of the African Foundation for Development, was asked in 2011 whether Africans in the diaspora would like to invest back in their home country. Mr. Faal responded as follows:

*Diaspora entrepreneurs who run businesses in destination countries tend to set up businesses in countries of origin as well. However, a significant number of people who are not entrepreneurs in their destination countries use their experience and skills to start up new commercial ventures in their countries of origin. In each case, there are multiple motivating factors.*

*Setting up a business enables individuals of the diaspora to transfer—profitably—the knowledge, skills, experiences and opportunities gained in countries of destination. Businesses are also vehicles through which the diaspora can make substantive contributions to innovation, production and development in their countries of origin. Jobs are created in the local economy and the profits accumulated afford entrepreneurs a quality of life higher than they enjoy in their countries of destination.<sup>vii</sup>*

It's clear from his response that there is a strong interest in setting up businesses in Africa and this has been recognized by other organizations as well. At the 2010 Africa-EU Migration, Mobility, and Employment (MME) partnership meeting, the team recognized the need for fostering the 'capacity of the diaspora to invest in their country of origin' by opening investment facilities specifically tailored to their needs. The MME went further to suggest the establishment of a tax-incentive system for remittances.<sup>viii</sup>

The African Diaspora can facilitate and channel trade and investment to the home country. They can do this because of their ability to leverage their knowledge and connections with the host country. The Diaspora is able to form strategic partnership with foreign businesses and suppliers, and their wealth can be used to mobilize capital markets deposit accounts and the securitization of remittances flows.

## Use of Technology and Innovation:

The African Diaspora is utilizing innovative methods such as online collaboration forums to give back and invest in Africa. For example, the ADN online platform is being developed to support an online collaboration where a specific project listed on the ADN secure site can be invested in. It is also the space where ongoing impact assessment will be done to track intended and actual outcomes. There are also other programs that encourage African entrepreneurs living in the United States to partner with local businesses in Africa to develop new sustainable businesses. One such example is the African Diaspora Marketplace, a joint program of USAID and Western Union. The purpose of this program is to support US-based African diaspora entrepreneurs who have innovative and high impact projects to establish business in Africa. Entrepreneurs with the strongest ideas and projects are awarded up to \$100,000. The winner of the award must then look for a local partner in Africa to establish the business. The widespread use of technology provides the opportunity for countless new projects, such as those fostered by the African Diaspora Marketplace, to develop and allow for the investment in and creation of sustainable local businesses.

## Concluding Remarks:

It is well-established that the African community, particularly in the United States, can provide important support to Africa beyond just remittances. By utilizing their knowledge and investments, Africa can better tackle their economic and social challenges. The use of technology to develop entrepreneurship, such as an online platform and database to connect Africans in the diaspora, is an important step towards harnessing the power and innovation of the African diaspora.

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<sup>i</sup> United Nations. 2012. *Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*.  
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202012.pdf>. [Accessed 20 Feb 2013].

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iii</sup> Economic Commission for Africa, 2012. *Unleashing Africa's Potential as a Pole of Global Growth*.  
[http://new.uneca.org/Portals/era/2012/ERA2012\\_ENG\\_FIN.pdf](http://new.uneca.org/Portals/era/2012/ERA2012_ENG_FIN.pdf). [Accessed 20 Feb 2013].

<sup>iv</sup> Massarenti, Joshua, 2012. *Remittances: can diaspora bonds help meet development goals?* <http://www.afronline.org/?p=21904>  
[Accessed 20 Feb 2013].

<sup>v</sup> Naujoks, Daniel, 2009. *Emigration, Immigration, and Diaspora Relations in India*.  
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/feature/display.cfm?ID=745>. [Accessed 20 Feb 2013].

<sup>vi</sup> Ratha, D and Plaza, S, 2011 Sept. *Harnessing Diasporas*. International Monetary Fund, Finance & Development Vol 48. No.3

<sup>vii</sup> Africa-EU Partnership, 2010 Nov. *Entrepreneurs of the Diaspora, Major Players in African Development*. <http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/node/1540>. [Accessed 20 Feb 2013].

<sup>viii</sup> Africa-EU Partnership. 2010 Sept. *Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment (MME) Partnership Meeting Report*.  
[http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_migration\\_mobility\\_employment\\_partnership\\_2010\\_meeting\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc_migration_mobility_employment_partnership_2010_meeting_report_en.pdf). [Accessed 20 Feb 2013].

**AFRICAN UNION**

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



**UNION AFRICAINE**

**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

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**Diaspora/Assembly/AU/ /Decl (I)**

**DECLARATION OF THE GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT**

**SANDTON, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTHAFRICA  
25 MAY 2012**

## DECLARATION OF THE GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

### **I. POLITICAL COOPERATION**

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

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

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

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

- p) Encourage and support the adoption and implementation, in different Diaspora countries, of policies that will facilitate the elimination of racism and the promotion of equality among races.

**B. Mobilization of Support**

- q) Encourage the civil society in the Diaspora and in Africa to support, advocate and mobilize resources for the development of Africa and its Diaspora;
- r) Express mutual support and solidarity between Africans on the Continent and in the Diaspora in circumstances of violation of human and peoples' rights;
- s) Encourage the full implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the Permanent Memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, express appreciation for contributions made to the Trust Fund in this regard and urge other countries to contribute to the Fund;
- t) Campaign for the ratification and full implementation of all relevant instruments that enhance the protection of women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups, in particular, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Convention against all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
- u) Encourage the ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime as a means of stemming trans-border criminality;
- v) Encourage Africans in the Diaspora to campaign against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa especially in countries where they are domiciled and in those that are arms producers;
- w) Encourage the contribution of the Diaspora in the strengthening of International partnerships of the African Union;
- x) Affirm the Principles of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations that preclude unilateral measures that would create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries;

**II. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

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



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

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

**B. Mobilization of Capital**

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

**C. Partnership in Business**

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

**D. Science and Technology**

- h) Promote coordination and development of institutions in Africa and the African Diaspora, dedicated to innovation and invention for social and economic development of Africa and the Diaspora;
- i) Examine the merit of using the decisions of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on Information Society, particularly the Tunis Commitment and the

Tunis Declaration, as well as the Digital Solidarity Fund as a means of creating e-linkages between Africa and the Diaspora.

**E. Knowledge Transfer and Skills Mobilization**

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

**F. Infrastructural Development**

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

**G. Information Gathering and Dissemination Capacity**

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

## H. Climate Change

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

## III. SOCIAL COOPERATION

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

### A. Knowledge and Education

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

### B. Arts and Culture

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

**C. Media and Image Building**

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

**D. Immigration**

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

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

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

**F. Social and Cultural Issues**

- p) Allocate more resources on social spending programmes such as health, education and housing;
- q) Cooperate, in order to make social security institutions more efficient in protecting Africans and members of the Diaspora;
- r) Ensure expansion of access to the Internet for social, health, business and development and trade;
- s) Coordinate with the African Diaspora regarding the question of the illegally acquired cultural goods that exist outside the African continent, with the aim of speeding their return to their countries of origin in Africa;
- t) Ensure the promotion of sports and sports exchange between the AU Member States and the Diaspora;

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

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

1. Host rotational AU Diaspora Conference in Africa and in the Diaspora to review the implementation of this Programme of Action.
2. Involve Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of this Programme of Action.
3. Request the AU Commission to develop mechanisms to ensure that the experiences of women, youth and vulnerable groups are taken into account in the implementation of this Programme of Action.
4. Continue communication efforts to popularize the African Diaspora initiative and promote positive images of Africa that will create a conducive environment for investment opportunities on the continent.
5. Take necessary measures to ensure the establishment of an AU-Diaspora Foundation/Trust to support the AU-Diaspora initiative;
6. Agree to establish multi-stakeholder working groups comprising the AU, CARICOM and representative from the Diaspora in the following priority areas: Economic Cooperation (including infrastructure, sea and air links, trade and investment, and travel and tourism); Science And Technology (including the establishment of Low Earth Orbit satellite, and research in agriculture, biotechnology, renewable energy technologies, infectious and non-infectious diseases);
7. Consider the possibility of setting up a mechanism, such as a Diaspora Consultative Forum that would support closer collaboration between the AU and the Diaspora community;
8. Agree to set up a Diaspora Advisory Board, which will address overarching issues of concern to Africa and its Diaspora such as reparations, right to return and follow up to WCAR Plan of Action, amongst others;
9. Further agree, in principle that the structures and institutions envisaged in this Declaration are established and operate in a streamlined manner, in order to achieve efficiency and value for all Africans on the Continent and the Diaspora;
10. Explore various innovative and practical sources of funding for the Diaspora Programme, to ensure its sustainability.

## **LEGACY PROJECTS**

We further agree to adopt five legacy projects as a way of giving practical meaning to the Diaspora programme and in order to facilitate the post-Summit implementation programme. These are: a) the production of a Skills Database of

African Professionals in the Diaspora; b) the establishment of the African Diaspora Volunteers Corps; c) the African Diaspora Investment Fund; d) a programme on the Development Marketplace for the Diaspora, as a framework for facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship among African and Diaspora; and e) The African Remittances Institute.

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



# INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF **AFRICAN DESCENT**

**2015 - 2024**



REMEMBERING THE FIRST AFRICAN LANDING



**PARIS 2024**



**LA 2028**

