



PRESS RELEASE

AFRICAN UNION AFRICAN DIASPORA SIXTH REGION HIGH COUNCIL TAKES SIGNIFICANT STEPS FORWARD

DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

With the appointment of Professor Dr Eduardo Lourenco Viana from Brazil as the first President of the African Diaspora Governmental Organization on September 15, 2024, we demonstrate our commitment to fully implementing Article 3q of the African Union Constitution and the May 25, 2012 African Diaspora Declaration.

After 19 years of awaiting a Political and Legal Framework to fill various positions and the 20 reserved seats in the AU ECOSOCC General Assembly, Dr Barryl Biekman and Dr Tumenta Kennedy - key initiators of the "Leave No Community Behind Ubuntu Governance Structure" (2007) - express their anticipation for progress. We hope that by 2025, the integration of the Diaspora into African Union structures will become a reality.



HIS EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR DR VIANA

is a renowned lawyer in Brazil, dedicated from a young age to advocating for Africa and the Global Diaspora, particularly for people of African descent and marginalized communities in Brazil, often referred to as the "Big Apple" of the Diaspora. "We are proud to designate Brazil as the first country awarded the rotating presidency, serving as the unified voice of the more than 400 million Diaspora through the Lead Regional Facilitators of the AUADS Sixth Region High Council," resonated the sentiments following Dr Viana's appointment.

The AUADS Sixth Region High Council (AUADS High Council) is also committed to the

<https://app.box.com/s/5yf1t3l8wc34hsqi6zrbaipq1zwlq90d>

“Right to Return” as part of the Reparatory Justice Claim. Angela Sayles, a member of the Board of Directors, emphasized the importance of full participation in the political, social, economic, diplomatic, and policy structures of the African Union. “As a High Council, our voices must be heard at every table where decisions are made.”

In his speech after taking the oath, Dr Viana expressed deep gratitude to Dr Barryl Biekman and the assembly, recognizing the historic nature of the task before them. He highlighted the importance of collective leadership, emphasizing that his presidency represents not just one person or country, but the entire African Diaspora. Dr Viana committed to upholding the values of unity, respect, and collaboration, and pledged to follow the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the High Council's decisions. He acknowledged the guidance of his family, ancestors, and mentors, and called for the continued support of the assembly in working towards the collective development of Africa and its Diaspora. In closing, he expressed his profound appreciation for the trust placed in him and reaffirmed his dedication to the cause.

We trust that this courageous President will receive the full support of Global African Diaspora communities and all African Union structures, particularly from the President and governmental and non-governmental institutions of Brazil, as well as from Central, South, North American states, and CARICOM.

For information regarding the content of this press release secretariat@auadshighcouncil.org; ccto Brazil@auadshighcouncil.org