

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE ARTICLE 3Q OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONSTITUTIVE ACT.

From the AUADS Sixth Region High Council perspectives

A. The Authorization of the AU ECOSOCC organization

In July 2004, the AU Heads of State voted to authorize the Economic, Social & Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) to provide an opportunity for African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to play an active role in contributing to the AU's principles, policies, and programs. It was decided that 20 Seats shall be reserved for the African Diaspora as voting members of ECOSOCC.

B. The AU mandate to South Africa and the Regional Consultative Conferences

In 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan, the AU endorsed South Africa as the host of the second African Caribbean Diaspora Conference (decision 269). Pursuant to the implementation of this mandate to South Africa, the AU in consultation with the AU Commission, decided on a three-phased approach. Consultations via Regional Consultative Conferences (RCC's), the Ministerial Conference and the AU Head of States Summit.

The three main objectives of the AU Head of States Summit were:

- Create sustainable partnership between the African Diaspora and the African Continent through a realizable Program of Action.
- Create sustainable dialogue and strengthen Pan African solidarity for a better Africa and its Diaspora.
- Promote South-South cooperation in the betterment of the African Continent and its Diaspora.

Follow up to the aforementioned South Africa three-phased approach, and as preparation for the South Africa Ministerial Conference that took place in November 2007 16-18, RCC's under the umbrella of the South African Government in cooperation with CIDO were organized in:

- *Central (Latin) America (Brazil)*
- *United Kingdom (London)*
- *North America (New York)*
- *The Caribbean (Barbados)*
- *Europe (Paris)*

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The main purpose of the RCC's was to engage in a global consultative dialogue with civil society and governments of the African Diaspora in preparation for the AU African Diaspora Ministerial Conference followed by Senior Officials Ministerial Conference in Johannesburg with the purpose to develop a Draft Program of Action.

October 2007, the after the RCC's follow up Africa Addis Ababa Regional Consultative Conference, the participants discussed the outcomes of the aforementioned RCC's and also articulating recommendations regarding political, economic and social challenges facing Africa and its Diaspora.

In November 2007 two Conferences took place in South Africa as follow up of the RCC's in the several Regions and in Addis Ababa: the Senior Officials Conference (14-16 November 2007). This with the purpose to develop a Draft Program of Action and the Ministerial Conference (16- 18 November 2007) with the purpose to discuss the Consolidated Outcomes and the Draft Plan of Action as preparation for the adoption by the AU Head of States Summit.

A Working Group of Technical Experts in 2008, with the purpose to complete the Plan of Action Proposal to fully incorporate the Diaspora into the African Union. The brainstorming sessions than resulted in the Adoption of the Draft African Union African Diaspora Declaration and Program of Action that was officially adopted on May 25, 2012 during the extraordinary African Union African Diaspora Summit held in (Sandton) Johannesburg, South Africa.

Between the years 2008 and 2012, prior to the adoption of the Diaspora Declaration and Program of Action in May 2012, we the Co-founders of the "Leave No Community Behind Model" in cooperation with the Leadership of the Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus, continues to mobilize and organize the Global African Diaspora Communities. Numerous of Regional Town Hall meetings we organized. This with the aim:

- 1) to re-motivate the Diaspora to get them ready and organized in perspective of the answer to the African Union Head of States Article 3q invitation.*
- 2) to discuss the activities regarding the implementation of the Regional Consultative Conference (RCC) Outcomes and the integration into the Draft African Union African Diaspora Declaration and Program of Action.*
- 3) to raise awareness about the importance of the "Leave No Community Behind Organization Model".*

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During the Town Hall meetings, participants were able to give their opinion about the organization model and structure, the principles and strategies and receiving space for recommendations. In all meetings, there is always involvement from the South African and other African Union Diplomatic Missions. In Europe and North America, the African Union Permanent Mission is always involved.

C. The importance of the May 25, 2012 African Union African Diaspora Declaration and Program of Action

Taken into consideration

Paragraph 1. Political Cooperation, Sub. Paragraph A. Intergovernmental under:

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 programs.

This Paragraph has been our main angle from which legitimation has been drawn to further develop the "Leave No Community Behind Model" and to mobilize, remotivate and organize the African Diaspora through this Model.

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.

Taken into consideration

Paragraph II Economic Cooperation sub. Paragraph A. Government Action to Foster Increased Economic Partnership the following articles are mentioned in the Declaration, that the AU should:

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.

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Taken into consideration

Paragraph 11: Social Cooperation sub. Paragraph A. Knowledge and Education the following article is mentioned in the Declaration that the AU should:

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 centered institutions and programmes and increased collaboration efforts between academic and research institutions in Africa and the Diaspora regions.

D. Pan African (Global) RootsSynergy Roundtables were organized in:

In addition to the Town Hall meetings on grassroots- and national level, several Pan African Roots Synergy Family Roundtables were organized in the Caribbean, Latin/Central America, North and South America including Brazil, The Middle East (Dimona Israel) and Europe. In Canada and Australia co-hosted by the Regional Representatives. And Specific during special occasions in:

Accra, Ghana on the occasion of the Ghana's Year To Return (2019)

This self-supported Global RootsSynergy Roundtable was organized on November 5th 2019. Many Africans in Diaspora (e.g. Pan-Africanists and other Activists in the AU Sixth Region) were approved that the Ghana Year of Return was an excellent opportunity to express both sides of their concerns regarding issues pertaining to fundamental human rights of African people worldwide and raising awareness within the ordinary civil society communities and other relevant stakeholders about the diverse instruments, resolutions and declarations to combat multiple forms of racism against African people. Further analyses showed that many continental Africans and in Diaspora were not aware of the existence and or the background of the:

- The May 2012 African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region Declaration, the Program of Activities and the affiliated resolutions and instruments.
- The Durban World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance that was held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001 and the affiliated instruments, resolutions and declarations.
- The UN International Decade for People of African descent and the Program of Activities (2015-2034).

Ghana Year of Return had offered important opportunities for focusing on these important Declarations and the affiliated resolutions and instruments. Out of this Roundtable came the ACCRA DECLARATION on the Decade of Return

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2020-2030. For more information here <https://decade-of-return.com/> the link. The Declaration was one of the reasons that the African Union na aanbevelingen van de African Union Commission appointed the Government of Togo to develop a proposal [EX CL 1267 XXXVIII E.pdf \(au.int\)](#) for the implementation of the Decade of African Roots and Diaspora.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from May 24 – 27 2022 on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the African Union African Diaspora May 25th Declaration 2012.

This self-supported Pan African Roots Synergy Roundtable was organized in cooperation with Leading Global Diaspora organizations including the African Diaspora Union, The Kingdoms and envoys, The Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus International and the 6th Region African Diaspora Alliance in Tanzania. Distinguished guests including Speakers from MEADUC (Middle East African Diaspora Unity Council), The Drammeh Institute, Diplomatic missions, CIDO, AU ECOSOCC, Global Organizations for Reparatory Justice amongst Caricom Commission, Global African SHEROES Union, Teaching Artists Institute, African Roots and Heritage Foundation, African Europe Women's movement 'Sophiedela', Youths and African Diaspora organizations from across the five continents, and diverse array of participants from countries within the continent and beyond, as well media representatives. Additionally, during the three days many high-level participants including speakers joined the event online. Important were the agreements on:

1. *The "Leave No Community Behind Model" as The vehicle to establish the African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council.*
2. *The adoption of the "H.E. Ambassador Dudley Thompson Reading". The first was read by Professor Dr. Leonard Jeffries.*

Here <https://app.box.com/file/1212278606900?s=aqbf8gg72n7h3gnvqjeyzv13p32a566f> the link to the Addis Abeba Agreement and Resolution 2022.

In Maputo, Mozambique on July 10th, 2023 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the article 3q on July 11th, 2003 of the African Union Constitutive act.

After years, since 2007 of promotion; knowledge sharing; capacity building; implementing the results of the consultation and appointing High Council Regional Leading Facilitators, the Establishment of the High Council suddenly was launched. This again during a self-supported event from July 10-13 2023. The

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launching ceremony was presided over by the esteemed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique and started with a warm welcome statement by the Maputo City Council on behalf of the Mayor of Maputo. Distinguished guests including Speakers from Diplomatic missions, United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, AU ECOSOCC Standing Committee, African Development Bank Group, AU Civil Society Organization, Global Organizations for Reparatory Justice amongst Caricom Reparation Commission, National Reparation Commission NL and NCOBRA, the Kingdom of Kush, African Diaspora Union, African Business Information Bank, Global African SHEROES Union, Balanta Society, Rastafarian's Representation, Teaching Artists Institute, 6th Region African Diaspora Alliance in Tanzania, Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus International, African Roots and Heritage Foundation, African Europe Women's movement 'Sophiedela', Youths and African Diaspora organizations from across the five continents, and diverse array of participants from countries within the continent and beyond, as well media representatives. Additionally, during the five days many high-level participants joined the event online.

During the launch event, a significant milestone was achieved as participants also established the African Diaspora Sixth Region Development Agency (ADDA). This Agency will serve as a vital vehicle for driving development initiatives in both Africa and the Diaspora. By fostering collaboration and leveraging resources from various stakeholders, this Agency will play a pivotal role in advancing socio-cultural and economic progress, poverty eradication, education, and healthcare, scientific, digital, technological and sustainable development within the African Diaspora community. The presented Draft Legal Framework from the AU ECOSOCC has provided opportunities for further exchanges with African Diaspora High Council's Representatives.

6For more background information:

[–Global Pan African Roots Synergy Roundtable Maputo Mozambique | By African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council](#)