



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



As at 16h00- 08/12/2023

## DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Southern Africa Regional Preparatory Conference to the  
9<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress

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*'From Pan-Africanism to Agenda 2063: The role of the African Diaspora in the  
establishment of institutional links for Africa's economic transformation'*

Hosted in Pretoria, South Africa

05 December 2023

We, the participants of the Southern Africa Regional Preparatory Conference, convened in Pretoria, South Africa, on the margins of the Science Forum hosted by the Republic of South Africa, in preparation of the 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress to be hosted in Lomé, Togo in 2024;

**REPRESENTING** our Governments, local and regional bodies, industry and civil society organisations, we emphasise renewed appreciation for the need to strengthen unity, cohesion, foster international solidarity and cooperation across borders, within and outside Africa amongst the global African community which finds expression through the diaspora,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance and historical contribution of the Diaspora in the struggles against colonialism, segregation, and apartheid, and the fight for Africans and Africa Descends to attain freedom from all forms of racial oppression and slavery,

**RECOGNISING** the ongoing dialogue between Africans on the Continent and the Caribbean Community representatives of the African Diaspora in various regions of the world, including North America, South and Latin America, Europe and elsewhere,

**RECALLING** the struggles of Africa's Founders to promote the values and political ideology of Pan-Africanism in Africa as well as in the Diaspora,

**STRESSING** the importance of the universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity, as espoused in the philosophy of Ubuntu, and the contribution of this approach as a beacon of hope and in driving Pan-Africanism as the underpinning foundation of the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress in 2024,

**BUILDING** on the outcomes of the Global African Diaspora Summit held in 2012, which endorsed the adoption of the five Legacy Projects such as the African Institute for Remittances, African Diaspora Global Marketplace, African Diaspora Professional Database, African Diaspora Investment Fund and the African Diaspora Volunteer Corps. Furthermore, recalling the decision of the Global African Diaspora Summit that declared the African Diaspora as the 6<sup>th</sup> Region of the African Union.

**WELCOMING** the declaration of the Decade for African Roots and Diasporas for the period 2021-2031, and as such, having convened the Southern Africa Regional Preparatory Conference as a precursor to the 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress that will be held in Lomé, Togo in October 2024,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the Decade for African Roots and Diasporas provides a unique opportunity to look into the notions of deculturation and acculturation in diminishing the cultural power of the African Diaspora and African Descendants,

**RECOGNISING** that the Diaspora constitutes an important economic, social, political, and cultural power and in this regard reaffirm Aspiration five (5) of Agenda 2063 that encapsulates "Africa with a Strong Cultural identity Common Heritage, Values and Ethics". Aspiration 5 validates Pan-Africanism ideals and therefore presents a beacon of hope,

**RECOGNISING** the call from the previous Congresses, for all African Governments and peoples to take practical steps collectively – and in solidarity - for the unification and development of the African Continent and its Diaspora,

**UNDERLINING** the need for better coordination and development of institutions in Africa and the African Diaspora, dedicated to innovation and invention for the socio- economic and cultural development of Africa and the Diaspora,

**UNDERSCORING** the importance of the African Diaspora in contributing to the welfare and development of the African Continent and building onto the various proclamations of the African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government,

**RECALLING** the importance of an integrated and politically united Africa that is based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and a vision of an African Renaissance with a strong African cultural identity, common heritage, value and belief system, as espoused within Agenda 2063,

**STRIVING** for the Agenda 2063 aspiration of a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development that is people driven and relying on the potential of the African people, with well-educated citizens and a skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology, and Innovation,

**NOTING** the ongoing efforts regarding the AU Special Project on the evaluation of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan and the development of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063, with special attention to enhancing collaboration on attaining the seven Moonshots that aim at fast-tracking continental development,

**BEARING** in mind the impact of the overall brain-drain of highly skilled African men and women in hampering sustainable development in the Continent and hindering the socio-economic development of African countries,

**UNDERSCORING** the importance of the theme *“Pan-Africanism, Science, Knowledge and Technology”*, which is a call to recognise the need for human resources, research, innovation, skills development and institutional links on the Continent, alongside the Diaspora,

**SEEKING** to maximise the youth’s potential, spanning from competent industry leaders, scientists, scholars and entrepreneurs among others, in supporting prosperity and economic growth of the Continent,

**ACKNOWLEDGING**, from the above premise, that the Diaspora has vested interests in using their wealth of experiences and expertise acquired abroad, in building back for the benefit of the continent’s citizenry,

**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,

**REALISING** 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,

The Southern Africa Regional Preparatory Conference resolves to:

1. **WELCOMES** the presentation of the African Scientists Directory to contribute to the *African Professionals Database*, which will serve as an all-inclusive platform aimed at matching the expertise of African professionals based in Africa with their counterparts in the Diaspora. This will also be further supported through other exiting initiatives such as the African Scientists' Directory.
2. **SUPPORTS** the Decision of the African Union to establish the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) to enable the African vaccine manufacturing industry to develop, produce, and supply vaccines by the continent, for the continent. This will strengthen Africa's potential to grow and scale vaccine development and manufacturing over the next two decades.
3. **RECOGNISES** the need to create platforms wherein members of the Continental Diaspora can make meaningful contributions in advancing partnerships and initiatives that can stimulate the growth of African economies and promote the empowerment of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in our societies.
4. **CALL UPONS** African Governments and Pan-African institutions, to make concerted efforts to tap into the collective knowledge, where relevant, of the scarce skills possessed by the Diaspora, which may be required for the establishment of institutional mechanisms and policy implementation frameworks that will promote and sustain linkages between AU and the Diaspora in the following priority areas: trade and investment opportunities including those linked to indigenous knowledge and systems while ensuring that the related intellectual property rights are secured for the benefit of Africa and the Diaspora; access to markets, technology transfer, travel and tourism, communication and air and road transportation infrastructure, energy, information and communication technology; and unlocking the envisaged impact of National Development Policies, Agenda 2063 and the African Free Trade Continental Area (AfCFTA).

5. **WELCOMES** the African Union theme of the year 2024 entitled “*Educate an African fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa*” and **ENCOURAGE** the development of education and skills curriculum that incorporates Pan-Africanism ideals and values with a view to eliminating the negative narrative about the African continent, its people, culture and potential, as well as teaching the right history.
6. **CALLS** upon African countries to invest in partnerships with the Diaspora in strengthening capacity for policy development and implementation, with a focus on and creating linkages between Pan-Africanism, science, knowledge and technology.
7. **UNDERScores** the role of the African Diaspora and promoting peace and stability in Africa and recognizing the nexus between peace and security in realizing the socio-economic development of the continent.
8. **EMPHASISES** the need to support the role of the AU as the focal point and the coordination hub of all Diaspora initiatives on the Continent and to this end, calls for the strengthening of The Citizens & Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) in the AU Commission with the necessary financial and human resources to enable the acceleration of the implementation of Diaspora issues.
9. **STRESSES** the importance of Pan-African research and funding being driven by African-led structures and processes, supported by investment from the Diaspora for Africa-identified priorities, thereby reducing a dependency on development cooperation.
10. **ENGAGES** and invest in the media, especially community-based media outlets, on advocacy and awareness regarding the promotion of the ideals of Pan-Africanism and its contribution to and support of the developmental goals of Africa.
11. **UNDERTAKE** regular consultations amongst the six Regions of the African Continent so as to enhance common messaging and communication on the role of Pan-Africanism in supporting Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want in global multilateral fora.
12. **CALLS** upon the Member States of the Southern Africa Region to actively participate and to be represented, at the highest level, at the forthcoming 9th Congress to be held in 2024 in Lomé, Togo.
13. **FURTHER CALLS** on the High Committee in Charge of the Agenda for the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas to consider formal proposals for the recognition of the founding members of Pan-Africanism, including through, inter alia, symbols, placement of busts and any other forms befitting of their stature, to be displayed in prominent positions within the precinct of the AU Headquarters and at any other AU Centres, including outside of Addis Ababa.

14. **REQUESTS** that the High Committee submit these proposals to the 45<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union and the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2025.
15. **DECLARES** that the content of this Declaration is the contribution of the Southern Africa Region towards the outcomes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress that will be held in Lomé, Togo, in 2024.