



Since the heyday of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) of Marcus Garvey and the ACL (African Communities League) during the first half of the 20th century, several attempts were made to establish grassroots and community-based organizational communications systems between Africans on the continent and those in the Diaspora.

For decades, many Pan Africanists have been traditionally carrying for Africa and the Africans by seeking the support of the African Leaders or Head of states concerning their struggle in the western world against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and institutional racism against African People outside the continent and their struggle for reparations for the injustice that have been done during the trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism. Therefore, the Sixth Region initiative and the invitation of the African Union was and still is a big challenge. The crime of the trans-Atlantic slave trade amongst others and its effects, as well the 'brain drain,' have affected Africa more severely than any other continent in the world`.

As social movement and ideological expression of African identity, Pan-Africanism was and is one of the most successful movements in modern history because it achieved its

aim of freedom and self-determination of African peoples worldwide; people of Africa and African descent worldwide now recognise a shared history. They are separated by citizenship, but united by history and memory, market and cultural forces. The creation of the Sixth Region redresses a major historical wrong in reintegrating the Diaspora in the institutional process of unifying the African people. Let's remember that the Diaspora who is at the origin of the Pan Africanism, originally conceived as a black empowerment unified movement, has been arbitrarily "pushed" out of the organisation of the African Union for more than half a century. The original plan of opening a new area for the African renaissance is still needed even as of today.

The practical implications of the 2003 invitation from the AU?

Some of the strategic questions which led to the adoption of the African Union African Diaspora Declaration of May 2012 were:

- What are the practical implications of the 2003 invitation from the AU?
- Is it the implementation of the new Article 3 (q) of the African Union Constitutive Act?
- Or is it the impacts of the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important component to build the African Union?
- What is the nature and composition of the African Diaspora?
- What are the characteristics of the Diaspora living in the other continents of the world?
- How should the African Diaspora and the Africans leaving in Africa respond to the invitation of the African Union?
- What are the best effective strategies to interact, promote communication and co-operation between Africa, the African Union and its bodies (e.g. Parliament and related organs such as its strategical, economical, and cultural alliances and committees included NEPAD structures and the United Nations African bodies like the Human and Peoples Rights Commission, Unions for African Professionals, ECOSOCC and Civil Society Institutes?