

THE ACCRA DECLARATION 2019

SUMMARY STATEMENTS & AGREEMENTS TO ACCOMPANY THE DECLARATION

TOWARDS AN



DATE: NOVEMBER 5th 2019

VENUE: SONANT COURT HOTEL GHANA ACCRA

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- Esther Stanford, PARCOE (Pan Afrikan Reparations Coalition of Europe)
- Dr. Roland Holou, Founder of DiasporaEngager and of Global Diaspora News
- Iman Drammeh, DRAMMEH Institute
- Her Majesty Queen Mother Dòwoti Désir Hounon Houna II, Co-Chairperson, NGO Committee for the. Elimination of Racism, Afrophobia & Colorism, Founder, AfroAtlantic Theologies & Treaties Institute
- Professor Dr. Kimani Nehusi, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
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- Barrister Jerry Egembe, Member of the African Diaspora Union
- Professor Dr. Antumi Toasijé, Leader of the Pan-African Center WanafriKa.org Spain
- Dr. Tumenta Kennedy, Leader of the African Business Information Bank (African BIB)

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- Kimberley Poole, Teaching Artists Institute
- Dr. Marcelin Dabo, Coordinator Year of Return France
- Armand Zunder, Vice Chair CARICOM Reparation Commission; Chair National Reparation Commission Republic Suriname
- Horojoe Kumasi, Member of the Sixth Region African Diaspora Community Council
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INTRODUCTION

Initiated by the Global African Diaspora Union, the Global Roots Synergy Roundtable (GRS-Roundtable) was an event organized at the 'closing' of the events that were organized in Ghana Kumasi by the Ghana Caribbean Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Ghana National Commission on Culture and the Global African Diaspora Union in perspective of the Ghana Year of Return. Meant for the historical Africans in the Diaspora, the Year of Return was declared in September 2018 in Washington DC by the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo with reference to the 400-year remembrance of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the enslavement of African people. It should not be confused with the Ghana Homecoming Events that is meant for the Ghana Diaspora and which is organized every two years.

Why the Global Roots Synergy Roundtable?

Many Africans in Diaspora (e.g. Pan-Africanists and other Activists in the AU Sixth region) were approved that the Ghana Year of Return is 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.

Analyses have shown that many continental Africans and in Diaspora are not aware of the existence and or the background of 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 Programme of Activities; and

- The May 2012 African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region Declaration, the Programme of Activities and the affiliated resolutions and instruments.

Ghana Year of Return offered important opportunities for focusing on these important historical Declarations and their affiliated resolutions.

Why a Decade of Return? The Origin of the IDEA.

In addition to negotiations for a new Declaration, during the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) that took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11–22 March 2019, experts were selected to organize parallel events.

The CSW63 focused on the theme “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”. Each parallel event/session added an opportunity for community stakeholders to participate with in-depth analysis of emerging trends effecting global women and the development of resolutions to these issues.

According to the UNCSW NGO, over 20,000 women attended the event as official UN Nation Member States delegations and civil society with the aim of improving the quality of life and social protections for women.

One of such parallel events was organized by ECOWAS Women Organization and the Global African SHEROES Union in close cooperation amongst others with The DRAMMEH Institute, Tiye International, the African European Women’s movement “Sophiedela”, the Afro Atlantic Theologies & Treaties Institute and the African Views Organization. The event entitled “YEAR OF RETURN: *African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region Declaration in Gender Perspective*” was held at the African Union Mission in New York City on March 20, 2019. About 160 participants including (African and young) women from all the continents of the globe. Some were professors, scientists, scholars, community leaders, traditional queens and chiefs, political leaders, UN specialists and entrepreneurs.

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Participants during this CSW63 parallel event were in favor of the *Ghana 2019 Year of Return initiative* with wider attention of all AU Head of States and that all African Union Member States whose involvement is much needed. The *Ghana 2019 Year of Return initiative* must be used as a tool to record more progress in implementing the May 2012, African Union's Global Diaspora Sixth Region Declaration and Programme of Activities.

Furthermore, it was agreed to call on the African Union Commission to:

- Develop policies to implement the advancement of ownership in the agribusiness global food industry and supply chain for the International African Diaspora to create more trade between and within the Global African Diaspora.
- Develop policies to implement the acquisition, development and sustainability of lands for Global African Women.
- Recognize March 16th as the Global African Women's Day with the aim to honor and respect the rich diversity of women of African descent around the world, and to celebrate a shared vision of unity, despite historical separations by the global and intercontinental enslavement and colonialism of African people and nations.

In April 2019, a request letter was sent to the African Union Commission subsequently followed by a side conversation during an AU/UN Summit in Senegal in October 2019 with the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission. To ensure that the request would receive serious attention, it was communicated with delegates of AU Member States during an AU/UN Summit in Senegal in October 2019.

Participation at the Global Roots Synergy Roundtable

Present at the GRS-Roundtable were high level Pan-Africanist and Activists: Scholars, Historians, Business & Media people, Rastafarian's and Reparation's movements, Students and others from: Africa, The United States of America, Central and South America, The Caribbean including the Dutch Speaking Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East.

Main Topics and Speakers

I The Durban Declaration and Platform of Action 2001.

18 years before and 2021, 20 years after and the way forward.

Professor Dr. David Horne, Leader of the Sub Regional Diaspora (WHS) Community Council and on behalf of the Affiliated Pan Africanists Organizations, Networks, Experts and other Activists

The documentary film Durban 400, directed by Alfred Santana and produced by The DRAMMEH Institute, was shown to stipulate the important role of the worldwide Pan-African Community before and during the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001 in Durban South Africa.

II The UN International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024.

What happened before in 2009, 2011; 5 years after and the way forward

Dr. Barryl A Biekman, Ambassador Global African Diaspora Union; AU AD Sixth Region Community Council (Europe) and affiliated Pan-African Movements, Organizations, Networks, Experts and other Activists

In 2014 Dr. Biekman was selected by the President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as the sole civil society speaker during the launching of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent.

III The Adoption of the AU AD Decade of Return 2020-2030

In historical Perspective of the African Union African Diaspora Sixth Declaration 2012

Nyahuma Obika, Former High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago to Nigeria, Former ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Algeria, Guinea, Congo and Senegal.

The GRS-Roundtable was co-sponsored by the SONANT COURT HOTEL Ghana/Accra. In his welcome address, on behalf of the owner of the SONANT Court Hotel, Mrs. Sonia Agyet-Kyem, *Michael Nkrumah* emphasized that an important mission of the SONANT Court Hotel is to provide a house for all the Diaspora. Not simply a house but a place where one can feel at home; where the Diaspora can enjoy the good amenities. The well-trained staff is ready to serve you.



I. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

I.1 SUMMARY STATEMENT

To stipulate the important role of the worldwide Pan-African Community before and during the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001 in Durban South Africa, this Session started with the documentary film 'Durban 400', directed by Alfred Santana and produced by The DRAMMEH Institute.

The documentary was followed with a presentation by *Professor Dr. David Horne* who addressed several important aspects of the 2001 UN Third World Conference Against Racism (UN WCAR).

After questions and answers, the participants agreed that the adoption of Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) and the acknowledgement of the trans-Atlantic slave trade as a crime against humanity were clearly the greatest victory during the UN WCAR 2001. This was also the result of the significant role of the Africans and African Descendants, from all over the world, who attended the UN WCAR in ensuring that many declarations of principle, key demands, and project proposals, fundamental to the nations and peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora, found a place in the DDPA. *Dr. Horne* also emphasized issues of critical importance to Africans and African Descendants highlighted in the Declarations and Plans of Action adopted by the NGO Forum respective the International Youth Summit, prior to the WCAR inter-governmental conference.

After a discussion session, participants agreed that the Durban Declaration is indeed one of the most extraordinary proclamations of the new millennium. Yet, such a Declaration is useless unless responsible UN Member States and all other relevant stakeholders and people of good will competence strategically work together to execute its plan of action. The execution of the DDPA must be facilitated by implementing the objectives of the DDPA vision and by empowering those who are the inspiration of this movement.

Nearly two decades after the Durban World Conference Against Racism in 2001, no significant progress was made on the DDPA. As committed the Member States of the United Nations, the bureaucracy, mismanaged priorities and, in some unfortunate circumstances, careless attitudes have only produced mediocre advancement for the DDPA. This is unacceptable considering the highly advanced administration organization which exist in the UN. Therefore, we must insist that the 74th session of the UN General Assembly discuss and take decisions for a 20th anniversary with the same sense of excellence as the 10th anniversary of the Durban Conference Against Racism in 2011. We must begin preparing for this anniversary no later than January 01, 2020.

The following were adopted

I.2 DECLARATION AND AGREEMENTS

I.2.1 WHEREAS

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) adopted by consensus during the Third "World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" in 2001 in Durban, South Africa, constituted the most comprehensive international framework against racism.

The DDPA provided a profound analysis of the historical roots of modern racism as it emerged from the trans-Atlantic slave trade with lasting consequences for a significant proportion of the world's population who are people of African descent and constitute today's global African Diaspora. Issues of critical importance to Africans and African Descendants were also highlighted in the DDPA.

The trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism were a crime against humanity and provides the basis for our calls for reparatory justice and self-determination becoming even more important in our struggle everywhere.

The Durban Review 2009 has reaffirmed in its article 1 of the Review outcome document the DDPA.

2021 will mark the 20 years anniversary of the DDPA

I.2.2 CONSIDERING

The slow pace of the implementation of the DDPA, the ongoing undermining and marginalization of the DDPA is a hostile act against the African Continent, its people and all people of African descent.

I.2.3 WE, PARTICIPANTS

Strongly reject and condemn the ongoing undermining and marginalization of the DDPA evidenced by certain Member States within the United Nations.

I.3 CALL ON

1. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

To affirm and take a decision at its 74th session to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the DDPA in 2021 at a high-level meeting at the level of heads of state and government as was the case for the 10th anniversary in 2011. To do otherwise would further undermine the DDPA and deprive people from their strength of the most important tool in the struggle against racism.

2. The United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council

To act swiftly and decisively to set up an effective Outreach Programme by the UN to inform and mobilize the global people for the implementation of the DDPA and in this regard take into immediate account:

The recommendations of the May 2019 session of the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the DDPA (appointed by the UN Secretary General) wherein it is stated that, the lack of public knowledge about the real content of the DDPA has constituted a serious obstacle towards generating political will for its full and effective implementation. And that the 20th anniversary can be used as an important opportunity to enhance public understanding about the comprehensive nature of the DDPA and invitation to all relevant stakeholders, including member states, international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations, the media,

academia and other interested parties, be invited to organize high-visibility initiatives to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA.

3. The African Union Member States

For their immediate support of the aforementioned recommendations of the Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the full and effective Implementation of the DDPA during the UNGA 74th session.

II. The UN International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024

II.1 SUMMARY STATEMENT

This Session of the GRS Roundtable started with a brief presentation *by Dr. Barryl A. Biekman* about the aim, mission, objectives of and what has been achieved until today about the Decade. *Dr. Biekman* paid much attention to the many UN Office of The High Commissioner for Human Rights meetings and regional conferences devoted to the evaluation of the Decade. In cooperation with the African Union and the CIDO, two meetings were organized: one in Ghana (September 2018) and the other one in Senegal (October 2019).

Dr. Biekman explained and talked about the Durban Review in 2009, the High-level Panel in 2011 and the adoption of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent.

After the presentation, participants unanimously agreed that the UN International Decade for People of African Descent is an important tool to use for the implementation of the DDPA. However, if the DDPA is not implemented properly, it is evident that the implementation of this important Decade will fail since the DDPA is the Centre of the UN Decade Programme of Activities. One cannot be implemented without the other.

A Decade as such has no value unless its Programme of Activities are executed by responsible UN Member States and all relevant and competent stakeholders. The Decade

Programme of Activities must be facilitated according to the existing resolutions and by empowering those who are the inspiration of this movement. We are at the fifth year of the Decade, but many Member States have not even launched it yet, and no significant progress in implementing its three pillars (Justice, Recognition and Development) has been achieved yet.

The following were adopted

II.2 DECLARATION AND AGREEMENTS

II.2.1 WHEREAS

The UN International Decade for People of African Descent produced an important instrument and Programme of Activities with the aim to realize political will in the sphere of justice, recognition and development towards amongst others the strengthening of actions to dismantle the many obstacles encountered by millions of peoples of African descent in every region of the world.

In 2020, the mid-term review of the IDPAD will take place.

II.2.2 WE, PARTICIPANTS

Reaffirm our commitment regarding the full and unconditional implementation of the IDPAD Programme of Activities.

Regret that the implementation of the IDPAD in its fifth year in many Member States is still at its beginning. Hold accountable governments on all levels of society and all other relevant actors.

Welcome and support the UN Programme of Activities (POAD) for the IDPAD adopted by the UN General Assembly which implementation is an integral part of the full and effective implementation of the DDPA and which requires partnership and contribution of people to work together with people of African descent.

Welcome the exchange of ideas for the preparation of a fifth year's mid-term review of the IDPAD. The deliberation will take into account the process for a Permanent Forum on People of African descent and the state of the development by the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Favor the opinion that the implementation of the Forum on People of African Descent agreed in the POAD should take place immediately and not be further delayed by the ongoing process for the Permanent Forum. Nevertheless, our vision regarding the Permanent Forum is that the modalities and format of a coming Permanent Forum require detailed discussion and even more important discussion that need to take place is whether the Permanent Forum should be placed under the Human Rights Council or under the Economic and Social Council, which is the case for the Indigenous Forum. This is really an utmost important matter to be fully discussed and considered

II.2.3 CALL ON

1. The United Nations

To publish the Programme of Activities for the International Decade in printed form as is normal for programs of other international UN decades. It is important for a serious mid-term review of what has been done to implement the Programme of Activities.

2. All governments and parliaments on all level of society and other stakeholders

To demonstrate their political will for the full implementation of the IDPAD with involvement of *the voices* of the civil society of African descent (CSPAD).

It is important for a serious implementation to create awareness and realize national campaigns towards all people of society.

3. To support CSPAD organizations and networking

In projects by means of all the necessary forms in the field of organizational development, building and institutional reinforcement.

4. Treasure and welcome

the increased recognition of Afrophobia(Afriphobia) as the term for the special and unique form of discrimination faced by people of African descent and calls for it to be fully utilized in the fight against racism and at an equal level internationally with recognized terms for discrimination of other groups.

III. The Decade of Return 2020-2030

III.1 SUMMARY STATEMENT

This Session started with a statement of *Nyahuma Obika*. The statement led to a presentation about the May 2012 African Union Sixth Region Declaration from the starting point of the realization of the Organization of African Unity in 1963 to the African Union in 2002. He mentioned:

- The consolidation of the Diaspora in article 3q of the Protocol on the Amendments of the Constitutive Act of the African Union of July 2003;
- About the forthcoming giants who were at the forefront to bring the Diaspora home. Amongst them he mentioned Henry Sylvester Williams, George Padmore as leading Pan Africanists; Kwame Nkrumah, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, William E.B. DuBois, Franz Fanon, Dudley Thompson and many more such as Amy Ashwood, Amy Jacques the (first and second wife of Marcus Garvey), Queen Mother Moore who were at the forefront on Policies of Return.

Obika emphasized not to believe that the Diasporans are not organized. He mentioned the issue of Unity as a big obstacle. He showed the evidence of what has been achieved since 2012 until to date.

On political, economic and academic level:

- Agreements between the AU and CARICOM.

- The opening of African Embassies in Brazil, CARICOM and other Countries in South America and vice versa; Haiti as example which became an observer Member State of the African Union. He mentioned the opening of a Republic Suriname Embassee in Ghana. And there will many more important developments to come as the Sixth Region AU Policies seeks to operationalize it's relevance to the growth and development of the African Continent and for the benefit of Africans globally.
- He mentioned the States visits from Diaspora Countries to Africa and vice versa.
- The linking of Trustee Institutions; Universities such as the University of Johannesburg and the West Indies.
- The existence of the Ghana Caribbean Chamber of Commerce and the process towards the realization of the Ghana Suriname Chamber of Commerce.
- He stipulate the hundreds of small business Diaspora projects in African Member States and the cultural exchange activities.

At the level of the Diaspora Civil Society, *Obika* emphasized that there is a world to win. On issues of reparations, repatriation, visas, and direct flights. He agreed that the Commission and Project driven Programme of Action mentioned in the Sixth Region Declaration is the Key to the success of the Sixth Region development. In this sense he agreed with the vision of Bishop Dr. Chidiebere Anelechi Ogbu, who call for the immediate operationalization of the Commissions. The promised Legal and Political framework and structure is more than ever needed. The 20 ECOSOCC Seats for the Diaspora are waiting.

After questions and answers *Obika* conclude with a statement in which he promotes the adoption of a Decade of Return by the AU Commission and all AU Member States. We must spare no effort to advance the importance of Pan Africanism, its practicality and its timeliness he emphasized. The Decade of Return is an excellent opportunity to give fully attention to the implementation of the DDPA, the International Decade for People of African Descent as well the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the AU Agenda 63.

The following were adopted

III.2 DECLARATION AND AGREEMENTS

III.2.1 WHEREAS

The African Union

Has invited the African Diaspora in article 3q of the Protocol on the Amendments of the Constitutive Act of the African Union of July 2003, in which the African Union invites the African Diaspora to join the African Union as voting members followed by the African Union Declaration and Program of Activities of May 2012, in which the African Union: *'Encourages 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'.*

The African Diaspora

Has accepted the invitation and dedicate itself by organising and mobilizing the people and, internally organize itself and demonstrate its own unification in order to most effectively accept that invitation. This in perspective of their historical obligation to follow-up on the long-time efforts of the pioneers and veterans of Pan Africanism.

III.2.2 WE, PARTIPANTS

Driven by the strong desire to develop sustainable connections between the African Union, its organs and the Sixth Region of the African Diaspora.

Enchanted by the endeavor of creating sovereign, resilient, community respective project driven and involved institutions.

Motivated by the need to end and direct mechanisms of exclusion.

Enlightened by the spirit of kinship and family ties.

Putting a stop to a process of take-overs, invalidation, abuse and misuse of power, respecting community involvement as protected by the Rule of Law.

Creating a pathway towards mutual respect and non-violent communication.

Protecting self-determination, independency and sovereignty.

Honoring the cultural heritage of the African People.

Promoting Africa's gift to the world while safeguarding its ownership.

Reaffirming our agreement to accept these Rules of Procedures as guidelines in the proper functioning of the institutions of the Sixth Region Organizations.

Aware of the pivotal role of the African Diaspora to contribute to a peaceful, strong, rich, self-reliant, sovereign and united African continent and move towards the African Renaissance while promoting Africa's contribution to the world and safeguarding its ownership.

Convinced of the necessity of Pan African solidarity to achieve effective participation of the People of the African Diaspora in the activities of the African Union.

Reaffirming that the African Diaspora consists of People of African descendant and heritage living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who remain to contribute to the development of the continent.

Emphasizing the development of this definition is for African Diaspora an ongoing process.

Emphasizing the importance of a strong, coherent, united and globally organized African Diaspora - as defined by the African Union.

Recalling the Abuja Proclamation of the First Pan-African Conference for Reparations for Chattel Slavery, Colonisation & Neocolonisation 1993.

Recalling Article 3(q) of the Protocol on the Amendments of the Constitutive Act of the African Union of July 2003, in which the African Union invites the African Diaspora to join the African Union as voting member.

Recalling the outcomes of the efforts of various African Union organs and member states and others African Union Regional Consultation Conferences; the African Union Ministerial gatherings; the African Diaspora & Technical Workshop Meetings organized globally and regionally by the African Union in cooperation with the South African Government.

Expressing our firm hope for large substantive contribution by the African Diaspora worldwide to realize a peaceful and prosperous African continent for all its people and with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

Considering

The slow pace of implementing the 2012 African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region Declaration and affiliated resolutions.

The African Union African Diaspora Decade of Return 2020-2030 as a tool to realize concrete steps forward.

III.2.3 CALL ON

The African Union Commission respective AU Head of States

To adopt its next session the AU Decade of Return 2020-2030 with the aim to invite the 'historical' Africans in particularly, to 'Return to their Continent'.

To use this Decade of Return as a tool to *end the slow pace of the implementation of the May 2012 African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region Declaration* as far it concerns the Legal and Political Framework and Structure with the aim:

Sustainable Integration of the Diaspora Legalization in the diverse political, socio-economic and social organs and bodies of the African Union.

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For Policies for the International African Diaspora Return. This includes the issuance of permanent visas to persons of African descent and right to obtain residence with no fees and ease of entry to African States if there is no disqualifying element on the African claiming the “right to return” to the ancestral home Africa.

For active partnering in the implementation of the claims for Reparatory Justice for Africa and African peoples, taken in consideration amongst others all the Declarations from Pan-Africanist Movements: The

- Programmes and Manifestos of the Europe-wide NGO Consultative Council for Afrikan Reparations (ENGOCCAR);
- Stop the Maangamizi: We Charge Genocide/Ecocide!’ Campaign (SMWeCGEC);
- International Network of Scholars & Activists for Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR);
- National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America International Affairs Commission;
- National African American Reparations Commission;
- Platform of the Dutch Slavery Past in cooperation with ENGOCCAR the ‘*Civilians Initiative For Apology and Reparations*’ ;

And

- The Abuja Proclamation 1993, The Gambia, Libya, Caricom Declarations;
- The UN Resolutions on Reparations;
- The EU Parliament Resolution on the Fundamental Rights of People of African Descent.

In this regards all AU Member States should have their constitutions amended to acknowledge the vile nature of the continuum of the Maafa/Maangamizi, including the so-called Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean slave’s trades, as crimes against humanity that should have never occurred against fellow Africans.

Assist in a cost effective, sustainable development and sourcing of major projects by first considering resources of the International African Diaspora in African, Caribbean and Pacific Programs and other agreements.

III.2.4 RECOMMEND

That the Programme of Activities for the implementation of the Decade of Return must be developed in close cooperation with an appointed “*Technical Working Commission Decade of Return*” with a consultative voice for the Ghana Presidency Commission Year of Return, because of the learning and experience aspects.

III.2.5 REQUEST

That a Secretariat for the implementation of the Decade of Return consisting of Professional Diaspora Cadres should be placed under the Diaspora Department of the A.U. Commission. This Secretariat would have the mandate and responsibility to drive the entire process of the Decade of Return: 2020-2030.

IV. The Year of Return Evaluation Strategies

This session focused on strategies to propose to the Ghana presidency for the evaluation of the Ghana Year of Return.

During the GRS Roundtable, the Participants had a strong need to speak out about their experiences in Ghana in the context of the Year of Return. Most of them agreed that Ghana has made a great achievement to declare 2019 as the Year of Return. Because no other AU Member State could have imagined this, Ghana deserves an applause. Participants unanimously asserted that these steps should be carried out by Ghana to evaluate the Year in its various aspects including the organization, communication and coordination as well in economic, social and cultural affairs without forgetting the expected sustainable development.

Are the Ghana people ready to welcome the Diaspora home? Why should they invite the Diaspora to come home if the Ghanaians living in their home country, Ghana, especially in the rural areas needs amenities in the sphere of education, employment, healthcare, and good housing? What Ghana was looking for? Rich African Diasporans investors? African Diasporans who are seeking for their ancestral connection and a permanent home?

It was unanimous that a half-structured survey must be done to better evaluate the impact and all relevant aspects of the Year of Return and ways to improve similar future

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Years of Return. The survey can also allow the participants of the GRS Roundtable to express their assessment of the Event. If well done, the official survey can give the Ghana authorities a better insight into many things and forward developments.

Questions in the categories of:

Ages: How old are you?

Gender: What is your gender?

Expertise: what is your areas of expertise?

Income: How much do you make per month or per year?

Birthplace: Where were you born?

Employment/profession/branch: What is your profession?

Residence: What is your country of residence?

Nationality: Which country are you a citizen of?

Reasons to visit Ghana.

Is this your first visit to Ghana?

Is it because of the Year of Return?

If yes, what did the Year of Return teach you or offer you?

Questions regarding the expectations and first impressions.

Did the invitation of the President of the Republic Ghana contribute to your awareness about Africa as well as the love for Africa?

What are your most important impressions and experiences?

What events have you attended which were convened under the Event of the Year of Return?

What went well for you during that event?

What were the main issues and challenges?

How the below aspects are valued?

Immigration: How do you think the immigration aspect of the Year of Return can be improved?

Information & Communication: What do you think needs to be done to improve the information and communication aspect of the event?

Coordination: What can be done to improve the coordination of the event?

Transportation: What do you think needs to be done to improve transportation aspect of the Year of Return?

Accommodation/Housing: What do you think needs to be done to improve housing aspect of the Year of Return?

Facilitation and Sanitation: What do you think needs to be done to improve facilitation and sanitation aspect of the Year of Return?

How the Organization of Year of Return can be improved?

General recommendations

What do you recommend to improve the overall success future years of return?

At the same time all participants agreed, by voting, that the Ghana Year of Return has to transform in the 'Ghana Decade of Return' as the first AU Member State under the Flagship of the 'African Union African Diaspora Decade of Return 2020-2030'.

