

# **The 2021 Africa and African Diaspora Conference: *From Manchester 1945 to a Pan-African Renaissance***

Johannesburg, South Africa, October 22-29, 2021

—A Concept Note

Integral to the canonical Pan-African conferences 1900-1945 was the vision of Africans and people of African descent across the world as fully liberated at the international as well as national levels.

More than half a century after formal independence, Africa and its Diaspora has yet to enjoy full political, economic, social, cultural and environmental freedom, sovereignty and self-determination.

“The 2021 Africa and African Diaspora Conference: *From Manchester 1945 to a Pan-African Renaissance*” will bring together a confluence of Pan-African initiatives across the world to congregate, exchange on and build a Pan-Africanism for the future. These initiatives include the Pan-African vision of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the provision for the African Diaspora as the 6th region of the AU, the increasing collaborations between the AU and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), CARICOM’s call for reparatory justice, the Black Lives Matter movements across the world and the UN International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024.

The conference will bring together global representatives from Africa and all regions of the world where people of African descent are found, including the Americas, Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Oceania—from both civil society and political institutions such as the AU, CARICOM and the UN—to revisit the ground-breaking decisions of the 1945 6<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress in Manchester to:

- Assess how far the vision of that conference has been realized;
- Assess the common political denominators of Africans and people of African descent across the world as well as strategies for pursuing them in this moment of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Critically reflect on current challenges facing Africans and people of African descent as a result of histories and legacies of enslavement, colonialism, genocide and systemic racism.

- Develop action-oriented strategies, policies and organizational infrastructures towards the full political, social, economic, cultural and environmental liberation of Africa and its Diaspora.

Towards these ends, the conference will include eight thematic streams or areas:

1. **Pan-Africanism with All, for All**—engaging and including women, youth, elderly, various religious expressions, minorities and indigenous peoples;
2. **Decolonizing Knowledge**—liberating and empowering education, science, history and indigenous cultures in Africa and its Diaspora (as well as related communities affected);
3. **Black Lives Matter Globally**—empowering synergies and supportive infrastructures for civil society advocates for people of African descent across the world;
4. **Building bridges between Africa and its Diaspora**—deepening AU-CARICOM relations, realizing the Diaspora as the 6th region of the AU and institutionalizing Pan-Africanism at the UN through the International Decade for People of African Descent (and the establishment of a UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent);
5. **Towards a democratic and equitable international order**—on transforming the global governance architecture and Bretton Woods system and its institutions such as the UN, World Bank, IMF and WTO;
6. **Reparatory justice, life and debt in Africa and the Diaspora**—addressing, halting, redressing and healing the histories and legacies of enslavement, colonialism, genocide, systemic racism and their intersectionalities.
7. **Economic Liberation**—radically change the economic position of people of African descent globally and put them at the cutting edge of economic technological development into the future.
8. **Pan-Africanism and Spirituality**—towards de-colonizing and liberating forms of spirituality that touches on and informs every facet of human life and environs with values that require justice for all, including liberating interfaith dialogues, theologies and indigenous spiritualities of Africans and people of African descent.

The conference preparatory processes and deliberations and the conference will result in a Pan-African Conference Declaration (or Manifesto) and an Outcome

Document with policy recommendations, signed and committed to by all present including political leaders, AU and CARICOM officials, Pan-African thought leaders and civil society organizations.