

**PROVISIONAL REPORT
AFRICAN UNION-CARIBBEAN DIASPORA
CONFERENCE,
THE BRIT OVAL, LONDON
23-25 APRIL 2007**

- Annex A: Conference Programme:
- Annex B: Opening Address of Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of South Africa
- Annex C: Opening Address of Minister Anthony Hylton, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica.

1. Introduction:

On the 23-25 of April 2007 a landmark African-Caribbean conference was held at the Brit Oval in London. (Annex A). The conference was held over two days and included key note addresses from the South African Foreign Minister Dr Nkosazana- Dlamini- Zuma MP (Annex B) and the Jamaican Foreign Minister Mr Anthony Hylton MP (Annex C). Further speakers included academic personalities from the two regions and some based in the UK. Delegates included representatives from the Diaspora groupings for African/Caribbean Groups in the UK and Europe and representatives of academic institutions from leading centres of African/Caribbean Studies in the United Kingdom and experts on Africa and the Caribbean Diaspora in general.

2. Background:

On the 17th of March 2005 the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, briefed a South Africa-Africa Union-Caribbean Diaspora Conference in Kingston, Jamaica. At the Conference she stressed the commonalities between Africa and the Caribbean based on the fact that “we have come together to affirm our identity as one people, because of our common origins. With Africa not only as our place of common origins, but also widely regarded as the Cradle of Humankind, today we can all say with conviction that African blood flows through our veins.” That Conference in Jamaica was part of the continuous dialogue that is an imperative between the two regions, and should extend to the rest of the African Diaspora and as part of the broader South-South dialogue.

South Africa's commitment to the African Diaspora was clearly demonstrated by its contribution to the South Africa, Caribbean Diaspora Conference held in Jamaica on 16-18 March 2005.

That inaugural meeting was held under the theme "Towards Unity and United Action of Africans and the African Diaspora in the Caribbean for a Better World...".

As part of the follow up to that conference Minister Dlamini-Zuma held an Interactive session with the Ambassadors and High Commissioners representing the African Union (AU) and the Caribbean to the Court of St James, in London on 27 October 2006 at South Africa House. That meeting discussed the need to bring together the AU and the Caribbean and should be marked as a beginning to rebrand Africa and the Diaspora and to concretise the linkages between the two regions.

Minister Dlamini-Zuma informed their Excellencies that at a Conference on 12 July 2003 the African Union (AU) took the historic decision that the continent has to actively and concretely co-operate with and engage Africans in the Diaspora and that the African Diaspora constitutes the 6th region of the continent.

In order to give effect to this decision, the African Union Summit held in Khartoum in January 2006 mandated South Africa to host the Africa and African Diaspora Conference. This will be held in South Africa in 2008. The Summit will bring together Africans from around the world, who wish to contribute towards the cause of our development and advancement in a cohesive and coherent manner. It will give impetus to the Pan African agenda and provide a platform, among other things, for enhancing, upholding and for reasserting African culture. From the Summit will also emerge a concrete plan of action that will be of mutual benefit to both Africans on the continent and those in the Diaspora.

The Summit, which will be held at Heads of State level, will have both an intergovernmental and civil society component (NGO's). This Summit will be preceded by a Ministerial Conference to be held in South Africa in August 2007. Regional Consultative conferences to be hosted in the Bahamas, Brasilia, Johannesburg, London, New York and Paris plus an AU Consultative Conference in Addis Ababa will all prepare programmes of action that will feed into the Ministerial Conference.

With all of the above in mind the decision was taken to hold the First Regional Conference in London on 23-24 April 2007.

The Conference in London comes in the same year as two relevant historical events: the 200th Anniversary of the Slave Act of 1807 which marked the beginning of the end of the selling and buying of African people as cattle or cargo. This year Africa and the Caribbean also celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ghana's independence, a momentous event that set in motion the process of decolonisation of Africa and the Caribbean.

3. Aim of the Conference:

The aim of the conference was to exchange and interrogate issues of commonality between the two regions. Concrete proposals were drawn up for implementation to strengthen the Africa - Diaspora networks on major international issues.

All Consultative Conference recommendations will feed into the Inter-Ministerial Conference to be held at the end of 2007 and into the 2008 Summit. It is envisaged that the 2008 Summit will also propose mechanisms toward the implementation of the following amongst other important areas:

- Strengthened transport and communication linkages;
- Fostering people to people relations through education, culture, music, tourism and sport;
- Strengthened bonds of friendship and affinity between and amongst the peoples of the continent and the African Diaspora;
- The economy, particularly the promotion of capital flows;
- The creation of a depository of the intellectual capital for the development and uplifting of the peoples of the continent and the African Diaspora;
- To recreate and restore the soul, image, dignity, identity and self actualization of an African in the world;
- Develop mutual assistance and support for each others 'regional' programmes;
- Build strong inter-state partnerships with each other through bilateral relations;
- Promoting strong and active Africa-African Diaspora cooperation in international fora.

4. Overview of Key Challenges and Recommendations following the Conference Plenary Sessions.

Brief Overview of Presentations by Professor Selwyn Ryan, University of the West Indies; and Professor Abdoulaye Bathily, University of Senegal who provided a Historical Perspective from Africa and the Caribbean.

Key challenges

- It is important to identify who constitute the “real African” and the African Diaspora internationally.
- Consequences of slavery were and are dire (culturally, economically and socially); Africa has lost historical impetus.
- Europe/developed World downplays the effect of slavery; using the issue of the Africans own role in the slave trade.
- The perception of inferiority/passivity of Africans used as theory in explaining why.

Key recommendations

- Africa must learn from the past
- Africa must refuse to pander to views of the developed world vis-à-vis slavery; accept and be proud of our ideological views
- The regions must use the new and better understanding that now exists between Continental Africans and the Diaspora to create a drive for solidarity which should be put on the AU agenda
- Africa must move away from the “shame” of the perceived passivity of Africans and acknowledge and celebrate the role of Africans in their own emancipation.

5. Overview of Key Challenges and Recommendations following the Conference Plenary Sessions.

5.1 Cooperation for **developing and sharing skills in education, technology and training**: Presentation by: Dr Pikay Richardson, Manchester Business School

Key challenges

- Globalisation cannot be stopped – developing countries must accept that and adapt their strategies accordingly
- Education and training are vital for any economy wishing to successfully address the challenges of globalisation through the

provision of a skilled, motivated workforce and patriotic and knowledgeable citizens

- Government does not create wealth, companies create wealth. Government's role is to create an enabling environment
- Developing countries need a high growth rate to narrow gap with the developed world.
- Experiences of "tiger" economies can be shared e.g. Malaysia which was/ were determined to skill their people

Key recommendations

- A skilled and competitive workforce in a healthy economy can only be achieved by *doing the right thing* (relevant appropriate initiatives) and *doing things right* (competent, effective delivery)
- For this we need visionary leaders; competent managers; effective and efficient budgeting; creation of opportunities; relevant linkages with industry; and encouraging careers in education
- Practical steps include creation of mutual visiting positions; collaborative research; twinning initiatives; using Diaspora academics as "champions"; creating local funding opportunities, also through NGOs and UN agencies, etc

5.2 Cooperation in the field of **literature and the performing /visual arts and crafts including Carnival**. Presentation by: Prof. Chris Mullard, Honorary Consul for the Republic of South Africa in the South West of England

Key challenges

- We must be realistic in order to advance. There are certain diasporic realities which we must face:
- The disconnection of people from their homelands
- There is a legacy of indoctrinisation, oppression, colonisation (also of the mind, which we are still grappling with).
- We are all engaged in a search for identity/self/recognition
- The African Continent and the African Diaspora – in fact, we are all Diaspora. We want to connect with one another but we feel we are rejected by Africa historically which permeates relations and keeps us apart. The Diaspora also cannot advance if it rejects Africa.
- The Diaspora must embrace Africa

Key recommendations

- Relaunch a mass campaign of consciousness – we as peoples are proud to be African for the sake of solidarity
- Internationalise cultural institutions; promote international connections and the remaking of our culture as African
- Enable collective ownership of arts and culture initiatives and institutions, e.g. Carnival.
- Identity - begin to build up a Pan African Cultural Exchange and an exchange of consciousness – P.A.C.E., which is a prerequisite to advance.

5.3 **Economic Cooperation and the Impact of Globalisation.** Presentation by Mr Ransford Smith, Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth

Key challenges

- Africa and Caribbean continue to suffer from the negative impact of globalisation. It is a reality; we should learn from the past and ensure that engagement with the developed world is to our benefit.
- Currently global economic situation is relatively favourable, but disparate amongst nations/regions; uneven investment flows
- Marginalisation of regions in terms of economic opportunities, market access etc
- While South-South trade is generally buoyant, there is not much trade between Africa and the Caribbean

Key recommendations

- To recognise African-Caribbean historical, social and cultural links which have the potential to form a good foundation/starting point for future cooperation
- Ensure initiatives are internally driven and not dictated by from outside
- Encourage consistent political leadership
- Encourage opportunities for African and Caribbean business people to engage and share experiences
- Create a joint fund to encourage investment opportunities
- Encourage people-to-people cooperation
- Strengthen cooperation in international political and economic forums
- Enhance regional/continental linkages through AU/NEPAD mechanisms
- Use Diaspora communities living in major economic centres as “*reputational intermediaries*”

5.4 Cooperation on **Health Issues**. Presentation by Dr Felix Konotey-Ahulu, Consultant Physician, Ghana

Key challenges

- Do we not have experts in regions/Diaspora as good if not better than those sent to us to advise?
- Who should define the needs of the people? Outsiders or ourselves?
- Evaluate/quantify benefits of NGOs/agencies. Where does money go? Shouldn't we have a say? Should we simply accept the advice we are given by foreign experts?

Key recommendations

- Identify key stakeholders/opinion formers who agree with and support us and engage and utilise them as a resource for change
- Promote the idea that Africa and Caribbean have unique and specialised expertise which should be acknowledged by the developed world.
- Solidarity is key; the combined force "ACDC" (African Caribbean Diaspora Clout) can give us a voice.

5.6 **Gender Equality**. Presentation by Professor Rhoda Reddock, University of West Indies

Key challenges

- Several important initiatives by AU, which represent renewed Commitment to gender equality across the Continent
- Gender is a complex system of social and personal relations; but can be shaped. Gender equality means access to the same opportunities towards achievement of important goals such as quality of life, education, employment and income. It implies the freedom to choose.
- Challenges in traditional task allocation/sexual division of labour on base of gender must be challenged
- We must encourage and create a new generation of gender sensitive men and women
- In the Pan-African movements, the historical focus has usually been on male heroes; there is generally a denial of a link to a broader social movement and the role of women in African emancipation
- Gender is so normative that it is difficult for many to notice the need for sensitisation .Gender is a cross-cutting issue.

- The perceived inevitability of globalisation has become an ideological tool. The US-dominated neo-liberal globalisation trend is not neutral. And there is a definite worsening of living and working conditions impacting on women, also increase in levels of violence against women.

Key recommendations

- Challenge the power of the globalised US media and gendered messages
 - Technical assistance and support to national and regional gender machineries and programmes and NGOs
 - Collaboration with university level programmes in research, teaching and curriculum development in women's studies/gender studies
 - Education for the girl child is a priority
 - Direct air links Africa-Caribbean
6. Overview of Key Challenges and Recommendations identified during the **Closing Session**:

Key challenges

- The question of Xenophobia in Africa and the Caribbean needs to be looked at in detail.
- The Youth in Africa and the Caribbean need to play an increasing role. The AU and NEPAD have identified this, but it needs to be followed through.
- The question of refugees and how they are administered and repatriated is an increasingly important issue that must be highlighted at the Summit.
- The developed world continues to "poach" health care professionals from Africa.
- The question of Child Soldiers in Africa needs further attention and action on the part of governments and the AU and CARICOM.
- A greater emphasis on Gender studies in academic curricula needs to be undertaken.

Key Recommendations

- Africa and the Caribbean must redefine their relationship with the European Union
- Greater use must be made of the media to promote success stories emanating from Africa and the Caribbean.
- Greater commitment from the UK not to use health care professionals from Africa and the Caribbean must be sought. This

must encompass not only government recruiting but also that undertaken by private companies in the UK.

- The best practical approach is for countries that need health workers to provide training finance so that more trained persons are trained to meet the needs of developed countries.
- Improved conditions of service must be created domestically to ensure that health care professionals want to remain in their countries of origin.

AFRICAN UNION,
CARIBBEAN AND
DIASPORA
CONFERENCE

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commission on Climate Change: Consequences for Africa and the Caribbean

- Chair: HE Prince Seeiso Bereng Seeiso, High Commissioner of Lesotho
- Speaker: Mr Strike Mkandla, (UNEP Representative to the African Union)

Scientific consensus has grown stronger that global warming due to the concentration of carbon dioxide and other Green House Gases (GHG) in the atmosphere is bringing about climate change. The 2007 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has marshaled the most authoritative argument for the physical science basis of trends and models. There is additional scientific evidence that climate change is upon us. The Security Council of the United Nations on 17 April 2007 deliberated on the issue, realizing its potential for exacerbating conflicts and even its being a potential trigger for future conflicts as natural resources get impacted and as habitats and ecosystems also lose their ability to support normal human activity and survival, leading to insecurity and instability.

Last year a new dimension was also added by the publication of the report by Sir Nicholas Stern that drew attention to the economic consequences of “no action” in the face of climate change.

African Union ministerial forums and the AU Summit

Africa and the Caribbean are threatened by climate change. Their vulnerability however does not mean that the two regions are passive victims. On the contrary, their governments and peoples are taking steps to forestall the worst consequences of the phenomenon. In the case of Africa, African ministers have met and taken decisions that touch on aspects of climate change, drawing their own plans, guiding the UN system, and proving substance for higher decisions by Heads of States and Government. The African Union Commission (AUC) has played an important role in facilitating and encouraging many of these forums, in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Climate change, Africa and the Caribbean

Current estimates put Africa's contribution to GHG concentration in the atmosphere at no more than 3.2% and the Caribbean's contribution at less than 2%, yet the two are among the most vulnerable regions, along

with many Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island States (SIDS) in other regions. Of course, the consequences of climate change do not respect geographical and territorial boundaries, as shown by recent devastations of coastal areas by cyclones and freak storms. However, even this non-discriminatory visitation of destruction has uneven impact on communities, causing untold harm to poorer communities and countries with inadequate disaster response mechanisms. This makes the prospect of sea-level rise, an expected consequence of climate change as glaciers melt, a matter of great concern and urgency for developing countries.

Impacts of climate change on Africa

Droughts and floods cause the most immediate hardship and loss of livelihood to communities and long-term damage to sources of livelihoods. The humanitarian disasters arising from droughts and floods have rightly attracted universal attention, but what is needed is to deal with the causes in order to reduce impact and forestall otherwise inevitable consequences of extreme weather events, including loss of property and infrastructure, which in turn have economic and developmental implications.

Indeed, climate change can be shown to be a casual factor and major driver, contributing to economic, health and security threats in many sub-regions through:

- ecosystem impacts such as drying lakes;
- lower water levels in rivers and reservoirs (which have implications for water supply and sanitation in cities, less water for irrigation agriculture, and insufficient hydropower generation capacity);
- crop failures in rain-fed agriculture and livestock loss in degrading rangelands, hunger caused by prolonged droughts and degradation, in turn leading to rapid urbanization and internal and cross-border migration;
- unseasonal rains and shifting malaria zones;
- compounding gender inequity by increasing burdens of rural women.

Impact of climate change in the Caribbean

The issues broadly correspond to those confronting Africa, with the added dimension of special problems of Small Island States. But it should also be remembered that western India Ocean islands in Africa and countries on the eastern seaboard share many of the

characteristics and risks. Current and expected impacts of climate change on the Caribbean are:

- sea level rise, resulting in saline intrusion into freshwater aquifers, and coastal flooding and erosion of coastline;
- changes in rainfall patterns, leading to droughts or floods, and shortage of freshwater;
- increased intensity of storm activity, with consequent destruction of infrastructure and loss of lives.

Responses to climate change in Africa

Africa is not a passive victim of climate change. However, that does not mean that the continent should shoulder all the responsibility for a global problem although it is doing its share. This is in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, which factors in the issue of equity, i.e. that those countries that have contributed most to current levels of global warming have a role to play in making the greatest cuts in CO₂ and other GHG emissions and in supporting adaptation to climate change in LDCs and SIDS. Response to climate change in Africa therefore is premised on a number of factors and options, among them:

- International cooperation and development assistance for mitigation and adaptation.
- Mobilization of mutual resources – financial and material – governmental and private sector
 - In mitigation of climate change;
 - Africa still retains major carbon sinks (its forests and woodlands);
 - the continent is afforesting in many countries and has continental initiatives like the Green Wall for the Sahara Project;
 - In adaptation to climate change;
 - There are efforts to beef up early warning systems and disaster preparedness
 - There is exploration, promoting and uptake of Renewable Energy Technologies.
 - There are water and agricultural initiatives.

Action Points

- Securing adequate financing through international support for adaptation to climate change;
- Technology transfer to the continent and capacity building
- Mainstreaming climate into development planning
- Domestic resource mobilization and private sector involvement in climate change adaptation initiatives;
- Addressing the feminine face of disasters on account of gender inequity and greater vulnerability of women as home keepers in climate induced emergencies;
- Ensuring greater public participation and recognition of age-old indigenous knowledge that can improve local responses;
- Collecting and sharing climate information for development and environmental statistics to provide data for and on adaptation initiatives;
- Strengthen weather and climate services.

Commission on Combating the Scourge of Human Trafficking

Chair: HE Mwanaidi Sinare Majaar, High Commissioner of Tanzania

Speaker: Ms. Jacqueline Turner, (Lecturer- London Metropolitan University)

Under the chairmanship of HE M Francis Moto, Ms Jacqueline Turner, PhD. Research Student presented a report on combating the scourge of human trafficking. The presentation highlighted 6 issues, namely: migration, crime, gender, labour, and morality. These were expanded upon and reasons given as to why people migrate. The major purpose of human trafficking is labour and sexual exploitation, trade of human organs, and illegal adoption. In addition, the presentation highlighted the means used by human traffickers for the recruitment and transportation of victims. There are 3 methods of recruitment:

- . Coercing/kidnapping
- . Sale by family members
- . Debt bondage

And under transportation the 3 methods are:

- Land
- Sea
- Air transportation

According to the presentation, the exploitation process is characterized by the following:

1. Agents and middleman;
2. The victim may have false or valid documents which are often removed by traffickers;
3. Where traffic is for sexual exploitation, the process often begins with rape. Women or girls have no say in the numbers of clients or forms of sex;
4. The victims of trafficking labour exploitation can be held in labour camps. They may be confined to their place of work by their gang masters;
5. In all cases the victims may be deprived of food, sleep, and access to medical facilities, and be subjected to random or punitive violence

Conditions that fuel human trafficking are:

- . Poverty,
- . Lack of employment opportunities,
- . Conflict displacement,

- . Gender inequality
- . Family loyalties and responsibilities,
- . Social exclusion,
- . Myths about richer countries.

However, the presentation stressed that there is little evidence of the demand for the labour or services of trafficked persons. The discussion which followed the presentation raised the following questions:

1. What are the criteria that are used to define a person as a child?
2. What is behind the trafficking operation?
3. How do we tackle human trafficking?

The discussion also focused on the importance of contexts for analysing the causes of human trafficking and it suggested a number of mechanisms to prevent human trafficking. The mechanisms are as follow:

- To close the knowledge gap there is a need to improve the data collection mechanisms;
- To publicise cases that have been successfully prosecuted through representation offices,
- To disseminate information on trafficking and recruitment through media,
- To combat the root causes by providing effective care,
- To ratify international protocols such as the Palermo Protocol, and,
- To tackle corruption at all levels

In addition, it was agreed that the Diaspora should play an important role in combating the human trafficking. One of the important points that came out of the presentation was that public officials at the source, play a role in facilitating human trafficking.

Commission of Communication and Transport Links

- Chair: HE Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda &
HE Berbanhu Kebede, Ambassador of Ethiopia
- Speakers: Mr Tshepo Peege, (Chairperson of the African Civil Aviation Commission)
Ms Claudia Grant, (Deputy Director General-Maritime Authority of Jamaica)
Dr Henry Chasia, (Deputy Executive Chairperson of the NEPAD Secretariat)

Communication Links - ICT

1. ICT - CARICOM to assess the NEPAD ICT Programme and refine it to suit the needs of the Caribbean states. If adoptable, both regions could jointly develop areas of cooperation for implementation. For example, technical cooperation in the planning and design of network links, exchange of skills and teaching material.
2. Infrastructure Development
 - Extend satellite network to include a foot print in the Caribbean.
 - Establish fiber optic submarine cable between a point in West Africa and a point in the Caribbean which could then be rolled out across regions. This would then open up opportunities for broadcasting which could be utilized to popularize both regions.

Transport Links

Both regions could address critical challenges facing civil aviation and air transport.

1. Devise national, regional and continent-wide strategies on aviation safety with a view to promote air transport to enhance development and integration. Already the AU and CARICOM are part of an ICAO Contracting resolution for a full transparency and disclosure by all states regarding their safety status by 2008.
2. The two regions could also implore emphasis on security audits to enhance security.
3. Africa and Caribbean together with other developing states succeeded in withstanding pressures from the developed world to unilaterally introduce machine readable travel documents by

2006 and made 2010 an implementation date to ease compliancy.

4. Together discourage unilateral action to implement restrictions on carriage of liquids and gels aboard the aircraft, calling for a consultative global approach instead of unilateralism.
5. Both regions should work together in the liberalization of air transport market particularly in Africa where airlines are state owned. This will pave way for greater cooperation and private investment in the industry in turn reducing cost and improving interaction.
6. Greater cooperation in training to exchange expertise in the field is also critical.

Maritime Transportation Links

1. CARICOM is heavily dependent on maritime transportation for international trade and the two region could explore areas to strengthen maritime links
2. Identify key ports already in existence with efficient services to be used as transshipment ports for Africa and the Caribbean at which cargo to and from these regions could be consolidated and deconsolidated and shipped.
3. Education and training to build capacity for international shipping markets.
4. Collaboration in search and rescue cooperation in case of missing vessels
5. Port State control to eradicate sub-standard shipping by enforcing IMO standards on foreign ships calling at safe ports.

Commission on Culture

Chair: HE The Hon Burchell Whiteman, High Commissioner of Jamaica
Speakers: Mr Clarence C Thompson, (MBE)
Ms Margaret Busby, (OBE)

The cultural dimension is of great importance in this conference.

It is necessary that we re-define culture as the very essence of living – the totality of life which requires people and governments to appreciate the centrality of culture to total development – economic, political, educational and spiritual. In all of this, it is essential that we have a proper appreciation of our history and the loss of identity which we need to re-discover.

It is important to note that Africa had a dominant culture. In fact, Africa was the genesis of organised human civilization. Unfortunately, slavery was not only Europe's most evil experiment in Africa, but also the "culture-ending tsunami" for indigenous Africans. In the Caribbean language, names, family structures and history were destroyed. We should be working towards a cultural unity of African people because we are connected genetically and psychologically.

Where do we go from here and how do we get there?

1. Education

One of the difficulties is the question of who we are. Do we begin to define ourselves from a particular race or place? Do we lose our identity for the purpose of community? The point was made that the vast majority of people outside Africa are unsympathetic towards Africa and that may be the direct result of colonisation.

Proposed Action:

- Develop processes for educating our children such as the inclusion of African history and culture in the curriculum;
- develop suitable text books with African culture and arts ;
- African stories should be documented and made widely available;
- organise cultural villages for empowerment of people through exposure of their heritage – family life, language, etc;
- make use of the wider media for promoting African culture, especially among the youth;

- press for the repatriation of cultural artifacts and art treasures which belong to Africa and the Caribbean;
- improve museum capacity in the countries of Africa;
- organise visits to exhibitions that showcase Africa's treasures, especially of those that are in museums in Europe;
- organise de-colonisation workshops for adults and children.
- Organise an African Remembrance Day in order to celebrate African achievements

2. Economic advancement

Africa is rich in culture – the arts and music. The people who dominate “pop” music are Africans. Unfortunately Africans do not have ownership of their skills and production. It is vital that Africa and its Diaspora begin to think of mechanisms that would give them control. For economic prosperity, there must be economic control. Unless we can control an economic way of exporting culture, we will not benefit.

Proposed Action:

- Create structures, legal frameworks, encourage training as intellectual property lawyers, ensure publication rights;
- share best practice experiences;
- organise festivals to bring all artists together, just as has been done by the African Publishing Association;
- Strengthen the African/Caribbean consortium of publishers

3. Networking

There is the need for all of Africa to be organised into bodies in order to exchange details and co-ordinate their work either through institutions or otherwise. There are many culture specialists, including retired ones who would be happy to share their knowledge and expertise.

Proposed Action:

- Develop a database/network of cultural activists and encourage collaboration.

4. African Centre

- There is the need for the purchase of a suitable building in London by African Governments to be purposely used for promoting African culture.

Africa has hard decisions to make about the people who have caused such poverty to Africans through slavery and the slave trade, and colonialism, whilst the plutocrats live in luxury. Africa and the Caribbean Diaspora should adopt British tax regimes to ensure that the wealthy and the elite are made to pay significant portions of their income as tax to aid the development of Africa and the Caribbean Diaspora.

5. Ending European's dominant socio-economic culture in Africa.

- Africa's wealth is owned by Europeans, yet Africans are not allowed unhindered travel to Europe. This single principle must change especially when force was used to take control of the mines;
- Demand an apology and reparation from Britain, Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Sweden and from the Church of Rome, Church of England, Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, Methodist, and Moravian Baptist;
- Buy in the technology to assist the development of agriculture;
- Develop our own military defences so that we do not have to rely on the slavers for protection;
- Determine the prices at which our raw materials are sold, and where a fair price cannot be attained, do not to sell the product
- Produce commodities for sale
- Address Africa's economic decline and poverty caused by unfair trading practices in WTO
- Ensure that capable Africans and not tyrants govern our countries
- People of other cultures can act as advisors to governments but not given jobs where they can sabotage Africa and her Diaspora's progress
- Ensure that the two regions will become an economic power
- Ensure that the rule of law prevails and not tyrannical systems
- African countries must not be involved in genocide and human abuse
- Stop the practice of slavery in the Sudan
- Give each other dignified respect;
- Create appropriate treatise to cause national governments to respect the rights of their citizens;
- Create worldwide friendships with people who have a sense of justice like Lord Gifford who lives in Jamaica who has raised the issue of an apology and the payment of reparation.

Commission on Economic Challenges

Chair:	HE Mr Melvin H Chalobah, High Commissioner of Sierra Leone
Speakers:	Sir Samuel Esson Jonah, (Chairman of Jonah Capital) Mr Ransford Smith, (Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth) Mr Ron Gault, (Economist)

The Commission identified a number of economic challenges confronting the two regions. These were mainly:

1. The need to attract foreign direct investment. In this light, there was a need for political stability and predictability.
2. Education and training of the workforce was important.
3. Physical and social amenities should be improved.
4. Changes in the international trade environment.
5. Rules and regulations governing international were changing constantly. In this regard, the system of preferences was gradually being eroded.
6. Most African/Caribbean countries lack the capacity and economic structures to take advantage of the opportunities been provided by globalization.
7. Africa/Caribbean countries remain in the low value added end of global trade; they were exporting primary commodities, mainly agricultural products. Conversely, those developing countries which were making significant strides were concentrating on the high value added segment of global trade.
8. The developed countries were engaging in the process of dumping while seeking to discourage the granting of subsidies to farmers of developing countries.
9. While some countries had been provided with debt relief, yet the challenges were in seeking to ensure that they did not return to those unsustainable levels of debt; thus there was a need to manage loans efficiently.
10. The drive towards globalization, with its emphasis on highly skilled labour had created severe unemployment and poverty in many countries.
11. The high cost of telecommunications
12. Armed conflict was still a problem in many countries in Africa, corruption was endemic in many societies.

Recommendations:

1. Establishment of an African Caribbean Diaspora fund, to identify specific areas of investment.

2. Setting up an African Union Diaspora Commission to remove barriers to trade, and strengthen the trade blocs.
3. Promote tourism which would drive the other sectors of the economy.
4. Simplify the process of immigration, and promote work visas to facilitate the flow of skills.
5. Need to tackle corruptions and promote transparency in government.
6. Carry out careful examination of the Chief financial officers in charge of fiscal matters in carrying out their professional responsibilities.
7. Establish a database of investment opportunities for the Diaspora, and to facilitate communication between the two blocs.
8. Carefully examine the ways in which government provide incentives to the private sector, in terms of promoting social and economic parity.
9. Government should provide the right environment to attract investors from the Diaspora.

Commission on Education

Chair: HE Mr Joseph Charter, High Commissioner for
Grenada
Speakers: Professor Gus John (University of Manchester)

The Commission listened to a presentation from Professor Gus John, entitled:

Forging African and Caribbean Unity and Dismantling the Legacy of Empire - the Challenge for Education.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman appropriately set the tone by reminding Commission members of earlier lectures which all focused on the crucial role education has to play in driving the agenda of this conference. He pointed out that the people of the African continent and the Diaspora needed education to get rid of their timidity and develop better self assurance. He emphasised that the days are long gone when front row seats were reserved for people other than us as Africans. We needed to be assertive and confident as a people and take our seats at the very front of the stage.

He then introduced the keynote speaker, Professor Gus John, a Visiting Faculty Professor at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, who was the first black Chief Education Officer in the United Kingdom and Director of Education and Leisure Services in the London Borough of Hackney for some 8 years. Professor John is an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Education, University of London.

Prof John's presentation covered a wide range of issues relating to the state of schooling and education on the continent, in the Caribbean and as experienced by people in the Diaspora. The well thought out presentation covered issues in the World Development Report, especially in the educational component, and the call to developing countries to redouble their efforts 'to educate and keep youth healthy', and make education, healthcare and job training for the next generation 'top priorities'. Professor John made reference to the Fourth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning held in Jamaica in November 2006 and the call on countries "to secure basic education for the 75 million children in the Commonwealth who have no access to schooling, the majority of whom are girls'. In this regard, the Millennium Development Goal is to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2015. Prof John argued that these were among the external and internal drivers propelling the agenda for change in Africa and the Caribbean, all of which had direct relevance for the agenda of reunification set for us by the African Union.

Taking one country on the continent (Nigeria) and one from the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago) as examples, Prof John gave an assessment of the strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats (SCOT) that form the context within which we are seeking to take forward that agenda for change. Prof John argued that the agenda provided by these external and internal drivers require us to confront some harsh realities. It requires:

'a commitment to Education for Liberation, Education for Social Transformation, Education for National Reconstruction, Education for Democracy, Education for Economic Development and Wealth Generation, Education for Social Justice, Education Against Corruption, Education Against the Ill-treatment of the Disabled, Sick, Weak and Defenseless, Education for Interdependence of African People and Nation States'.

Prof John reminded the Commission that, for those reasons, his presentation had many resonances with that of Professor Pikay Richardson in the earlier plenary session.

The magisterial lecture also dwelled on the configuration of Africa and the Diaspora and its implications for how the agenda could be delivered, the Holocaust of Empire and its aftermath, and the issue many want to avoid, i.e., RESTITUTION.

The paper concluded that education was the vehicle through which, as we pursue the unification of Africa, we would realise Bob Marley's dream of 'liberating ourselves from mental slavery' and freeing our minds to give full expression to our creativity and power.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session which the participants didn't seem to want to bring to an end. The discussion generated many ideas and proposals, from which the Commission developed the following recommendations:

- A. Encourage states to address the Millennium Development Goals, while keeping focused on the part they can play in bringing about the unification of Africa, the Caribbean and the Diaspora.
- B. Put together teams of people from the continent and the Diaspora, including those in metropolitan centers, to help review and restructure the schooling and education system in our countries in pursuance of the goal of national development and of African reunification.

- C. Devise a structure to put in place and support twinning arrangements and exchange of personnel between the continent and the Caribbean at primary, secondary and tertiary levels so as to share professional skills and support national development.
- D. African and Caribbean countries and people in the Diaspora in Europe should call upon the British government to make reparation for the transatlantic slave trade and restore some of the wealth generated by that trade, which to this day, is still being used to exploit Africa and the Caribbean and aid their under-development. This should take the form of concrete programs relating to education, health and sustainable economic development in the Caribbean and Africa, and among African people in the Diaspora here in Britain.
- E. Put programmes in place for identifying and developing the leadership skills and other competences to be found among disaffected youth and those involved in criminal activities and gang violence, so as to enable them to utilise those skills and capacities for more positive outcomes.
- F. Institutionalise, throughout Africa and the Caribbean, free primary education, including text books and other educational resources, uniforms and assistance with travel where applicable.
- G. Part of the process of unification of Africa and the Diaspora should be an examination, through research, visits and cross-cultural dialogue, of African retentions in culture, art, religion, rituals and rites, dress, agriculture and cuisine in the Diaspora, and the way those relate to what obtains in different parts of the continent now, or to what people on the continent remember as part of their social, cultural and religious traditions.
- H. Create opportunities to develop and use Information and Communication Technology to encourage collaboration, the exchange of ideas and information and the development of media and publishing amongst our people across Africa and the Diaspora, particularly our youth and women.

Commission on Gender Equality and Empowerment

Chair: HE Mr Gabriel Machinga, Ambassador of Zimbabwe

Speakers: Professor Rhoda Reddock (University of West Indies)
Dr Mohau Pheko (South African Women in Dialogue SAWID)

Introduction

The commission began with the concept of Gender:

What is Gender and Gender Equality?

The term gender can be defined as “complex systems of social and personal relations through which women and men are socially constructed and maintained and through which they gain access to, or are allocated status, power and material resources within society” (Eudine Barriteau, 1998).

The concept of gender equality which we are concerned with in this commission refers to the right of women and men to have the same opportunities for the achievement of important goals in society, e.g. quality of life, education, employment and income. It does not refer to women and men becoming the same. It does mean, however, that the boundaries of acceptable masculine and feminine behavior become open in order to allow women and men who choose, to participate in these activities.

Issues discussed:

We have examined number of issues which included:

- What is the current understanding of gender and gender equalities?
- What is our own understanding?
- How do we want to construct ourselves within the context of the global gender and gender equalities?
- What if it is not handled properly?

Gender and Gender Equalities is not something new. Since the early 20th century, the notion of a Pan-Africanism, originating in the Diaspora, has focused on the politics of African identity and resistance in the face of structural systems of racism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The struggle for gender equalities has been associated with the history of Pan-Africanism since its inception.

Issues of gender equalities have been handled in the Caribbean by education at universities. In Africa it's been handled through an organisation called FAWE (Forum of African Women Educationalists) is a Pan-African non-governmental organisation. FAWE seeks to ensure that female have access to school, complete their studies and perform well at all levels. Their aim is to empower female through education for effective participation in the creation of an equitable society.

The Commission also discussed ways of transforming society, by exposing gender discrimination in policies and practices by advocating changes in sexist attitudes and gender stereotypes in the social, educational, religious, economic, and in the cultural world.

Globalization – creating and worsening equalities!

Globalization is a positive or powerful force for the improved material and well-being of humankind, which can assist developing countries in creating better economic environments", to "leapfrog" into the information age; improve their access to technology; speed up development and enhance global harmony". Its negative effects on the political, economic, social and cultural environments of member states cannot be ignored.

The globalization process is more symmetrical to the "origin and development of the neo-colonial states (in Africa)"

Globalization has also become a threat to the poor rather than an opportunity for global action to eradicate poverty.

Recommendations:

Suggestions addressed during the commission:

1. Challenging the power of the globalised US media and its powerful visual and oral media which has had an extremely powerful impact on gender ideologies through out the world.
2. There are many indigenous traditions of gender equality which are unknown within Africa as well as in the Diaspora and much work in the area of gender equality taking place in Africa and the Diaspora should be more integrally incorporated in to media and communication messages. As we have seen, African Diaspora women have been at the forefront of feminist struggle for decades so this is not something with which we have no tradition. We need to build on this tradition and to communicate our knowledge.

- The exchange of television programmes, movies, music and literature is very important for future communication. This can take place through links with local and regional media houses.
 - Collaborative activities in university research/training programmes in media and film production and studies.
 - Exchange of writers, artists and performers – women and men across the Diaspora e.g. African and Caribbean Music Festival in different parts of Africa and Caribbean each year.
3. Technological assistance and support to national and regional Gender machineries and programmes, and women's and men's non-governmental organisations to exchange ideas and learn new approach etc.
 4. Collaborating with University level Programmes in Women's Studies/Gender Studies. Students and staff exchange among Gender Studies programmes in Africa and the Diaspora

Possible areas for consideration:

- Gender Policy formulation
- Comparative reviews of legislations
- Special programmes focused on young people
- Developing Gender Studies Curricular for schools
- Internships and exchange visits
- Study abroad programme for students

Conclusion

In conclusion, we must be conscious that there can be unity in diversity for we are one people. We must show the rest of the world that the total strength of the African Union and the Caribbean Diaspora is a vehicle that takes both sexes to new paths of economic growth, justice, freedom and equality for all as we go into the 21st Century.

Commission on Health

Chair: HE Mrs J. Rwabyomere, High Commissioner of Uganda
Speakers: Dr Felix Konotey-Ahulu (Consultant Physician - Ghana)
Professor Kihumbu Thairu (Moi University - Kenya)

The group focused on

1. MALARIA
2. HIV AIDS
3. SICKLE CELL DISEASE
4. TUBERCULOSIS

1. Malaria

We extracted the relevant paragraph from a paper by Professor Kihumbu Thairu who quoted a Ugandan Professor of Paediatric who said "to defeat the malaria one must think like the mosquito"- not like a western expert on diseases in Africa. Therefore it is essential to conduct local research in order to find the local solution to eradication of malaria. Western style medication should not be the only solution that is currently being imposed upon Africans and Caribbean countries. According to Doctor Felix Konotey-Ahulu, long term solutions towards eradication of malaria need to be found. The starting point should be the following:

- Filling of swamps
- Clearing the local rivers for easy flow
- Building of low thick wall around lake edges thus making sure of avoiding stagnant puddles and pools.
- Ensuring environmental community based system of malaria control.
- Growing trees such as Neem trees.

The discussions also focused on community awareness programs including more use of generic medicines.

2 HIV/Aids

The Aids policies that were imposed on Africa and Caribbean Diaspora by the West were hardly ever used by the Western Countries according to Professor Kihumbu Thairu. The West supported blood safety measures in Africa and duped African Governments that screening blood for HIV using antibody tests was all that was needed to ensure

that African blood was safe for African patients. At the same time blood from Sub Saharan Africa was banned from the transfusion services in all Western countries since 1987. We are all aware of the high rate of mortalities particularly amongst the young from HIV AIDS in many African countries. Differential death rates from the infectious disease have changed the geopolitics of the World.

Dr. Felix Konotey-Ahulu advised that:

- Community based approach and Primary Health Care was the key to management and control of HIV/AIDS
- Increased use of local and expatriate experts to tackle the epidemic
- Increased awareness regarding long term geopolitical implications of extremely high AIDS related mortality incidence among Africans.

The group discussions highlighted the community based approach, and counselling and more Government support to improve nutrition and good diet. The group also recommended the need for increased education on mode of transmission and healthy habits.

3. Sickle Cell Disease

According to Professor Kihumbu Thairu, for children born with Sickle Cell Disease, the parents and the local experts should go to their own community institutions to discuss the issues. For example in Cyprus since 1954 no couple could be married if both husband and wife had the relevant gene. That is how Cyprus eliminated Sickle Cell Disease. However, Dr Konotey-Ahulu pointed out that trait rates in Africa (1 in 3) and the West Indies (1 in 8) are so high, that forbidding marriage of traits is not practicable. Moreover, many pregnancies occur outside wedlock. The way forward, therefore, in the African Caribbean Diaspora is to intensify the Education/Genetic Counselling Effort.

Dr. Felix Konotey-Ahulu who is also Kwegyir Aggrey Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics in the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, advocated the establishment of Sickle Cell Societies where patients who have achieved in various professions form the backbone of the Counselling Teams. He said West Africa (especially Ghana & Nigeria) and the Caribbean (especially Jamaica) lead the world in Sickle Cell Disease Patient Management. He said Professor Graham Serjeant, an Englishman, who spearheaded the Caribbean work uses the same patient-oriented approach that West Africa uses successfully. Unfortunately, the United Kingdom and the rest of the world employ methods in patient management (like giving Heroin for pain) that both Serjeant and Konotey-Ahulu repudiate, and which are not in the best

interest of the patient. Dr Konotey-Ahulu thinks an African Caribbean Diaspora Clout (ACDC) in patient management should be made so powerful that the rest of the world would take note.

The group discussions highlighted the tendency in the UK of African mothers who are advised to terminate pregnancies due to Sickle Cell disease detected in the foetus. In Africa and the West Indies, some patients with Sickle Cell Disease are more successful than their siblings without the disease, making nonsense the abortion-to-eliminate-the-foetus practice. One of the participants, however, explained that in the UK mothers have choices as regards whether or not to abort.

4. Tuberculosis

According to Professor Kihumbu Thairu affected families are educated regarding how TB is spread and how the infected persons should be looked after. This open community approach made sure that TB was controlled within the community. A good diet and other healthy habits are important as well as community health education such as films in mobile cinema systems. Spitting was a punishable offence. Lately the hygiene conditions are more relaxed and therefore there has been an increase in TB.

Dr. Felix Konotey-Ahulu also confirmed the health education best practice approach and highlighted the importance of a good diet and healthy habits.

The group discussion adopted a community based approach and recommended specialist who could help influence policies in their respective countries.

5. Focal Points

1. Introduction of safe motherhood initiatives.
2. Intensifying the immunisation programme.
3. People's involvement in the management of health services.
4. Technical support and capacity building.
5. Health Education.
6. Ensuring provision of safe water and environmental sanitation.
7. Health Data Collection, management, interpretation, dissemination and utilisation.

6. Recommendations

Dr. Felix Konotey-Ahulu advised that tackling the health problems of our two regions need to proceed with principles before we come to details. He highlighted the following principles as being central.

- There is a need to involve and increase collaboration efforts between experts resident in our regions and the Diaspora, who are as good as those sent to advise us.
- Not all experts sent to our countries are on our wavelength or fully cognisant of and knowledgeable about our situation and this should be addressed.
- There is a need for us to create a collective force called ACDC (African Caribbean Diaspora Clout).
- Need to evaluate cost accounting to find out exactly what the billions of Dollar, Pounds, Yen, Marks and Francs were spent on and actually achieved.

8. General Recommendations

The Group also resolved on the following recommendations:

- Community based awareness programs need to be fostered.
- Develop strategies to address skills reversal (brain drain).
- Ethical issues and considerations were mentioned about use of chemicals and insecticide.
- Less use of fast food chains and more healthy home prepared food to be consumed.
- Influence Governments in the Diaspora to create a Data bank of experts in various spheres to share knowledge. And to also create an exchange program for experts and technicians within the Diaspora.
- Encourage voluntary work among the health workers in the Diaspora.
- Create incentive and proper remuneration, necessary facilities and infrastructure to facilitate the return of experts in the Diaspora and the locals in the urban areas.
- Encourage exchange of medical skilled workforce between Africa and the Caribbean.
- Encourage mobile clinics/medicine in order to make health services available to the rural population (where no dispensaries, health centres or surgeries are available).

Commission on International Affairs, Peace and Security

Chair: HE Mr Roy Blackbeard, High Commissioner of Botswana
Speakers: The Hon. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, (Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa)
The Hon. Mr Anthony Hylton MP- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica

Multilateral Issues

UN Reform

- CARICOM has successfully created synergy within itself on multilateral issues as witnessed by the campaign between Guatemala and Venezuela for a seat on the United Nations (UN) Security Council. CARICOM plays a critical role in deciding this new Council.
- Africa also supports the notion of UN Reform and has a common position on this issue (Ezulwini Consensus).

Peace and Security

- The African Union (AU) recognises that political and economic integration is necessary within Africa for it to become more stable, predictable and peaceful environment.
- The Peace and Security Council (PSC) was established under the Constitutive Act of the African Union to settle disputes and monitor Peace Keeping Missions.
- PSC will have a number of components i.e. Permanent Members out of 15 Countries, Early Warning Systems, and African Standby Force.
- So far the AU has established a nucleus of peacekeepers with 5 Brigades constituted from 5 regions and the Council of the Wise as an early warning system.
- PSC is facing constraints in resources particularly in Peace Keeping Missions e.g. Sudan.

Burundi- Former President Mandela asked to mediate, agreement signed and required people from exile to come and implement it. UN refused and Africa had to send Protection Force to provide safety for the officials from exile.

Sudan – Negotiations are ongoing between AU, UN and government of Sudan to send hybrid force.

Zimbabwe – South Africa has been asked by SADC to mediate after the Extra Ordinary Summit in Tanzania. It was emphasised that the AU

position was not to push a country over the cliff to create chaos. The AU has the principle of non-indifference as opposed to the former OAU principle of non-interference. The AU has had successes in this approach as witnessed in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The UN has recognised that development is a precondition for peace and security.

Millennium Development Goals

- The challenges of the MDG's: both the CARICOM and the AU agree that there are challenges to implementing these.
- Not every country will achieve MDGs if necessary steps are not taken.

Common Strategy

China

- The AU recognises the complex relationship it has with China.
- Aware that China wants to quadruple her GDP by 2020, but will need huge resources to sustain this.
- They need to ensure that China does not under-develop Africa. CARICOM also recognises the complexity of its relationships with China. There is no consensus yet but soon it should emerge.
- South-South Cooperation has been established to accelerate socio-economic development with Asia, Latin America, China etc.
- These relations are fine, but still in the early stages.

Terrorism

- Both the AU and the CARICOM adhere to UN Resolutions and are opposed to terrorism.
- They both agree it should not be utilised to brand religious groups.
- They both support an end to the Palestinian conflict.
- Concerned about the recruitment of the young people to be used in terrorist acts.
- It should be seen as an international concern that generates consistent morality. The example of Cuba was given.

Migration

- The impact of the brain drain on African and Caribbean societies was emphasised. CARICOM has institutionalised freedom of movement for people within its region.

- The EU wants to discuss migration issues with the AU in order to regulate these issues.
- The developed countries should pay for the skills that they import from Africa.

Human Rights

- It was agreed that Human Rights should not be politicised. They should be utilised as a space for civil society to create dialogue.
- While civil society participation is important it should be noted that some organs are influenced by outside actors.
- The example of the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society was highlighted.
- With regard to AU, the Human Rights Commission within the AU was established. During the AU Summit in Gambia in 2006, 11 Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights were sworn in to deal with Human Rights cases.
- The former Human Rights Council that existed under the UN had to be reformed and has since been replaced by the Human Right Commission.

WTO and Bretton Woods Institutions

- Lome has come of age and the Cotonou Agreement has not been to our advantage.
- The African Caribbean Pacific-Economic Partnership Agreements should be reviewed, since they weaken both groups.
- Some African countries insisted that the regional negotiating groups for the EPAs be established as they have been which works to the disadvantage of both the Caribbean and Africa.
- The AU-EU Partnerships must be redefined.
- The need for reform of Bretton Woods Institutions i.e. IMF and World Bank was also highlighted.

Conclusions

1. Institutionalise co-operation between CARICOM and AU (Observing)
2. Harmonising on multilateral issues
3. Resource own institutions geared for Peace and Security
4. Ensure that the obligation to protect the world against terrorism is for global peace and not to be high-jacked for domestic need or reason
5. Ensure prudent readiness in our engagement with China

6. Protect development as an integral ingredient towards peace and stability
7. Redefine the relationship with the EU and dictate the tone of our needs

Commission on the Re-branding of Africa, The Caribbean and the Diaspora

Chair: HE Wesley Momo Johnson, Ambassador of Liberia
Speakers: Mr Cameron Duodu (Journalist)
Mr George Shiri (University of the Arts London)
Ms Charlayne Hunter-Gault (Former CNN Mission Chief in South Africa)

Considering that the fathers of Pan-Africanism always thought it vital to establish their own media to carry the Pan-African message, this conference calls on the ACP states to emulate them and set up an ACP media organization comprising of:

- (1) A TV network
- (2) A Pan-African radio network
- (3) A Pan-African magazine

to carry on transmitting the Pan-African message of today.

In addition, we recommend that the AU and CARICOM states

- work with already existing media and cultural industry networks from Africa, the Caribbean and the Diaspora.
- Establish a network of media practitioners to work within the structures and frameworks of the AU and CARICOM.
- Develop an African media facility which is underpinned by significant financial and intellectual capital resources and under the auspices of the African Development Bank. Please refer to the African Media Development Initiative.
- to support the call for training of media practitioners and ensuring that 50% of take up of the training is by women and ensure that the representation of editors and producers is gender sensitive in line with AU and CARICOM principles.
- To have the African Union specify the need for media freedom on the continent... as indicated in the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples rights.

The project of re-branding Africa – will be the responsibility of all media forms.

Commission on Science and Technology

Chair: HE Phillip Djangone-Bi, Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire
Speaker: Dr Patrick Ezepue, (Sheffield Hallam University)

The Science and Technology Commission, chaired by HE Phillip Djangone-Bi, met to discuss the role Diasporas could play in aiding the implementation of the African Union (AU)'s Science and Technology Action Plan.

The introductory presentation was delivered by Dr. Patrick Ezepue of Sheffield Hallam University and was followed by an open discussion with the members of the commission.

Dr Ezepue asserted that the African educational approach to Science and Technology is denying young Africans an effective scientific education.

It is:

- a. Highly didactic
- b. Theoretical with a low emphasis on empirical experimentation
- c. Not conducive to effective application of knowledge to real life situations

He went on to show that adding praxis to the theoretical knowledge acquired during formal education goes a long way to stimulating scientific involvement from individuals.

For scientific research to thrive in Africa, it must adopt a goal based approach and focus on the problems it can solve for the continent.

This inevitably will lead to a greater debate about the type of research the continent truly needs.

Our educational system must encourage the development of independent scientific critical thinking to stimulate steady idea generation, which itself forms the very fabric of scientific ability.

In this regard the commission examined what role the African scientific Diaspora, which we understand as a "Self organised group of expatriate scientists attempting to remotely contribute to the scientific development of their countries of origin", could play in Africa's technological development.

The main finding of this discussion was that the African scientific Diaspora could indeed play a key role. However, some considerable hurdles must first be overcome, chief amongst which are:

- Sustaining scientific involvement of the diasporas with African issues
- Applying the knowledge accrued in the developed world to Africa
- Creating an environment propitious to scientific research and innovation
- Identifying the scientific Diaspora and building channels of communications with their home countries' scientific communities

Possible ways to clear these hurdles include the following:

1. Creating a database identifying the scientific Diaspora and its competences
2. Building an open access repository of scientific information and research
3. Recreating a political, social and academic environment which nurtures scientific development
4. Empowering individuals to translate their scientific knowledge into useful technological innovation and problem solving
5. Greater investment in educational resources (infrastructural and human)
6. Promoting a vibrant dialogue between Diaspora and Local scientists through conferences, academic exchanges, workshops, scientific journals, etc...

These points, although valid, inevitably lead to the question of funding (its origin and allocation) for these initiatives.

We propose three ways in which funding can be either generated or better used to serve our stated goals:

1. More rational allocation of existing funds
2. Generating economically viable research projects

3. Engaging the scientific Diaspora to sponsor technological development
4. Setup a Pan-Africa body to coordinate funding for science and create effective partnerships with other supranational organisations (NGOs, G8, development agencies, etc...)

The Commission was of the view that in order to secure a steady stream of investment into Science and Technology, one should resort to higher level funding as a strong prerequisite to sustainable scientific research financing.

The case of the Colombian scientific Diaspora in Switzerland illustrates this fact.

Furthermore, Professor Ezepeue also set out an educational model which would help create a base of African scientists able to deliver scientific innovation and solutions to real African problems on a consistent basis.

The model hinges on:

1. enabling individuals to execute the AU Action Plan for Science and Technology
2. creating authentic empirical challenges for our scientific community
3. the need for the pooling of African scientific resources to better serve the needs of the continent
4. leadership as the core agenda for scientific development

The main principles of the model focus on the key aspect that scientific curricula must incorporate in order to be successful, namely:

- i. Primary Research Domain (PRD)
- ii. Primary Application Domain (PAD)
- iii. General cultural literacy (GCL)
- iv. And a developmental mindset: for self, for the organisations we work for and for humanity as a whole

Dr Ezepeue also set out the mindsets which encourage the creation of value by individuals and which must be reintroduced as part of the core values of African society:

- a) Discipline → Through mastery of one's domain of expertise
- b) Analytical mindset → to reconcile scientific knowledge to their real life applications
- c) Creativity → the ability to break new ground
- d) Respect → fosters scientific cooperation, humility and a real scientific debate
- e) Ethics

Other skills which must be conveyed to the scientific community are:

- 1) Multitasking
- 2) Computer programming
- 3) Commercial acumen
- 4) Investment management knowledge
- 5) Communication skills
- 6) Professionalism
- 7) Knowledge of human and labor psychology
- 8) Core skills: writing, analysis, listening, problem solving public speaking, initiative/assertiveness

In conclusion the commission formulated the following recommendations for the successful implementation of the AU's Action Plan on Science and Technology:

- 1) Mandate AC&D academics, practitioners, policy makers, related ministries of Science, Technology and Education to promote highly mediated scientific education campaigns (Conferences, workshops, etc...)
- 2) Harness the opportunities that globalisation afford Africa's scientific development through a more extensive use of Computer Mediated Cooperative Work
- 3) Coordinate a PanAfrica programme of visiting scholars and academic exchange on a par with the Erasmus and Bologna programmes in Europe.
- 4) Encourage tighter linkages between industry and academia to spur idea generation and funding.

Commission on Sport

Chair: HE Anderson Chibwa, High Commissioner of Zambia
Speakers: Prof S Gutto (University of South Africa)

Opening by the chairperson:

We need to develop a programme of action wherein sport benefits both Africa and the Diaspora. This programme should seek to identify mechanisms that would strengthen the role of Women, Youth and the Disabled in the Sporting arena.

Discussion:

From the presentation, the following statements were developed:

1. Sport should be given the same status as other Sectors such as economic development and good governance.
2. The role of Youth in Sport is crucial for nurturing talent and providing a strong African Identity.
3. The lack of infrastructure for people with disabilities was identified as an area of focus for this commission. To this point, the absence of a strong African/Diaspora presence at the Para-Olympics typifies this notion.
4. The commission also emphasised the need to identify and recognise centers of excellence in an effort to develop and enhance home grown raw talent that have already produced Olympic gold medalists, for instance in the field of athletics.
5. Sport presents African people with an opportunity for economic and skills investment, given its strong financial return as well as the high recognition that Africans and members of the Diaspora are receiving internationally.
6. The commission has also underlined the pivotal role that sport plays in tackling the scourge of racism and promoting a tolerant society. Furthermore, through sport Africa and the Caribbean has been able to de-mistify the notion that the people from these regions are incapable of achieving their full potential in the global arena.
7. Football/Soccer
 - The Commission under-scored that football is the most popular sport amongst Africans and the Diaspora. To this end,

the discussion focused largely on the benefits that the 2010 world-cup will have for Africa and the Diaspora.

- As such, the Commission congratulated South Africa on its outstanding efforts in securing the bid to host the largest sporting event for the continent, i.e. the FIFA World Cup 2010.
- During the discussion, the Commission commended the South African Government's commitment to ensure that a wider African and Diaspora participation is maintained.
- The commission believes that this victory does not merely belong to South Africa, but should also be seen as a collective gain for Africa and the Diaspora. It is in this spirit that there is an inspiration to us all to perform at a higher level in global sports.
- For participants from the Diaspora, taking part in this world cup would provide a psychological advantage knowing that they would be playing on the soil of the "ancestors".
- The benefits of this event for the Diaspora and Africa would depend largely on the contributions that the people are prepared to make to ensure that this is the best world cup ever.

Conclusion

In view of the above discussion, the commission concluded that maintaining the momentum generated in the build-up to 2010 is one of the key challenges for the future of sport in general.

Commission on the Welfare of the Child

Chair: HE Mr Clever Gatete, Ambassador of Rwanda
Speaker: Ms Sally Baffour (Welfare of the Child Organisation)

The Commission determined during its deliberations that the issues affecting children in the Diaspora are many. Principally among them, the following issues were highlighted:

- Identity or roots
- Culture and Values
- Care/upbringing/social services
- Discipline
- Education for empowerment (exchange programmes)
- Marginalisation in the school system
- Cultural disorientation

Addressing these problems creates a conducive environment for establishing a foundation for the African and Caribbean child to gain confidence to validate his worth. In view of the above, we need to look at ways of reclaiming history and creating for sharing rituals within the community. It is also important for African and Caribbean families to come forward and reclaim children from foster homes and infuse into them what has been lost.

In light of the above, the following recommendations were made:

1. Establish bridges for exchange programs for the youth through Cariforum, CARICOM and NEPAD, using NEPAD resources.
2. Establishing African-Caribbean Cultural centers in the various regions that would address issues such as foster caring, family problems, history and oral traditions. The centre could also liaise with the educational institutions and become the link between Africa and the Diaspora.
3. That child trafficking and the role of NGOs in the process require urgent attention, because it is not only inhumane, but also has economic and social elements that require a legal framework which can campaign against the process and deal with its existence.
4. That African and Caribbean Heads of State and Governments take leadership in promoting 'language' and 'culture'.

It is important that emphasis is placed on the execution of the above recommendations.

ANNEX A

PROGRAMME

“AFRICAN UNION-CARIBBEAN DIASPORA
CONFERENCE,
TO BE HELD AT THE BRIT OVAL
KENNINGTON ROAD, LONDON
ON 24-25 APRIL 2007

**Please note all Speakers to be confirmed:*

**Number of commissions may vary depending on need.*

24 APRIL DAY 1

PLENARY SESSION

09:30

1: **Welcome and Opening Plenary Session**

Chair: HE Mr Christopher Kolade (High Commissioner of Nigeria).

09:40

- **Opening Addresses:**

Why the Conference is needed:

The Hon. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma MP- Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa

The Hon Mr Anthony Hylton MP- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica

- **Historical Overview:**

A Caribbean Perspective Professor Selwyn Ryan (University of the West Indies)

An African Perspective: Professor Abdoulaye Bathily (University of Senegal)

11:00

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

11:30 TEA/COFFEE/ REFRESHMENTS

11:45

2. Panel Discussion:

Chair: H.E Glenda Morean Phillip (High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago)

- **Co-operation for developing and sharing skills in education, technology and training:** Dr Pikay Richardson (Manchester Business School)
- **Co-operation in the field of literature and the performing/Visual arts and crafts including Carnival:** Professor Chris Mullard (Honorary Consul for the Republic of South Africa in the South West of England)
- **Economic cooperation, including commodity pricing, investment patterns and trade issues (WTO) and the Impact of Globalisation:** Mr Ransford Smith (Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth)
- Co-operation on Health Issues including: Malaria/ TB and HIV/Aids: **Professor Kihumbu Thairu (Moi University - Kenya)**, Sickle Cell Diseases: **Dr Felix Konotey-Ahulu (Consultant Physician-Ghana)**
- **Gender Equality:** Professor Rhoda Reddock (University of West Indies)

13:00

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

13:30 LUNCH

14:30

3: Commission Sessions

Climate Change

Chair: HE Prince Seeiso Bereng Seeiso, High Commissioner of Lesotho

Speaker: Mr Strike Mkandla, (UNEP Representative to the African Union)

Rapporteur: Egypt

Scribe: Kenya

Combating the Scourge of Human Trafficking.

Chair: HE Mwanaidi Sinare Majaar, High Commissioner of Tanzania

Speaker: Ms. Jacqueline Turner, (Lecturer- London Metropolitan University)

Rapporteur South Africa

Scribe: Angola

Communication Links

Chair: HE Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda

Speaker: Dr Henry Chasia, (Deputy Executive Chairperson of the NEPAD Secretariat)

Rapporteur Trinidad and Tobago

Scribe: Botswana

Cultural Issues

Chair: HE The Hon Burchell Whiteman, High Commissioner of Jamaica

Speakers: Mr Clarence C Thompson, (MBE)

Ms Margaret Busby, (OBE)

Prof Itumeleng Mosala, (Former Director General of the Department of Arts and Culture of South Africa)

Rapporteur Eritrea

Scribe: St Lucia

Economic Challenges

Chair: HE Mr Melvin H Chalobah, High Commissioner of Sierra Leone

Speakers: Sir Samuel Esson Jonah, (Chairman of Jonah Capital)

Mr Ransford Smith, (Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth)

Mr Ron Gault, (Economist)

Rapporteur: Barbados

Scribe: Gabon

Education

Chair: HE Mr Joseph Charter, High Commissioner for Grenada

Speakers: Professor Gus John (University of Manchester)

Rapporteur: Namibia

Scribe: Cameroon

Gender Equality/Empowerment

Chair: HE Mr Gabriel Machinga, Ambassador of Zimbabwe

Speakers: Professor Rhoda Reddock (University of West Indies)

Dr Mohau Pheko (South African Women in Dialogue
- SAWID)

Rapporteur: St Vincent and the Grenadines

Scribe: Senegal

Health Issues

Chair: HE Mrs J. Rwabyomere, High Commissioner of
Uganda

Speakers: Dr Felix Konotey-Ahulu (Consultant Physician -
Ghana)
Professor Kihumbu Thairu (Moi University - Kenya)

Rapporteur: Swaziland

Scribe: Equatorial Guinea

International Affairs and Peace and Security

Chair: HE Mr Roy Blackbeard, High Commissioner of
Botswana

Speakers: The Hon. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, (Minister of
Foreign Affairs of South Africa)

The Hon. Mr Anthony Hylton MP- Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Jamaica

Rapporteur: DRC

Scribe: Malawi

Media: The Re-branding of Africa, the Caribbean and the Diaspora

Chair: HE Mr Dorsey Hansford, Ambassador of Liberia

Speakers: Mr Cameron Duodu (Journalist)

Mr George Shiri (University of the Arts London)

Ms Charlayne Hunter-Gault (Former CNN Mission
Chief in South Africa)

Rapporteur: Madagascar

Scribe: Gambia

Science and Technology

Chair: HE Phillip Djangone-Bi, Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire

Speaker: Dr Patrick Ezepue, (Sheffield Hallam University)

Rapporteur: Gabon

Scribe: Mozambique

Sport

Chair: HE Anderson Chibwa, High Commissioner of Zambia

Speakers: Prof S Gutto (University of South Africa)

Rapporteur: Cuba

Scribe: South Africa

Transportation Links

Chair: HE Berbanhu Kebede, Ambassador of Ethiopia
Speakers: Mr Tshepo Peege, (Chairperson of the African Civil Aviation Commission)
Ms Claudia Grant, (Deputy Director General- Maritime Authority of Jamaica)
Rapporteur: Bahamas
Scribe: Nigeria

Welfare of the Child

Chair: HE Mr Clever Gatete, Ambassador of Rwanda
Speaker: Ms Sally Baffour (Welfare of the Child Organisation)
Rapporteur St Kitts and Nevis
Scribe: Ghana

19:00 Conclusion of Day's Proceedings

25 APRIL 2007 DAY 2

PLENARY SESSION

09:00- 10:00

1. Combating Racism and the Issue of Reparations.

Panel Discussion:

Chair: HE Mr Emmanuel Cotter MBE, High Commissioner of Saint Lucia

Dr Hakim Adi - Middlesex University
Mr Kimani Nehusi - University of East London
Ms Esther Stanford- Black United Front

10:00-10:30

Question and Answer Session

10:30 TEA/COFFEE/ REFRESHMENTS

10:45-12:45

Chair: The Hon. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini- Zuma MP (Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa)

2. **Report Back and Way Forward**

Commissions' Summary

3. **Question and Answer Session**

12:45-1330

Chair: The Hon. Mr Anthony Hylton MP (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica)

4. **Formulation of an Action Plan to be Presented to the Consultative Ministerial Conference in South Africa**

13:30-13:40

5 **Closure**

13:40 LUNCH

Annex B

Keynote Address by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma at the African Union Caribbean Diaspora Conference London, 24 April 2007

Honourable Chairperson, Your Excellency Christopher Kolade, the High Commissioner of Nigeria,

The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica Anthony Hylton
Your Excellency The Dean of African Missions in London Mr. Samuel Libock Mbei

Your Excellency The Dean of the Caribbean Missions in London Mr. Laleshwar KN Singh ,

Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Guests

Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Comrades and Friends:

First, let me express our gratitude to all of you for having heeded the call to this Conference. Your presence here today, answers why the need this for this Conference.

In his book entitled "In Arcadia , Ben Okri tells us the following story :

You die, and find yourself, like Daphnis, at Heaven's Gate. A mysterious person meets you at the entrance. You ask to be admitted. The mysterious person insists first on a conversation about the life you have lived. You complain that you had no breaks, that things didn't work out for you, that you weren't helped, that people brought you down, blocked your way, that your father didn't love you, that your mother didn't care, that economic times were bad, that you didn't have the right qualifications, that you didn't belong to the right circle, that you weren't lucky, in short you pour out a veritable torrent of excuses.

But for every excuse you bring forth the infinitely patient mysterious person points to little things here and there that you could have done, little mental adjustments that you could have made. He gently offers you examples of where, instead of giving up, you could have been more patient. Tenderly, he shows you all the little things you could have done, within the range of your ability, your will that would have made a difference. And as he offers these alternatives you see how perfectly they make sense, how perfectly possible the solutions were, how manageable. You see how, by being more alive to your life, and not panicky and afraid, things could have been so much more livable, indeed quite wonderful.

"You suddenly see that you could have been perfectly happy during all the time that you were perfectly miserable. That you could have been free instead of being a prisoner. That you could have been one of the radiant ones of the earth. That living could have been fun. It could have been worthwhile. That life could have been a playground of possibilities. It could have been a laboratory of intelligence and freedom. And living could have been composed of experiments in surprise, in immortality. Experiments in the art of astonishment. Fascinating time - games. Space - games. Dimension- games".

"You suddenly see that living is the place where gods play within mortal flesh. An open - ended play in which dying is the most open - ended ending of them all, opening out into the infinity of nothingness, or into the infinity of absolute being"

"Therefore, living is the place of secular miracles. It is where amazing things can be done in consciousness and in history. Living ought to be the unfolding masterpiece of the loving spirit. And dying ought to set this masterpiece free. Set it free to enrich the world. A good life is the masterwork of magic intelligence that dwells in us. Faced with the enormity of this thought, of the Damascene perception, failure, despair, unhappiness, seemed a small thing, a gross missing of the point of it all."

But, I'm happy that since the beginning of time, Africans wherever they have been, whatever the circumstances, have ensured that they do not find themselves at the Heaven' Gates, unable to account for the lives they had lived.

The Africans had always taken for granted the necessity to advance development and contribute to the greater wellbeing of self, society and the environment. The civilisation that Africans collectively produced were to be reflected in the architecture of the city of One Hundred Gates, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Temples of Ethiopia, the City of Carthage in Tunisia and the many prehistoric ruins in other parts of Africa. The Sculptures of Benin, Ancient Kingdoms of Ghana and Mali, the Makhondis of Mozambique and the rich Paintings of Kgalagadi. The African participated in the human development for the greater good of Humanity and deliberate subordination of the individual.

We state it as a matter of historical fact and not an act of self praise that Africa enjoyed a Golden Age of trade, commerce, education, flourishing of the arts and craftsmanship. These contributions were made because - We always understood that "life was a playground of possibilities, a laboratory of intelligence and freedom and that living is a place of secular miracles"

We carried this belief even when our cities were destroyed as evidenced when Rome ordered the destruction of Carthage, turned such a beautiful city into ruins and cursing the strong men and women of Africa were condemned into slavery in the most cruel and inhuman manner in order to build their capitalist economies in the name of trade.

In the words of Guyanese scholar, Walter Rodney, in "How Europe underdeveloped Africa", he asserts that

"The process by which captives were obtained on African soil was not trade at all. It was through warfare, trickery, banditry and kidnapping." It was social violence and destruction, many died on the route and "the massive loss of the African labour force was made more critical because it was composed of the most able-bodied young men and young women."

Africans on the continent and the Diaspora shared a common bond of suffering; they also together celebrated the victories against their enslavers and oppressors - albeit short-lived. They inspired each other in mind in the celebrated victory in Haiti in 1804 with the establishment of the first Black Republic, the Battle of Isandlwana in 1879, that saw the mighty army of the British empire vanquished, the battle of Adwa in 1896 where the Italians suffered a humiliating defeat by the Ethiopians. These are some of the instances that inspired Africans towards their liberation and led to powerful cultural movements and bonds such as Ethiopianism and later Rastafarianism.

Africans always lived their lives in a way that made it possible to face that mysterious man at the gates of heaven with their heads high.

The 200th anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery

We join forces around the world in marking the struggle for the abolition of the slave trade, of the trans-Atlantic slavery of Africans to the Americas and the Caribbean with the passing of the Abolition Act 200 years ago.

We fully support the commemoration of this, as a special year in honour of those who suffered, as indeed we celebrate the lives of those who fought bravely against slavery.

- And again it was here in London in 1900 that the early stirrings of Pan-African Unity took place when the Trinidadian barrister Henry Sylvester Williams organised the first meeting of the Pan-African Congress. The legendary W.E.B. Du Bois in his address "To the Nations of the World" made his famous statement; and I quote:

"In the metropolis of the modern world, in this the closing year of the nineteenth century, there has been assembled a congress of men and women of African blood, to deliberate solemnly upon the present situation and outlook of the darker races of mankind. The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the colour line, the question as to how far differences of race - which show themselves chiefly in the colour of the skin and the texture of the hair - will thereafter be made the basis of denying to over half the world the right of sharing to utmost ability the opportunities and privileges of modern civilization."

People like Marcus Garvey were committed to celebration of black historical achievements, but were also very concerned about linking the Diaspora to the Continent. Writers such as George Padmore, later CLR James and even later Frantz Fanon contributed immensely to the analysis of the African condition and outlining the circumstances for liberation. Of course, there were also South African intellectuals like Sol Plaatje, Pixley ka Seme and John Mafukuzela Dube, founders of the African National Congress (ANC), who were inspired by these developments.

Pixley ka Seme wrote in 1906 in an essay entitled "the Regeneration of Africa", I quote: The African already recognizes his anomalous position and desires a change. The brighter day is rising upon Africa. Already, I seem to see her chains dissolved her desert plains red with harvest, her Abyssinia and her Zululand the seats of science and religion, reflecting the glory of the rising sun from the spires of their churches and universities. Her Congo and her Gambia whitened with commerce, her crowded cities sending forth the hum of business, and all her sons employed in advancing the victories of peace- greater and more abiding than the spoils of war.

"The ancestral greatness, the unimpaired genius, and the recuperative power of the race, its irrepressibility, which assures its permanence, constitute the African's greatest source of inspiration. He has refused to camp forever on the borders of the industrial world; having learned that knowledge is power, he is educating his children. You find them in Edinburgh, in Cambridge, and in the great schools of Germany and so on. These return to their countries armed with their industrial and educational initiative, and untiring devotion to these activities, must be regarded as positive evidences of this process of regeneration"

Indeed, although this was said in 1906, it still has resonance today. Africans "have always understood life as a playground of possibilities". They have always been able to manage difficulties and found solutions to seemingly intractable problems. They have always been able to account - how they lived their lives to "the mysterious man at the gate of heaven"

This historical antecedent set in motion heroic struggles whose legacy we now have the privilege to celebrate and honour.

Of course, Africa and the African Diaspora are celebrating this year, the year of the 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence.

Africa and the African Diaspora are also celebrating the 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence. We pay tribute to the heroes of this country and to the legacy especially of Kwame Nkrumah who believed that only a united Africa could achieve economic independence, that only African countries acting in unity could give support to those who were still fighting for liberation in Southern Africa, especially South Africa.

The 40th anniversary of the death of Albert Luthuli

This year we are also commemorating the 40th anniversary of the death of South Africa's First Nobel Peace Laureate and President of the African National Congress (ANC), Dr Albert Luthuli.

In his Nobel Prize Acceptance speech, he (Chief Luthuli) spoke about the goal of a united Africa "in which the standards of life and liberty are constantly expanding" and "in which the dignity of man is rescued from beneath the heels of colonialism which have trampled it." He called for Africa to free itself from past woes and tribulations; and "to see herself as an emerging continent" whose fight is for "noble values and worthy ends" and "not for land and enslavement of man".

We are here to attest and celebrate the leadership of the torchbearers that gave birth to this historic moment;

Of course in Africa, we celebrate the lives of many leaders who through their vision formed the OAU.

They demonstrated that solidarity and unity were crucial for strengthening the struggle for independence especially the countries of the South like Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Angola and South Africa and for the fight against underdevelopment and hence the birth of the OAU including those here in London who formed the Anti - Apartheid Movement probably the largest global solidarity movement

the world has seen founded here in London by Archbishop Trevor Huddleston spread all over the world and all peace - loving people.

It was therefore not surprising that the first country to impose sanctions against Apartheid South Africa was Jamaica because they had accepted that the African and the African Diaspora needed to act in unison and in solidarity for the freedom of Africans wherever they are.

After the liberation of South Africa, President Nelson Mandela said the following in his address to the OAU "The titanic effort that has brought liberation to South Africa, and ensured the total liberation of Africa constitutes an act of redemption for the black people of the world. It is a gift of emancipation also to those who, because they were white, imposed on themselves the heavy burden of assuming the mantle of rulers of all humanity. It says to all who will listen and understand that, by ending the apartheid barbarity that was the offspring of European colonisation, Africa has, once more, contributed to the advance of human civilisation and further expanded the frontiers of liberty everywhere.

Of course the Africans in the continent and in the Diaspora were strengthened by the tireless efforts by persons like Michael Manley, Sir John Compton, lots of personalities and many ordinary people in the Caribbean and the Diaspora.

Finally at this meeting in Tunis, President Nelson Mandela stated that " We shall remove from our agenda the consideration of the question of Apartheid South Africa"

"Where South Africa appears on the agenda again, let it be because we want to discuss what its contribution shall be to the making of the new African Renaissance. Let it be because we want to discuss what materials it will supply for the rebuilding of the African city, Cartage"

Of course, I would like us to go back to what President Thabo Mbeki delivered in his speech "The Historical Injustice"said in 1978 in Ottawa, Canada "Modern political science recognises the fact that social systems are founded on definite historical origins. If the saying "out of nothing comes" is true, then it must follow that the future is formed and derives its first impulse in the womb of the present. All societies therefore necessarily bear the imprint, the birth-marks of their own past and whether to a greater or lesser extent must depend on a whole constellation of factors both internal and external to each particular society.

"Those of us, who claim to be revolutionaries, must resist all attempts to persuade us that our future lies in the hands of an ungovernable fate.

For the imperative of our epoch has charged us with the task of transforming ourselves from the status of objects of history to that of masters of history."

I am quoting all these people to say that what we are doing today has its first impulse in history.

The African leadership having arrived at the conclusion that the OAU was no longer adequate to deal with the challenges of today, in the year 2002, requested South Africa to host the launch of the African Union. After the it's launch, the continental body decided to recognise the Diaspora as the sixth Region of the African Union.

Thereafter a number of Conferences of Africa and the Diaspora intellectuals took place in Trinidad, Senegal, Brazil etc.

These gatherings were an effort to consolidate what was started by the Africans in the Diaspora in 1900. Putting the signposts of the journey ahead that we are collectively undertaking to take in our hands, understanding that our future is bound together.

South Africa in 2005 had a meeting in Jamaica primarily to express our appreciation, support and to celebrate our 10th anniversary with the Caribbean.

Programme Director,

The AU in 2006 decided that South Africa should host the first Summit of Africa and the African Diaspora. This was accepted with humility recalling the sentiment expressed by President Mandela that when South Africa appears on the Agenda it should be to discuss what South Africa's contribution should be to the rebirth of the continent.

Challenges of the 21st Century

Of course, having declared the 21st century, as the African century, it is clear that we have to mobilize all people on the continent and the Diaspora because we have to wage a titanic battle. a titanic battle of ideas, battle against poverty and underdevelopment ,a battle for the emancipation of women and empowerment of our youth.

It has to be a battle for ending the marginalization of lots of Africans in the Diaspora.

It has to be a titanic battle to reclaim our cultural heritage. The fact that it is easier to buy CD's of an African artist in Europe and America than in Africa must come to an end.

The implementation of the programme of action of the World Conference Against Racism will need to marshal all our forces in Africa and in the Diaspora. The question of reparations which should be measures aimed at reversing the devastating consequences of racism and slavery in history must necessarily extend beyond the narrow understanding of reparations as individual financial compensation of victims.

"There is no doubt that slavery; colonialism and apartheid were crimes against humanity. The nature of the damage caused by slavery and colonialism is complex and manifold: it involves the wholesale destruction of peoples and groups, the erosion and in some cases theft of social, economic and human capital and the destruction of the social fabric of entire people", (WCAR Document 2001)

A further challenge for us is the closure of the digital divide. Africa and the Diaspora has to come together to share their scientific advances from biotechnology, nanotechnology to space technology for peaceful use.

Mobilization of the great battle against HIV and Aids and other infectious diseases. The battle for the development of Africa and the Diaspora has to be seen to be as inclusive as possible.

Human Trafficking

The scourge of human trafficking should more accurately be described as a modern form of slavery.

The term human trafficking obscures the evil practice that involves the buying and selling of human beings in order to exploit them economically, and force them into domestic and sexual servitude. We also have to address the continued skills drain of Africa's best talent to the West is a new and insidious form of an old practice - the practice of taking the skills of the best from Africa for the advancement of Western economies

Programme Director,

This conference is part of the preparations in Europe, America, Caribbean and Africa for the Ministerial and civil society conferences in October 2007 and eventually the African and African Diaspora Summit in 2008.

Thus, to answer again the question posed at the beginning, this conference is necessary to revive and strengthen the spirit of Pan

Africanism and to strengthen and profile the African Diaspora wherever they are.

- To act in unison in order to deal with the challenges of globalisation.
- To challenge the imbalance of power.
- To ensure the rebirth of the continent.

Africans against all odds have always scored victories; they have always turned "life into a playground of possibilities". The African rebirth will be moral, peaceful and will lead to a better world.

The Conference will have to focus on an action plan that will both accelerate socio-economic development and increase our access to markets, both regionally and internationally.

The people of African descent have to show the world a new world order where diversity is celebrated and harnessed as a collective strength rather than a cause for discrimination.

Finally, I would like to quote from an unlikely source, a Bahai scholar who wrote: (Baha'u'llah) about diversity.

"Consider the flowers of a garden, it would be said that though different in kind, colour, form and shape, yet, inasmuch as they are refreshed by the waters of one spring, revived by the breath of one wind, invigorated by the rays of one sun, this diversity increaseth their charm and addeth unto their beauty.

How unpleasing to the eye if all flowers and plants, the leaves and blossoms, the fruits, the branches and the trees were all the same shape and colour. Diversity of hues, form and shape enricheth and adorneth the garden and heighten the effect thereof".

I do believe that indeed those who have suffered and who have been undervalued can create a new beautiful world for all humanity.

Ben Okri, in his book, "Way of Being Free", writes, " They tell me that nature is the survival of the fittest. And yet look at how wondrous gold and yellow fishes prosper amongst silent stones of the ocean beds, while sharks continuously prowl the waters in their impossible dreams of oceanic domination and while whales become extinct...how many butterflies and iguanas thrive, while elephants turn into endangered species, and while even the lions growl in their dwindling solitude.

"There is no such thing as a powerless people. There are only those who have not seen and have not used their power and will. It would seem a

miraculous feat, but it is possible for the under valued ones to help create a beautiful new era in human history. New vision should come from those who suffer most and who love life the most".

Therefore, I wish to conclude by stating that "At heaven's Gate when we meet the mysterious person we shall not pour out a veritable lament of excuses but be able to show that life was a playground of possibilities, a laboratory of intelligence and freedom and that living was a space of secular miracles, where amazing things were done in consciousness and in history"

I thank you.

ANNEX C

ADDRESS BY SENATOR THE HON. G. ANTHONY HYLTON, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA AT THE REGIONAL DIASPORA CONFERENCE LONDON, 23RD TO 25TH APRIL 200

Salutations,

It is certainly an honour for me to be here to represent Jamaica and indeed the Caribbean, to participate in this Regional Diaspora Conference, for the United Kingdom and Ireland to begin preparations for the Summit Conference in South Africa early in 2008. But how prophetic it is that we began this stage of the process in South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London, England.

We gather here today in the heart of one of the countries, in fact the main country, responsible for the Dispersion of African people over the last 500 years. We began yesterday on South African territory - independent South African territory - in that centre of African exploitation-London. The symbolism of this occasion should not be lost on us. South Africa's independence closed the circle of the establishment of independent states in post colonial Africa which begun with Ghana - 50 years ago this year. Africa is again politically independent. Africans, and people of African descent everywhere, are again free to plan and to determine their destiny and the destiny of their continent.

The Summit in South Africa for which we plan is one of the African Union's responses to the historic 2005 South Africa-African Union - Caribbean Diaspora Conference in Kingston, Jamaica and before that in Trinidad and Tobago to, in the words of the organizers, "affirm our identity as one people, because of our common origins".

We compliment the African Union on its Decision to carry the process forward at the level of a Summit. We commend the South African Government, for the leadership it has given to this project from its inception, and its tireless work in organizing the series of meetings in Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and the United States of America, as well as its own National Consultative Conference.

The consultative process, nationally and across the key geographic regions in preparation for the Summit and other initiatives such as the second Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora held in Brazil in July 2006 will provide rich sources of materials for political leaders to craft an appropriate plan and

strategy going forward.

Mr. Chairman, the Summit and the preparatory process provide us with a unique opportunity, at a historic point in time, to reflect on the fundamental purpose of Africa and the Caribbean getting together. This purpose must be about planning and engendering development; engendering a process of development in these two unique areas of the world, which will provide for the greater rootedness and the restoration of the confidence of the African people. Our forefathers had such confidence and autonomy over 500 hundred years ago; the Pan Africanists struggled valiantly to restore it at a time of external domination of the continent; but now, with independent states all across the continent of Africa and the Caribbean we have a unique opportunity to re-establish it and more importantly to sustain it permanently for the future. That should be one of the goals of our getting together. Achievement will require that our leaders and we as a people ask ourselves the hard questions and take responsibility. Bob Marley's plea "Africans must liberate Zimbabwe" must be internalised in our actions and broadened to "Africans must develop Africa". Develop Africa economically, socially, politically and environmentally and provide the opportunity for our people to live in unity, peace and prosperity. We must create the conditions where our people will not be satisfied and will not be forced, in the words of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, "to drink the dregs of the cup of human progress" since that "will not demonstrate our fitness as a people". We need to create the conditions where they can be equal partners at the table.

Mr. Chairman, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade during which over 10 million Africans were uprooted and dispersed in the Americas is recognised as one of, if not, the worse violation of human rights in modern history. The international community designated 25th March, 2007 as the *International Day for the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade*.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade gave birth to the African Diaspora. The key official objective behind the observance of the bicentennial celebrations is two-fold. On the one hand, it is about educating people about the legacies of slavery which remain throughout Africa and its Diaspora and, on the other hand, to highlight the greatness of our African ancestry in talent, fortitude, brilliance and creativity.

These are important objectives, but for Africans and African leaders and for us there must be a deeper significance. One aspect must be how to use this education and cultural reawakening to propel real

development in Africa and in independent developing countries such as those in the Caribbean. A second must be to encourage our leaders and us, as a people, to confront squarely conditions on the continent and in several of our independent countries which have fuelled a movement of Africans and people of African descent over the last fifty years numerically comparable, and in cases, under conditions no less treacherous than the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. To borrow a phrase from my esteemed colleague, Foreign Minister of South Africa, Hon. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, we must "take our destiny into our own hands" and create a "new Africa". This as we celebrate with Ghana 50 years of independence.

That, I suggest, is the fundamental process: we must begin to plan and engage.

We cannot achieve that objective of creating a new Africa as a divided people however. We will only create that new Africa, which is our historic destiny, if we heed and put into practice the admonition of Bob Marley:

*Africa Unite, Africa Unite
Unite for the benefit of your people.
Africa Unite
Africa, you're my forefather cornerstone
Unite for the Africans abroad, Unite for the
Africans a yard
Africa Unite*

Unity in Africa requires unity in each of its independent parts. We do not have that today. Yet, that unity in Africa and in its constituent parts is important for the people in Africa; it is important for those in the Diaspora who want to move "right out a Babylon", and, it is important for those in the Diaspora who want to remain in Babylon or in their independent states and make a contribution to African development. It is a motivating and mobilising condition.

We recognise that the AU has begun to take a hold of this process. Africans everywhere applaud its instrumental role in re-establishing democracy in Liberia and the role it currently is playing in seeking peace in Sudan.

The African/Caribbean connection which is solid and vibrant; the unity, solidarity and hope that we share in confronting the myriad of economic and social challenges faced by our respective regions; and the actions which we agreed in the inaugural South

Africa - African Union - Caribbean Diaspora Conference under the theme: "Towards Unity and United Action by Africans and the African Diaspora in the Caribbean for a Better World: The case of South Africa", this gives us a solid basis on which to advance. That is the foundation; and the environment is propitious. We must now begin to address governance issues where they militate against the achievement of our fundamental objectives. The CARICOM countries have established a Single Market and are on the way to establishing their Single Economy. They have recognised that they need to incorporate a dimension to address governance issues. The African Union is in place and the Partnership for Africa is being strengthened. The recommendations from the Kingston meeting for an African Caribbean Commission, for observer status to CARICOM in the Africa Union and for the Africa Union in CARICOM and for the strengthening of South - South Cooperation are being pursued. There are myriad opportunities for working together in the international arena.

We already work closely under the umbrella of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group in relation to Europe, the Group of 77 (G77) in the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the NonAligned Movement (NAM).

We need now to bring these together and to advance in a more urgent and systematic manner in that process. We need to:

- 1) Conceptualise the development of our two regions and how to work in a systematic and sustained manner to achieve their development;
- 2) Determine how best to use the Diaspora in that development process bearing in mind for example, that people of African descent from the Caribbean now belong to a region of independent states responsible for their own development and that Africa itself has been sub-divided into many independent nation states.
- 3) Identify opportunities for a common agenda to assist in driving our development bearing in mind that in the global economy, as currently structured, we are all comparatively weak and near the bottom of the ladder. Competition among ourselves, will not get any of us up the ladder;

We must use the preparatory process here in London, in Addis Ababa, in Brasilia, The Bahamas, Brussels, and New York to discuss candidly these fundamental issues even as we discuss practical

themes and projects in areas such as cooperation in education, technology and training.

Brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen, in closing I reiterate that the Diaspora has a vital part to play in any effort for real development in Africa and the Caribbean.

The AU must therefore be commended for recognizing the importance of its Diaspora in the organization's Constitutive Act. We also commend the Caribbean for the effort being made at the individual country level and in CARICOM to engage the Caribbean Diaspora in our development dialogue and to understand in a structured manner the needs, issues and challenges of our Diaspora communities.

We have to recognise that the vast majority of persons in the Diaspora will not necessarily leave their current homes, but are willing to contribute. We have to work with them where they are and modern technology makes this practical and feasible.

Jamaica has evolved a structured arrangement for the involvement of its Diaspora across the world. We have, among other things, a biennial Diaspora conference in Jamaica due next year, a broad based Diaspora advisory board and have taken the decision to establish a joint select Parliamentary Committee on Diaspora matters. These complement organised Diaspora committees and groups in major countries with large Jamaican communities such as here in London. They are increasingly becoming a network. We are prepared to share this experience and to learn from others.

I reiterate CARICOM's commitment to continued dialogue in the African/Caribbean Diaspora Conferences. I remain confident that, together, we can advance our own development.

I thank the organisers for the quality of the arrangements and you for affording me the opportunity to address you on behalf of CARICOM. I look forward to working with you, over the next two days. Let us be bold in this joint undertaking!

I thank you.