

"The thing to do is to get organized. Keep separated and you will be exploited, you will be robbed, you will be killed. Get organized and you will compel the world to respect you."

- The Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey



The <u>Community Town Hall</u> and <u>Cooperative Coalitions:</u> Organizing the Diaspora from the Bottom Up



Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus (SRDC) International Summit, Panama City, Panama September 22 – 25, 2022



The Community Town Hall

- Explain the process to the community and hear the community's concerns
- The community collectively builds a Pan-Afrikan (Black) Agenda that reflects that community's issues, concerns, needs and aspirations



- The community elects a State/Local Representative Team: Council of Elders, Voting Representatives, Observers/Alternates
- Activists, organizers and community members devise concrete projects that reflect the local Black Agenda: community education programs, political analysis and action plans, economic development initiatives, cultural programs

The National or Sub-Regional Summit

- Local organizing efforts from the Community Town Halls link together
- Combine local Black Agendas into a National Agenda
- Share successes, concerns and ideas to motivate each other
- Elected Local Representatives determine the National "Dream Team" to go to international forums (consensus or vote)



• Establish plans for progress in the coming year

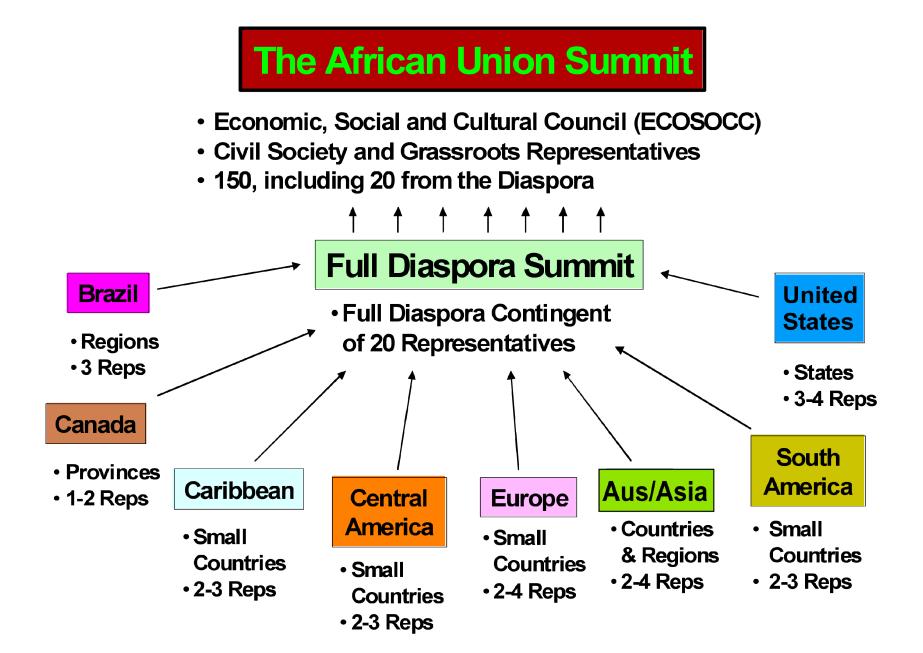
A Global Pan Afrikan Agenda

- Groups from the different Sub-Regional Summits now come together to share and coordinate their objectives and plans
- Link the National Agendas together into a *true* Grassroots Pan-Afrikan Diaspora Agenda
 - Dual Citizenship in Afrika
 - Right to Return to Afrika
 - International pressure on Historic Colonizers
 - Self-Help Programs & Projects that **we** devise and implement



- National Representatives prepare to take that Grassroots Pan-Afrikan Diaspora Agenda to International Forums
 - African Union
 - United Nations
 - World Social Forum
 - Independent Pan-Afrikan Congresses and Gatherings

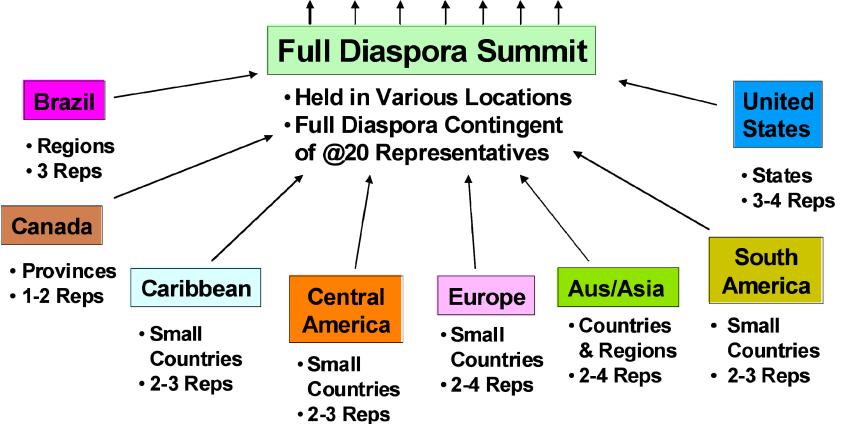




This plan can work in the AU, or if necessary, outside it



- African Union, United Nations, Global Organizations, People's Assemblies
 - Civil Society and Grassroots Representatives
 - Expressing our Needs, Aspirations and Solutions



Cooperative Coalitions

- The AU told us in 2003 that we needed to *bring our organizations together*
- Cooperative Principle based on "Unity Without Uniformity"
- International Coalition: the Pan African Diaspora Union (PADU)
- Maryland: the Maryland Pan Afrikan Cooperative Coalition (MPACC)
- Organizing Model: "Spokes of the Wheel" based on Mary McLeod Bethune's National Council of Negro Women (1935)



"Unity of Purpose", not "Unity of Ideology"



MILITARIZATION & WAR

NOMEN'S ISSUES, COME WORK WITH USE, HUNGER PUBLIC HEALTH ABUILD OUR POLITICAL AGENDA STREET CRIME ELECT YOUR COMMUNITY REPS SPIRITUALITY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OUR CONNECTION TO AFRIKA

CHILDREN'S ISSUES











The Kwame Touré So olitical Studies

AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY

CONTACT: Abena Diane 202-528-5384 for Ven Ishaka Ra Haenibal III 443-691-1356 for Prenne 40-51 70,











The Process, In Sum

• State/Local Pan Afrikan Town Hall Meeting

- It All Starts at the Local Level
- Community Develops its Black Agenda
- Community Elects Representative Team

National Summit

- State/Local Groups Bring their Agendas Together
- State/Local Representatives Determine the National Team

• Global Diaspora Summit

- Global Pan Afrikan Agenda
- Delegation Prepares for Attendance at AU, UN, PACs

• Diaspora Delegation to AU, UN, PACs, International Meetings

- Take Our Grassroots Voice to the World Stage
- Coalition Building
 - "Cooperative Coalitions", "Spokes of the Wheel" (Maryland)
 - "Unity of Purpose", not "Unity of Ideology"

Discussion Questions

- How can this model work in Central America, South America and the Caribbean?
- What experience can you share about the community organizing process in Panama and Central America?
- What changes would need to be made in this model to make it work for you?
- Are we even asking the right questions?

