



CONSTITUTION AFRICAN UNION
AFRICAN DIASPORA SIXTH REGION
HIGH COUNCIL
“LEAVE NO COMMUNITY BEHIND
GOVERNANCE ORGANIZATION”

PREAMBLE

We, the African Union - African Diaspora Sixth Region Facilitators & Promoters for the implementation of the adopted and approved African Union African Diaspora High Council Governance Organization:

ACCEPT

The invitation of the African Union Heads of State and Government who called for the “full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of the African Continent in the building of the African Union,” and who with clarity of purpose amended on February 3rd, 2003, respectively adopted and approved on July 11th, 2003 the Article 3(q) in the African Union Constitutive Act.

DECIDE

To adopt July 11th as the ‘Article 3q African Diaspora Day’ to be celebrated every year.

ACKNOWLEDGE

The significance of harnessing the collective power and resources of the African Diaspora to drive socio-cultural and economic progress, poverty eradication, education and scientific research, healthcare, digital & technological advancement and sustainable development within both Africa and the Diaspora.

The importance of the United Nations Durban Declaration and Program of Action (DDPA 2001), whereby the trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism were declared as crimes against humanity.

The African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region Declaration (May 25th, 2012) as an important part of the implementation of the Article 3(q) of the AU Constitutive Act and affiliated AU Resolutions.

The African Union Agenda 2063.

The African Continental Free Trade Area.

The UN International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and the plea for a second Decade.

The Pan African RootsSynergy Roundtable ACCRA Declaration (2019).

The Pan African RootsSynergy Roundtable ADDIS ABABA Agreements, Declaration and Resolution (2022).

The Pan African RootsSynergy Roundtable MAPUTO July 11th 2023 Launching of the Establishment of the African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council Organization.

The Pan African RootsSynergy Roundtable MAPUTO Outcome Document (2023).

CONVINCED

That the Diaspora's participation in the activities of the African Union, is guaranteed for its success.

RECOGNIZES

The Republic of Mozambique as the African Union Member State where the Article 3q of the AU Constitutive Act was adopted, and as the AU Member State where the official launching of the establishment of the African Union African Diaspora High Council Governance Organization took place.

CIDO as the important Directorate of the African Union regarding the implementation and integration of the African Civil society and Global African Diaspora.

ECOSOCC as the first African Union Organ whereby the African Diaspora became voting members.

The African Union Commission on Human and Peoples Rights.

The African Union Development Bank Group.

The African Union Regional Economic Communities.

The African Union Permanent Representatives/Embassies.

RECALLING

The necessity for a strong, coherent, united and widest organization of African Diaspora, as defined by African Union which is operationalized in the present Constitution.

The necessity for this organization to be an official and structural part of the African Union, and thus to be recognized as such.

The need to recognize equal rights between men and women.

The need to promote sustainable development within the African Continent and in the Diaspora.

The Democratic Principle by which all power emanates from the people, that they should have the freedom to directly choose their representatives and to participate in the process of drafting and approving the (by)laws.

INSPIRED

By the principles of Human Rights, International Law and Democratic Governance.

COMMITTED

To the defense of freedom, equality, fraternity and plurality.

To combat all forms of prejudice, xenophobia and related intolerance, above all, to combat forms of multiple racism (Afriphobia/Afrophobia) against African people.

To the peaceful settlement of disputes.

To the peaceful integration of peoples of different nationalities, with emphasis on the peoples of the African Continent and its Historic Diaspora.

WITH REFERENCE TO

The African Union African Diaspora May 25th 2012 Declaration.

The approved “Leave No Community Behind High Council Governance organization Model”.

The Pan African RootsSynergy Roundtable Maputo (10-13 July, 2023) Agreements this includes the establishment and official inauguration of the African Union Sixth Region African Diaspora High Council.

The hereby adopted and approved African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council Constitution as the basis for establishment and operations of the High Council Organization on Global, Regional, and National Level.

Article 1: The Name, Seat and Logo

1.1 The organization shall be known and addressed as the African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council, hereinafter referred to as the “AUADS High Council.”

1.2 The AUADS High Council is an international non-governmental organization, operating in accordance with the principles of the African Union (AU), and shall derive its primary legal jurisdiction from the constitutive act of the African Union and its organs and the provisions outlined in this Constitution.

1.3 The AUADS High Council shall establish a Global Headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, and regional offices in the five regions of Africa and each Diaspora region within the Sixth Region.

1.4 Official Logo & Color, to be used at any public appearance (i.e. letterheads, websites, and PR-material) shall be as decided by the High Council Facilitators. OR otherwise determined by a resolution of 2/3 majority of the Executive Committee

Article 2: Mission

2.1 Providing a coherent governance and organizational voice for the integration and full participation of the African Diaspora in the African Union, ensuring their

representation and engagement in AU Diaspora states decision-making processes.

2.2 Establishing and maintaining high-quality, well-informed, political, diplomatic, and strategic participation of the African Diaspora in AU and diasporas states activities, fostering a productive exchange of ideas and perspectives.

2.3 Harnessing the resourcefulness, expertise, and experience of the Diaspora to contribute to the development and advancement of Africa, with a focus on shaping a stronger and more positive future for all African people, both within Africa and in the countries where the Diaspora originated.

2.4 Acting as the highest organ to facilitate the integration of diasporas into the different organs of the African Union as well as that of the member states, promoting inclusive decision-making processes and ensuring the active involvement of the diaspora in policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation.

2.5 Serving as a consistent, reliable reference point for networking, partnership, and collaboration between the African Union, member states, and the African Diaspora, fostering mutual cooperation, joint initiatives, and shared development goals.

Article 3: The Organization Objectives

3.1 The AUADS High Council serves as the main governing structure of the African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region, representing the interests and aspirations of the Diaspora, subject to approved by the AU General Assembly.

3.2 The primary objectives of the AUADS High Council are as follows:

3.2.1 To organize and mobilize the Global African Diaspora towards the advancement of shared goals, including social, economic, cultural, and political development.

3.2.2 To protect the rights and interests of the Diaspora by advocating for policies and actions that address their specific needs and challenges.

3.2.3 To facilitate meaningful dialogue and collaboration between the Global African Diaspora and the African Union, fostering mutual understanding, cooperation, and partnership.

3.2.4 To promote the principles of Ubuntu, inclusivity, and the "leave no community behind" model in all aspects of its work.

3.2.5 To provide policy recommendations and project proposals to the African Union on matters relevant to the Diaspora and the Implementation of the African Union – African Diaspora Declaration and Program of Action.

3.2.6 To support Reparatory Justice for the crimes against Africa and African People in the context of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery and colonialism.

3.2.7 To press for adaption and implementation of the Right to Return as a Human Right by the African Union Member States.

Article 4: The Organization Principles

4.1 Is inclusive, not exclusive (i.e., it invites all who are committed to Pan African unification regardless of religion, political ideology or group affiliation).

4.2 According to the AU-Definition:

“The African Diaspora consists of people of African descent and heritage living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union “.

In connection with sub-4.1. The AUADS High Council’s Definition of the African Diaspora is as follow:

“The African Diaspora consist of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, and, returnees without permanent residency/citizenship in an African

country, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality, and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of a united Africa and its diaspora”. This taking into consideration that anybody working contrary to this definition does not fall within the AU-Definition of “African Diaspora”.

4.3 That the system of participatory democracy is at its best where each African Diaspora Community on International, Regional, National levels take ownership of their own nomination and election process within the approved framework of the procedures that has been approved by the Facilitators Global African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region for the implementation of the High Council Assembly.

4.4 Task and Result oriented.

4.5 Based on traditional African principles recognized globally as Ubuntu.

4.6 A vehicle for a broad-based public education campaign about the positive value of the AU-Diaspora relationship that will have a long-lasting and inspirational impact on the various worldwide African Diaspora communities.

4.7 An excellent source of bringing and promoting solid, mutually beneficial series of sustainable development projects to Africa and the Diaspora, including critical technology innovation activities.

4.8 Part of a viable strategic plan to make the new AU-Diasporas connection a successful, permanent one that will add operational value to the principles and goals of Pan African unification.

4.9 Aimed at eradicating the cultural and political gaps that currently exist between continental Africans and many Diaspora Africans.

4.10 capable of bringing the positive experiences of Diasporas who have been change agents to the AU for Africa's benefit.

4.11 motivated to inspire business and financial investors to utilize profit-sharing mechanisms between the Diaspora and the continent to ultimate actual benefit.

Article 5: Organizational Character, Structure & Project development

5.1 The Organization is Community based but driven by a Federal structure, meaning the involvement of the Diaspora Community via their (elected) representatives, coming from a Network of African Diaspora Organizations, or African Diaspora or Pan African Movements, in the several Regions having the same Objectives as the AUADS High Council in line with the AU Diaspora Declaration (2012) and

5.1.1 all specifics and actual issues of concerns of the African Diaspora Regions Community.

5.1.2 Council Members shall organize the process towards nomination, and selection of members for the ECOSOCC on the basis of competence skills/profession.

5.2 The Formation of the AUADS High Council in the adopted “Leave No Community Behind Model” shall be every Region and shall follow the following procedure:

5.2.1 General Assembly: The General Assembly shall be the supreme decision-making body, comprising all members of the High Council. The General Assembly shall meet periodically to discuss and decide on matters of strategic importance.

5.2.2 Executive Committee: Shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration and management of the High Council. It shall be composed of elected members from the General Assembly, who shall be in charge of the secretariat.

5.2.3 Secretariat: Responsible for the day-to-day administrative functions of the High Council, including coordination, communication, and record-keeping.

5.2.4 Executive Board: shall be Composed of elected representatives from member organizations, responsible for strategic decision-making and policy formulation.

5.2.5 Council of Elders: shall be the Advisors to the AUADS High Council, providing wisdom, guidance, and historical perspectives. Council of Eminent Persons shall the authorities with the task to promote the existence and the Goals of the AUADS High Council on High Level African Union Meetings and Summits.

5.2.6 Ambassadors: shall be Representatives appointed by the AUADS High Council to engage with governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders on matters related to the Diaspora.

5.2.7 Honorary Consulate: shall be a diplomatic mission established in various countries to provide consular services and support to members of the Diaspora.

5.2.8 Commissioners: shall be Heads of specialized commissions established to oversee specific areas of work, including dialogue, research, policy recommendations, and project proposals and shall comprise of experts and practitioners in their respective fields, including social, economic, cultural, and political issues.

5.2.9 General Assembly: shall be the supreme decision-making body, comprising all members of the AUADS High Council, convening periodically to discuss and decide on matters of importance.

5.2.10 Facilitators: shall be Individuals or organizations appointed to facilitate dialogue and coordination within and between different commissions and regions.

5.2.11 Volunteers: shall be Individuals who contribute their time and expertise to support the activities and initiatives of the High Council.

5.2.12 Supervisory Board: shall be an independent body responsible for overseeing the transparency, accountability, and compliance of the High Council with its policies

and procedures.

Article 6: Activities

The Organization will engage in the following activities and programmes along the lines of the African Union African Diaspora Declaration and Program of Action, that is:

6.1 Encouragement and intensification of the participation of the African Diaspora in Conflict resolution, Peacemaking/keeping, Post-Conflict reconstruction, Furtherance of human rights and good governance in Africa and the African Diaspora.

6.2 Establishment of mechanisms and instruments or strategic partnerships to mobilize resources, including the creation of the African Diaspora Sixth Region Development Agency (ADDA), and Honorary consuls general within all the Regions, to implement, manage and monitor the investment and business short-term, midterm and long-term plan; Diaspora remittances; Provide innovative financial support to Diaspora entrepreneurship; Mobilize resources for the engagement of the African Diaspora as an important source of support for the African continent.

6.3 Develop and implement a framework for project development to ensure effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of all activities.

6.4 Leveraging the influence and strength of African Diaspora entrepreneurs, professionals and intellectuals to: mobilize human as well as capital resources to support economic development efforts in Africa and; in so doing, compile a comprehensive African Diaspora skills database and corresponding market intelligence as a means toward identifying key areas of critical shortage and short, medium and long term needs of the African development Agenda 2063.

6.5 Formation of strategic partnerships with existing African media in the Regions to Rebrand Africa and counter stereotypes about Africans and people of African

descent.

6.6 Provide both Africans in the Diaspora and the Region with better access to balanced information that enables them to appreciate the situation of the people in Africa and reflect the perspectives of Africa and the people of Africa.

6.7 Profile African challenges and African initiatives and in so doing ensure optimal placement of African success stories in the media;

6.8 Promotion of African culture in the Region as a means to: Celebrate and preserve the shared heritage between Africa and persons of African descent in the regions; consolidating on African identity, unity and solidarity.

6.9 Creation of durable mechanisms that take the differential experience of African Diaspora women and youth in consideration with the aim to: ensure their inclusion in the activities of the Organization; Promote activities that empower African Diaspora women and youth in the regions.

6.10 Provision of a platform to members and other interested parties for: Contacts; Exchange of ideas; Networking; (Diplomatic) Skills Training Centre for African Leadership.

6.11 Continuous identification of any achievable short term and long-term objectives that demonstrate concrete, tangible collaborations, partnerships and support between the African Union, the African continent and the Diaspora in the Region and translate them into concrete plans of action that address pressing challenges.

6.12 Create and implement country and regional initiatives and sub-offices to address specific challenges facing the African Diaspora in each region.

6.13 Mobilize resources for the engagement of the African Diaspora as an important source of support for the African continent.

6.14 Establish mechanisms and instruments or strategic partnerships to mobilize resources, including the creation of African Diaspora Sixth Region Development Agency, and Honorary consuls general within all regions, to implement, manage, and monitor investment and business short-term, midterm, and long-term plans.

6.15 Continuously identify achievable short-term and long-term objectives that demonstrate concrete collaborations, partnerships, and support between the African Union, the African continent, and the Diaspora in the Region, and translate them into concrete plans of action that address pressing challenges.

Article 7: Membership

7.1 The goal of every member of the High Council is the building of the African Union – African Diaspora.

7.1.1 Membership of the High Council shall be open to organizations and individuals who identify as part of the Global African Diaspora and support the objectives and principles of the High Council and are affiliated with a thematic commission.

7.1.2 Members shall be committed to active participation in the activities and programs of the High Council, as determined by their respective commissions.

7.1.3 Membership categories shall be determined by the High Council, taking into account the diversity and specific needs of the Diaspora.

7.2 Establishment and Functioning of Commissions:

7.2.1 Commissions shall be established at the grassroots level to focus on specific thematic areas, including social, economic, cultural, and political issues.

7.2.2 The heads of the commissions shall be elected by the members of each Commission, and shall form the National AUADS High Council Executive body. The

National High Council Executive Body shall elect a National High Council Commissioner.

7.2.3 The National High Council Commissioners shall form regional bodies, which shall elect a Regional Commissioner.

7.2.4 The Regional Commissioners shall form the Global Body of the High Council, and shall elect the Global High Council President.

7.3 Membership of Commissions:

7.3.1 Members shall have the right to participate in any Commission that aligns with their interests and expertise.

7.3.2 Members shall be encouraged to participate actively in Commission activities, including meetings, discussions, and projects.

7.3.3 Members shall be required to comply with the rules, regulations, and procedures of their respective Commissions and the AUADS High Council, as determined by the Executive Board.

7.4 Commission Leadership and Elections

7.4.1 The heads of the Commissions shall be elected by the members of each commission, and shall serve for a term of two years.

7.4.2 Elections shall be held in accordance with the procedures and guidelines established by the Executive Board.

7.4.3 The heads of the commissions shall be responsible for the management and administration of their respective Commissions, including the planning and implementation of activities and projects.

7.5 Termination of Membership

7.5.1 Membership may be terminated for non-compliance with the rules, regulations, and procedures of the AUADS High Council and the respective Commissions, as determined by the Executive Board in Bylaws

7.5.2 Members may resign from the AUADS High Council and their respective Commissions by providing written notice to the Executive Board.

7.5.3 Membership applications shall be sent to the elected delegates to the Diaspora Regions that is the Heads of Commissions, for approval, who also have the powers to remove any member for not council activities by a 2/3 majority of all the members of the commission

7.5.4 The admission to membership in the Organization shall be a writing sitting and voting as a decision of the Executive Council signed by the President or vice President by authority if the president

7.5.5 In case of refusal of membership into the Organization, an appeal may be lodged within two weeks, of the knowledge of such refusal, to General Assembly.

7.6 Membership shall be open to all African Diasporas and shall include, but not limited to:

- i.a Institutions, businesses and other legal persons in the Region;
- i.b African Diasporas civil society or community-based organizations who accept and recognize the African Union. (AU)
- i.c Individuals and individual organizations who are appointees of any of the Organs of the AU;

i.d Sustainable development-oriented African Diasporas who principally recognize the AU's invitation as an opportunity to create, enhance or expand trade and commercial relationships with various parts of the African continent and the African Diaspora.

i.e NGOs/Civil Liberty organizations that organize and mobilize the various African Diaspora communities to elect African Union – African Diaspora Representatives through approved processes and who can bring sustainable development partnership projects and real-world business networking to both the continent and to a wide range of the African Diaspora.

Article 8: Authority, Responsibility and Regulations

8.1 AUADS High Council shall have the authority to enact laws, issue guidelines and regulations in-line with this Constitution, for the proper functioning of the Organs and other Bodies of the Organization. The High Council shall also have the powers to set up Organs, Commissions, Administrative Structures, Committees and other bodies as maybe deemed appropriate for the actualization of the aims and objectives of this Organization, and shall take decisions to cover any lacuna discovered in the course of the operations of this Constitution, pending appropriate amendments.

8.2 The National AUADS Sixth Region Organizations are authorized to use the Constitution of the AUADS High Council, By-laws, other rules and regulations as basis for the establishment of the National Chapters and to adopt this Constitution as their constitutive act for registration and operations.

8.3 National Chapters are authorized to structure their organization so as to conform with the “Leave-No-Community-Behind Model”.

8.4 The National Chapters are authorized to have their own rules, regulations and

8.5 laws so long as such is not in conflict with this Constitution.

8.6 The AUADS High Council has the authority to give advice to the African Union Heads of States and the respective Organs of the AU, their Commissions, Agencies and Permanent Missions.

8.7 The AUADS High Council has the authority to nominate delegates to African Union General Assembly and other Organs and Commissions, and Committees, and other meetings to give expert advice when ever needed and upon an invitation extended to it or as an interested observer.

8.8 Includes the establishing of Secretariat and Offices as well in relation to capacity building, the organization strategy and Human Resources.

8.9 The AUADS High Council is the highest policy making body of the Organization and shall superintend over other Organs and Organizational structure and shall setup the structure of the Organs, Committees and other levels of the Administrative CADRE in line with this Constitution as may be deemed necessary from time to time.

Article 9: Bylaws

9.1 There shall be enacted on 2/3 majority of the members sitting and voting, bylaws which shall provide procedures for Meetings, Quorums, Voting's, Resolutions, Motions and Amendments by the High Council for the High Council and it's Organs, which shall also include Terms of office of the various office holders at all levels.

Article 10: Funding & Resources

The AUADS High Council shall formulate strong and sound financial base for the operations of the Organization, which shall be achieved through reliable, tested, transparent short and long-term financial models and shall:

10.1 Seek funding from diverse sources, including members contributions, grants, donations, gifts, good investments and partnerships, in other achieve the aims and objectives of the Organization and also shall establish, a transparent and accountable financial management system in-line with internationally recognized standards;

10.2 Shall liaise with relevant AU member states, organs, departments, and institutions to facilitate collaboration and coordination on matters concerning the African Diaspora as a way of raising financial support for the Organization

Article 11: General provisions

11.1 The High Council shall engage in regular dialogue with the African Union Commissions and other AU bodies providing policy recommendations and project proposals that address the needs and concerns of the Diaspora.

11.2 The High Council shall participate in AU conferences, summits, and other relevant events to ensure the Diaspora's voice is heard and its interests represented.

Article 12: Amendments to the Constitution

12.1 This Constitution may be amended by 2/3 majority of the AUADS High Council sitting as a General Assembly of the Council and may adopt the African Consensus method of voting.

12.2 Any proposed amendment shall be circulated to all the members of the High Council thirty days prior to the meeting convened for the purpose inter-alia of passing a resolution to that effect.

12.3 Such amendment shall take effect from the date of such resolution.

Article 13: Dissolution

13.1 The AUADS High Council may be dissolved by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of the General Assembly sitting and voting.

13.2 In the event of dissolution, the High Council's assets and liabilities shall not be shared among members but shall be transferred to organizations or initiatives that share the same aims and objectives with this Organization as maybe determined by the General Assembly.

Article 14: Final Provisions

14.1 The Global Facilitators are mandated to carry out the registration process as promoters of the Organizations and shall operate as an executive committee to run the organization and its Organs pending the election of the appropriate officers as provided for in this Constitution

14.2 This Constitution shall come into effect upon its adoption by the General Assembly of the African Union African Diaspora Sixth Region High Council.

14.3 In the event of any inconsistencies between this Constitution and any other governing documents or regulations of the High Council, this Constitution shall prevail.

14.4 The official language of the High Council shall be determined by the General Assembly, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility to all members.

14.5 This Constitution may be supplemented by additional protocols, agreements, or codes of conduct as deemed necessary by the High Council.

Article 15: Ratification

AUADS High Council shall come fully into force immediately upon the commencement of this Constitution. In witness whereof, we, the AUADS High Council Facilitators and Promoters, have adopted this Constitution on Friday, August, 25th in the Year 2023.

