

SALVADOR DECLARATION adopted by the Second Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora - II CIAD (Salvador, Bahia, from 12 to 14 July 2006)

WE, the participants of the II Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora – CIAD II, meeting in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, from the 12th to 14th July, 2006:

RECALLING the 1st Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora – CIAD I, which took place in Dakar, Senegal, from 6 to 9th October 2004, under the general theme “Africa in the XXI Century: Integration and Renaissance”;

RECOGNIZING that the theme of the CIAD II: “The Diaspora and the African Renaissance” builds upon and further consolidates the outcome of the CIAD I;

ACCLAIMING the importance of the participation of the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who opened the CIAD II;

ACKNOWLEDGING the equally important participation of the Presidents of Botswana, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana and Senegal, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Vice-President of Tanzania and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission;

SALUTING the active participation of intellectuals and policy-makers, from the various regions of the African continent and the Diaspora;

EXPRESSING appreciation to the Commission of the African Union and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for the organization of the CIAD II, which lays the basis for the continued cooperation between the African Union, as the primary continental organization and the countries of the Diaspora;

APPRECIATING the thoroughness of the debates in the three round tables and the twelve thematic groups;

AGREE THAT

1. The growing consciousness of the need for a renewed pan-Africanism, with its political, economic, social and cultural dimensions, and the solidarity among the African States assembled in the African Union, are essential elements of the African Renaissance.
2. The African Diaspora, spread across the entire globe, keeps alive the awareness of its African origin and is a significant component of the African cultural and political heritage.
3. A greater engagement of the African Diaspora with its historic African roots will assist in overcoming the challenges communities of African origin face in different countries. Conversely, Africa is poised to benefit from a better organized Diaspora, which can bring its support to the quest for the sustainable development of the continent.
4. The meeting of intellectuals, within the framework of CIAD, fosters and contributes to the engagement of the Diaspora with its historic roots.

5. African development will be expedited through the contribution of the Diaspora.
6. CIAD I and CIAD II have provided an important platform for increasing global understanding of African Renaissance and underscoring the need for maintaining a dialogue among intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora between the meetings.
7. Africa and the Diaspora must consciously work for the sustainable, accountable and responsible management, as well as the equitable distribution of national resources. This is only possible in a system of governance that is inclusive and participatory and that respects human rights and cultural diversity.

DECLARE THAT

- I. CIAD II reiterates the call to the African leaders for the Diaspora to be considered the sixth region of the continent.
- II. The African Union should promote activities of the Diaspora as an important component in the building of the African Union and to strengthen and support the existing Directorate of Civil Society and Diaspora relations (CIDO) in the African Union that deals with the contacts with communities of African origin in other countries.
- III. African countries and communities of the Diaspora should support the work of the Directorate in particular and the African Union Diaspora Initiative in general.
- IV. The African Union Commission should establish a Steering Committee of intellectuals which would assist the Commission of the African Union in considering the modalities and legal status for the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat, as recommended by the CIAD I, held in Dakar.
- V. In the best tradition of intellectual inquiry with social responsibility, the Steering Committee should forge strategic cooperation among the intellectuals and policy-makers in Africa and the Diaspora, through organized and sustainable mechanisms. The Steering Committee would also propose modalities for coordinating research, teaching, dialogue, and other intellectual activities of strategic interest to advance the Renaissance of Africa and to integrate these activities with those of the African Union and the various interstate initiatives.
- VI. In line with previous resolutions, the African Union should, in consultation with all partners, move towards the creation of institutional mechanisms which could serve as points of reference for enhanced cooperation among intellectual and artistic organizations and institutions of Africa and the Diaspora; promote, among others, sectoral activities, scientific projects, seminars, artistic events and youth meetings; strengthen and foster the pan-Africanism.
- VII. The decision of the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil to contribute to the establishment of such mechanisms is warmly welcomed by the II CIAD.
- VIII. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) should include, in its program and budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, as well as in its medium-term strategy 2008-2013, support to the CIAD II follow-up activities and other initiatives that foster closer ties between Africa and the Diaspora.

IX. The Commission of the African Union should forge, with relevant institutions, such as the International Organization of the Francophony (OIF), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), strategic partnerships designed to mobilize support for the CIAD process, including follow-up activities to CIAD I and II.

X. CIAD I and II are marks of closer relations among African countries and countries of the Diaspora and testifies to the growing importance of the place of Africa in the world.

XI. CIAD II recognizes the essential role played by women in the African Renaissance. Thus, the solidarity between Africa and the Diaspora should be reinforced by the creation of a network of intellectuals, to articulate and defend women's rights and privileges. Furthermore, women from the Diaspora should be encouraged to join pan-African movements led by African women. CIAD II calls upon black women intellectuals to appropriate and disseminate accurate information about women, both in their countries and abroad.

XII. CIAD II, taking into consideration the legitimate demands of the people of African descent, reiterates the importance of universal access to education as an instrument for the correction of historical inequities. Aligned with the initiatives undertaken in this sense by the Government of Brazil, CIAD II declares support for quotas, affirmative action programs and other related mechanisms.

XIII. The realization of the African Renaissance is an essential element to ensure that the XXI Century starts an era in which all peoples and countries share the benefits of wealth and culture, in full respect of the dignity, rights and values of children, women, elders and men of all ethnicities and beliefs.

Source: http://www.ciad.mre.gov.br/ii-ciad/salvador-declaration/salvador-declaration?set_language=en