

AFRICAN UNION
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UNION AFRICAINE
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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Decision on the Development of the Diaspora Initiative in the African Union

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Doc. Ext/EX/CL/5(III)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the document submitted by the Commission on the development of the Diaspora Initiative within the framework of the OAU/AU.
2. **REITERATES** the disposition of the African Union to work closely with the people of African descent and origin towards strengthening their relations and linkages.
3. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to pursue its engagement with representatives of the Diaspora in the Americas and Europe and expand its contacts to the representatives of other regions such as the Gulf countries and Asia.
4. **SUPPORTS** the initiative of the Commission to convene a technical workshop, as soon as possible, to develop a concept paper generate proposals on the relations between the AU and the Diaspora. The proposed workshop would also address the following issues:
 - The definition of the Diaspora;
 - The role of the Diaspora in reversing African brain drain in line with the NEPAD recommendations;
 - The modalities of the creation of a Diaspora fund for investment and development in Africa;
 - The modalities for the development of scientific and technical networks to channel the repatriation of scientific knowledge from the Diaspora to Africa, and the establishment of cooperation between those abroad and at home;
 - The establishment of a Diaspora database to promote and facilitate networking and collaboration between experts in their respective countries of origin and those in the Diaspora.
5. **ALSO ENCOURAGES** the Commission to respond speedily to proposals from the African Diaspora to help the AU and the Continent and provide moral and diplomatic support for Diaspora initiatives aimed at effectively assisting the Continent.
6. **REQUEST** the Commission to work out modalities for mutual cooperation between the African Union and Caricom and other existing formations such as Western Hemisphere Diaspora Network (WHADN).
7. **STRESSES** the need for the AU to show political concern for, and respond to issues and developments that affect the lives and well being of the Africans in the Diaspora.
8. **EQUALLY ENCOURAGES** Member States and African Leaders to respond positively to initiatives aimed at promoting relations and cooperation between the Diaspora and Africa.

9. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** the African Diplomatic Missions outside Africa to maintain close relations with the representatives of the Diaspora in their countries of accreditation.

10. **RECOMMENDS** that the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled to be held in Maputo in July 2003, decide on the representation of the AU at the celebration of the bi-centenary of the independence of Haiti.