

AFRICAN DIASPORA COLLECTIVE NSA (ADC-NSA)

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THE CARIBBEAN USA CANADA EUROPEAN UNION ASIA/OCEANIC MIDDLE EAST UNITED KINGDOM NEW ZEALAND AUSTRALIA LATIN MAERICA

Opening Keynote Address at the Traditional Leadership with a Soul Colloquium™ in line with the theme of the day of “Reimagining a Modern Traditional and Sustainable State to restore “Dignity for all in practice.”

20 October 2023

Good Morning from the Republic of Ghana by way of Houston, Texas, Atlanta, Georgia USA and Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. To All Traditional Leaders, H.R.H Dr. Michael Arowotawaya II, Esteemed Colleagues, H.E Ambassador Eli Belotsercoksky, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to start by saying thank you to our Host and organizer of this conference, Leadership with a Soul Institute's founder, Mr. Andile Lunga Stofile for his foresight to recognize the importance of the African Diaspora and his emphasis and commitment to the Agenda 2063 and the AfCFTA. Mr. Andile It is an honor to be here before you today and I want to personally thank you for this opportunity to bring Opening Remarks on behalf of the African Diaspora and the Next Generation of Leaders. This opportunity to give opening remarks at the Inaugural Annual Leading with a Soul Summit™ as this gathering of visionaries, leaders, and change-makers committed to shaping the future of Africa is very inspiring. As a millennial, my presence here, at this historic event, signifies our collective dedication to redefining African leadership and propelling our continent towards a brighter, more prosperous future for the next generation.

As we embark on this transformative journey, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in history. The 2023 dates for this summit were chosen with great purpose. We align ourselves with the UN-recognized International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, a day that underscores the pressing need for "Dignity for all in practice." Today, we not only deliberate on these vital issues, but we also emerge with action plans that will uplift the socio-economic conditions of Africans and restore our dignity throughout the Diaspora.

In the pursuit of a united and prosperous Africa, the African Diaspora Collective Chamber of Commerce and Industry stands as a beacon of hope for the African Diaspora, bridging the gap between the business community of Africa and her Diaspora with our 3 Trillion US Dollars in spending power, especially for those of us that have decided to come back home to the motherland. Through a three-tiered approach encompassing economic development, education, and strategic co-investments, we are actively shaping a future where every African, regardless of background or circumstance, has the opportunity to thrive, whether in Mumbasa or Miami.

The establishment of the African Diaspora Collective Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCCI), the Re-Launch of the African Women in Agriculture Alliance (AWIAA) in Ghana this year and by taking ownership of the AU Decade of Women's Economic and Financial Inclusion (2020-2023) through our 2023 African Women's Empowerment Summit happening in Ghana in the next 2 weeks, signifies our commitment to action. As one of 4 Ambassadors from around the world that make up the African Diaspora Collective, we

recognize that true progress requires tangible steps, not just lofty rhetoric. We must channel our drive and motivation towards building a future that upholds the dignity and respect of all human beings.

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In this era of rapid technological advancement and global complexities, it is easy to overlook the fundamental needs of our fellow humans. Yet, we remain steadfast in our belief that every child, whether in Kumasi, Detroit, or Timbuktu, deserves clean water, quality education, and the chance to pursue their dreams. The innovative minds of our youth, from all corners of the world, hold the key to shaping a brighter future.

So, in our collective pursuit of realizing Agenda 2063, it is imperative that we first grasp the essence of its seven aspirations. These aspirations lay the foundation for a prosperous, united, and influential Africa. Through comprehensive understanding, we can translate these goals into actionable steps that resonate with the youth and the diaspora. Thus, this conference serves as a crucial platform for such enlightenment, but it is only the beginning. We must commit to being the narrators of our own stories and the architects of Africa's future.

The first aspiration calls for a prosperous Africa founded on inclusive growth and sustainable development. This envisions a continent where every individual enjoys an elevated standard of living, quality of life, and overall well-being. To achieve this, we must invest in robust education, placing science and innovation at the forefront. A healthy populace is vital, as is the transformation of economies and job opportunities. Modernizing agriculture and re-branding the farmer for the next generation, harnessing our blue/ocean economy for the next generation, and embracing environmentally sustainable practices are all integral components for the development of Africa by the next generation of leaders.

The second aspiration centers on integration, both political and ideological, guided by the spirit of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance by utilizing her African Diaspora. A united Africa is within our grasp, bolstered by world-class infrastructure that interconnects our nations. We must work towards decolonization, eradicating the remnants of colonialism and upholding the right to self-determination. Currently, the member states of the ECOWAS are having a reparations conversation in Ghana with no African American representation in a place that is now known as the home of the Year of Return and the birthplace of one of the greatest African leaders, the 1st resident of the Republic of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah. The African American Diaspora specifically should be fully represented in ALL conversations at the AU and the UN as we seem to forget that WE are the descendants of one of the biggest atrocities of human kind and are still refugees without a home being so disconnected from the Motherland. We thus look onto our traditional leaders to work with organizations like the African Diaspora Collective and the African Diaspora Collective Chamber of Commerce and Industry to bring us home to take our rightful place in the development of Africa, not as a tourist but as a true family member.

Aspiration three emphasizes the bedrock of good governance, transparency, and respect for human rights, underpinned by the rule of law. It is through the entrenchment of traditional African values that we must somehow expand past the times of which they were created and bring these values to the new millennia where we can properly integrate our youth into this digital age and keep them with traditional morals and values in order to lead us into the future for Africans and by Africans. The establishment of capable

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institutions like LSI and ADCCCI and the cultivation of transformational leadership at all levels that we will realize this aspiration.

A peaceful and secure Africa is the goal of the fourth aspiration. Conflict prevention mechanisms must be operational at all levels, paving the way for dialogue-driven resolutions. Peace education must be a cornerstone, nurturing a culture of tolerance and understanding. Women are key to these conversations and should take a major stand to be included in these types of strategies as the AFCFTA protocol on Women and Youth and the AU Decade of Women's Economic and Financial Inclusion (2020-2023) that the African Diaspora Collective has decided to take up this initiative as a key factor in our progress moving forward for my Women and Girls focus area through my office starting with the Inaugural 2023 African Women's Empowerment Summit starting 30 October to 5 November here in Accra.

The fifth aspiration strives for an Africa with a robust cultural identity and shared values. We must reinvigorate the spirit of Pan-Africanism and that of our traditional rulers, drawing strength from our common heritage and respecting our diverse religious landscape is where we need to focus. The traditional rulers of Africa have the responsibility to engage with the youth and the next generation so we work together as the African Diaspora especially are coming back to Africa and want to understand the culture but also have you understand that a sub culture was created and evolved over the 400 years since we were taken so it will take a while for us to come to a happy medium where tradition and current systems through technology can thrive together.

Aspiration six underscores that Africa's development hinges on its people, especially its women and youth, with a commitment to caring for our children. Gender equality and the empowerment of youth are paramount. Only by ensuring every individual, regardless of gender or age, has the opportunity to flourish, can we create a truly inclusive Africa.

The seventh and final aspiration envisions Africa as a global force, a united and influential player in world affairs that can only be successful by fully utilizing the ENTIRE Diaspora but especially those that are descendants of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. We must actively engage in global governance systems and take responsibility for our own development through advocacy training for the youth, for Africans by Africans. This entails strategic partnerships that align with our growth priorities and are determined to move towards self-financing.

So, how do we accomplish all of these aspirations in the net 40 years, by 2063? Basically, if I had another 40 years to plan...here is what I would do and what we are thus committing to as the African Diaspora Collective and the African Diaspora Collective Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

These aspirations are not mere words on paper; they are the guiding principles that shape our collective mission at the African Diaspora Collective. Today, we affirm our commitment to this mission, to realize an Africa that is not only united within itself but one that includes her Diaspora and plays a pivotal role on the global stage. In leadership, our focus must remain unwaveringly on the future. We must build bridges

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between continents, generations, and ideologies. It is incumbent upon us to nurture a collective sense of duty, to transcend rhetoric, and to take tangible action, RIGHT NOW. Through conferences like this, and through our continued gatherings, we lay the groundwork for a future where every African child can attend a good school, where clean water is a basic right, and where dreams know no bounds, and we embrace creativity and innovation.

As leaders, both current and emerging, we understand that the economic development of Africa hinges on our ability to address the core human needs that bind us all. It transcends political affiliations, tribal identities, classe systems, and national boundaries. By uniting the diaspora and Africa as one human race, we aim to redefine Maslow's hierarchy of needs for the African context.

Every child, every dream, every aspiration is intertwined, regardless of where they call home. In Ghana, Chicago, or anywhere else, the potential for greatness lies within our youth. Challenges may abound, but we are resolute in our belief that no obstacle is insurmountable. With a clear roadmap and a shared mission, the African Diaspora Collective is leading the way towards the realization of Agenda 2063's seven aspirations.

Our mission is clear: to be the architects of an Africa that thrives, rooted in the principles of Agenda 2063. As leaders, it is our solemn duty to champion this cause. Let us embark on this journey with unwavering resolve, knowing that the challenges we face are surmountable, and the future we envision is within our grasp. Together, we can, and will, shape a united, prosperous, and influential Africa for generations to come.

Together, we are not only shaping the future of Africa, but also redefining the narrative of what is possible. Through collective action and unwavering determination, we are forging a path towards a united, prosperous, and influential Africa for the next generation."

Thank You

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