

**DECISION ON BUILDING A UNITED FRONT TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF
JUSTICE AND THE PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS TO AFRICANS
(IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSEMBLY DECISION
Assembly/AU/Dec.847(XXXVI))**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE**, with appreciation, of the Progress Report submitted by the Commission, in fulfilment of the request made to it in the Assembly Decision on "Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations" (Assembly /AU /Dec .847(XXVI));
2. **RECALLS** that in the aforementioned Assembly Decision (Assembly, AU/Dec.847), it endorsed the proposal made by the Government of Ghana to co-organise with relevant stakeholders, an International Conference on 'Building A United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and Reparations to Africans; and, further, that the Commission was requested to collaborate with the Government of Ghana in organizing the Conference in 2023;
3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Republic of Ghana, and to the African Union Commission, for co-organizing the Accra International Conference on Reparations from 14 to 17 November 2023 in Accra, Ghana.
4. **WELCOMES** the Accra Proclamation on Reparations, the outcome of the Accra Reparations Conference;
5. **RECALLS** the deep-rooted Pan African origins of the African Union and those of its precursor, the Organisation of African Unity, encompassing historical, cultural and blood ties that bind the continent of Africa and the African Diaspora;
6. **REAFFIRMS** thereby that accountability and the provision of remedies, compensation, reparations, restitution and reparatory justice for historical crimes, including the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the consequent enslavement of Africans, as well as colonialism, genocide and apartheid, are fundamental for the recovery of the social and economic losses incurred by African states and societies, as well as states and communities of people of African descent in the diaspora; and **REITERATES** the pre-requisite for combatting systemic racism, and advancing the human rights, dignity and healing of Africans and people of African descent;
7. **FURTHER REAFFIRMS**, that in the context of the claim for reparatory justice, and as reiterated on numerous occasions by the African Union and its leaders , there is a need to address the inequities which characterise the current neo-colonial international economic and political systems, necessitating the reform of the global financial and trade architecture, as well as the United Nations Security Council; and in the same context of reparatory justice, also **RECOGNISES** the need to address the consequences of transatlantic-enslavement, colonialism and apartheid, which have persisted in many forms including, among others, neo-

colonial challenges of debt relief, illicit financial flows, and climate change, as well as loss and damage;

8. **REITERATES** that the payment of reparations and granting of reparatory justice to Africa and the African Diaspora is one of the pillars of sustainable socio-economic development in Africa and relevant parts of the African Diaspora in the Global South;
9. **UNDERLINES** the crucial importance of recognizing the need to safeguard the continent's culture, heritage and dignity, buttressing it through the development of a Common African Position on the Restitution of Cultural Property and Heritage and a Framework for Action on Negotiations for the Return of illicitly trafficked cultural property; and **REAFFIRMS** its full support to the ongoing processes in Africa which are aimed at the full restitution of stolen African cultural, religious artefacts, bodies and body parts;
10. **APPOINTS** H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo -Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana as the African Union Leader on Advancing the Cause of Justice and Payment of Reparations to Africans, with a view to enhancing advocacy for a common position on reparations in Africa, and forging a common front for Africa and the Diaspora at the global level;
11. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation for the other measures proposed in the Accra Proclamation, including the establishment of certain mechanisms, which will serve to underpin the African continental and global movement for reparations, with a view to maintaining its momentum and ensuring its sustainability; and **ACCORDINGLY REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a report to the Executive Council for its approval, based on its assessment of the financial, legal, and structural implications of the implementation of these mechanisms, where applicable, and in particular the establishment of a :-
 - (i) Committee of Experts on Reparations, to develop an African Common Position on Reparations, and incorporate therein, an African Reparatory Programme of Action, as already decided in the aforementioned Assembly Decision 847; in accordance to relevant precedents and other guidelines, especially in terms of composition and selection;
 - (ii) Reference Group of Legal Experts to work in close coordination with the African Union, led by the Commission and including the judicial and quasi-judicial organs of the Union, and provide legal advice in support of the African Union Leader for Advancing the Cause of Justice and Payment of Reparations to Africans, and to the AU Committee of Experts on Reparations;
 - (iii) Global Reparations Fund based in Africa, to work in collaboration with the African Union, to advance the campaign of the African Union on reparations; and

- (iv) Transcontinental Partnership Framework embracing the AU, CARICOM and the African Diaspora in Latin America, North America, Europe and UK, and elsewhere in the world, to build a strong common front among them in pursuit of reparations and reparatory justice at the global level; and **FURTHER RECALLS** that in Assembly Decision 847, it called for the establishment of an African Caribbean Joint Mechanism on Reparative Justice, based on the resolve of the Global African Diaspora Summit held in South Africa in 2012;
12. **FURTHER DECIDES** that the theme of the Year for 2025 will be “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations”;
13. **DECIDES** to designate the reparations for transatlantic-enslavement, colonialism and apartheid, as a Flagship Issue and Project of the Union, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a strategic framework document for the implementation of the Accra Proclamation and the present decision including the establishment of the above-mentioned mechanisms.
14. **CALLS** on the Commission to promote more active AU- wide engagement on the subject of reparations, in close coordination with the AU Member States, ECOSOCC and other Organs, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, African Court on Human and People’s Rights, and the African Union Commission on International Law, in order to build on their previous work on reparations; as well as with the Pan African Parliament, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption; **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to collaborate with the RECs to enhance the mainstreaming of the campaign for reparations at regional level .
15. **FURTHER CALLS** on the Commission to engage with relevant structures, sectors and entities in AU Member States, to enhance the mainstreaming of the campaign for reparations at the national level.
16. **CALLS** for enhanced collaboration between the Commission and the UN system, including the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and UNESCO.
17. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to offer to host an annual Conference on Reparations in regional rotation, and in collaboration with the Commission;
18. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present Decision at the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2025, and annually thereafter;
19. **ACCORDINGLY DECIDES** to remain seized of the matter.