



# **EUROPE PAN-AFRICAN FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT**

contacts: [www.epafpad.org](http://www.epafpad.org)/email: [secretariat@epafpad.org](mailto:secretariat@epafpad.org)

## **DECLARATION ON REPARATORY JUSTICE AND THE SAMOA AGREEMENT**

Adopted on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 during the online

### **WORKSHOP TITLED: THE SAMOA AGREEMENT- EU CIVIL SOCIETY & REPARATORY JUSTICE**

Organized in cooperation with



## **THE AFRICAN UNION AFRICAN DIASPORA (AUADS) SIXTH REGION HIGH COUNCIL**

website: [www.auadshighcouncil.org](http://www.auadshighcouncil.org)



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## PREAMBLE

Recognizing that May 9<sup>th</sup> marks Europe Day commemorating 75 years of European unity, while also presenting an opportunity to critically engage with Europe's colonial history and its enduring legacies.

Acknowledging that while Europe Day (every year on May 9<sup>th</sup>) commemorates aspirations for peace and unity, Europe continues to face its own internal challenges, and there remains a fundamental obligation to address historical injustices and their continuing impacts on People of African Descent worldwide.

Recalling the European Parliament resolution of 26 March 2019 on fundamental rights of people of African descent in Europe (2018/2899(RSP)), which acknowledges that "people of African descent are subjected to racism, discrimination and xenophobia in particular, and to the unequal enjoyment of human and fundamental rights in general, amounting to structural racism";

Recognizing Afrophobia/Afriphobia as defined in the European Parliament resolution as "a specific form of racism, including any act of violence or discrimination, fueled by historical abuses and negative stereotyping, and leading to the exclusion and dehumanization of people of African descent"; which correlates to historically repressive structures of colonialism and Transatlantic Trafficking of Enslaved Africans.

Honoring the decades of tireless organizing, advocacy, and leadership by African diaspora organizations and Pan-African and reparations movements across Europe who have championed reparatory justice, often without formal recognition in European, African Union, or CARICOM frameworks.

Acknowledging the substantial economic contributions that African and Caribbean diaspora communities make to their countries of origin through remittances, which often exceed official development assistance and foreign direct investment, constituting a form of ongoing resource transfer that sustains families and communities yet remains largely unrecognized in official policy frameworks.



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Proclaiming the demographic significance and political agency of diaspora communities, particularly in the case of many Caribbean states where diaspora populations equal or exceed those residing in their countries of origin, constituting a substantial cultural, economic, and political force whose interests must be properly represented in all reparatory justice frameworks.

Affirming that the Samoa Agreement, signed on 15 November 2023 between the European Union and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), represents an important framework for EU-OACPS relations that must substantively address colonial legacies and provide concrete mechanisms for redress;

Guided by the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law (2005), which establishes that reparation should be "adequate, effective and prompt" and "proportional to the gravity of the violations and the harm suffered";

Recalling the Belfast Guidelines on Reparations in Post-Conflict Societies, which emphasize that reparations are not only a legal obligation but also a means to "make amends for the past, gain the trust of victims, give them the place they deserve in society and contribute to non-repetition";

Recognizing the value of the Escazú Agreement's framework for guaranteeing access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters, which provides a model for meaningful inclusion of affected communities in reparatory justice decision-making processes;

Concerned that despite the provisions of the Samoa Agreement establishing provisions of and the regional protocols for engagement with stakeholders and civil society participation, implementation mechanisms remain insufficiently developed, particularly for organizations representing People of African Descent.

## **WE HEREBY DECLARE:**

### **1. ON CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION**

1.1 We affirm the right of civil society organizations, particularly those representing People of African Descent, to participate fully, effectively, and meaningfully in all decision-making processes related to the implementation of the Samoa Agreement;

1.2 We advocate for the establishment of formalized, well-resourced, and transparent mechanisms within the Samoa Agreement framework to ensure structured participation of civil society organizations from Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific;



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1.3 We urge the European Union and OACPS member states to operationalize Article 5 of the Samoa Agreement by creating specific pathways for diaspora organizations to contribute to policy formation, implementation, and monitoring, with concrete provisions for the transfer of resources, decision-making authority, and institutional capacity;

1.4 We call for implementation of inclusive, transparent, and ongoing consultation processes that prioritize the voices of those most affected by historical injustices and Afrophobia/Afriphobia, as recognized in the European Parliament resolution of 26 March 2019;

1.5 We recognize that genuine structural transformation requires fundamentally reshaping power dynamics in international cooperation, moving beyond consultative approaches toward shared governance and decision-making authority.

## 2. ON REPARATORY JUSTICE WITHIN THE SAMOA AGREEMENT FRAMEWORK

2.1 We affirm that reparatory justice constitutes a legally established right under international law and represents a material necessity for addressing historical wrongs and their contemporary manifestations affecting People of African Descent;

2.2 We urge the incorporation of the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation into the implementation framework of the Samoa Agreement, specifically the five forms of reparation: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition;

2.3 We propose the establishment of a Joint EU-OACPS Reparatory Justice Commission with equal representation from civil society organizations, policy and academic experts from Africa, the Caribbean, and their diasporas in Europe, with specific power to:

- Develop a comprehensive inventory of colonial harms requiring redress;
- Propose concrete reparative measures within the Samoa Agreement's economic development frameworks (Articles 45-54);
- Establish binding timelines and accountability mechanisms for implementation;
- Ensure full inclusion of diaspora communities in Europe who have been historically excluded from reparations frameworks;

2.4 We emphasize that effective reparations must be comprehensive, addressing:

- Economic redress, including debt cancellation, fair trade reforms, and technology transfer;
- Cultural restitution, including return of artifacts and ancestral remains;
- Environmental remediation of colonial and neo-colonial resource extraction;
- Educational reform to address colonial narratives and knowledge systems;



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- Institutional transformation of governance structures that perpetuate colonial power relations;
- Specific measures for European-based African and Caribbean diaspora communities, including citizenship rights, access to political participation, and addressing racism and discrimination;
- Recognition of diaspora economic contributions through remittances, while acknowledging that these transfers represent an unjust burden resulting from systemic economic inequalities; formal reparations should aim to create economic conditions where such remittances become a choice rather than a necessity for survival of families and communities;

2.5 We call for the operationalization of truth-telling within the context of Articles 9 and 19 of the Samoa Agreement, establishing publicly accessible archives documenting historical injustices and their ongoing impacts, and specifically recognizing proposals for the establishment of Commissions of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice at both national and EU levels, as advocated by the Stop the Maangamizi Campaign and the Europe-wide Consultative Council on Afrikan Reparations (ENGOCCAR);

2.6 We recognize and affirm the pioneering reparatory justice initiatives developed by diaspora-led organizations across Europe, including community reparations models, cultural restitution campaigns, and educational initiatives which should be supported, scaled, and integrated into formal reparations frameworks.

## **3. ON STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

3.1 We affirm that meaningful observance of Europe Day must acknowledge Europe's colonial history and demonstrate concrete commitments to address its ongoing manifestations;

3.2 We urge European institutions to implement structural reforms that transform how colonial legacies continue to shape policies, with specific attention to the Samoa Agreement's trade provisions (Article 50) and their potential to perpetuate economic dependencies;

3.3 We propose the development and implementation of binding EU policies that address Afrophobia/Afriphobia, institutional and systemic racism, discrimination, and exclusion experienced by People of African Descent living in Europe, as called for in the European Parliament resolution of 26 March 2019, which specifically urged the Commission to "develop an EU framework for national strategies for the social inclusion and integration of people of African descent";

3.4 We advocate for implementation approaches to the Samoa Agreement that redistribute power, resources, and decision-making authority in trade, development cooperation, and climate action, recognizing historical extraction and ecological debt;



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3.5 We support the European Parliament's call for Member States to "make the history of people of African descent part of their curricula and to present a comprehensive perspective on colonialism and slavery which recognizes their historical and contemporary adverse effects on people of African descent";

3.6 We call for European academic institutions to transform knowledge production related to Africa and the African Diaspora by establishing equitable research partnerships, providing material resources for African knowledge production, and centering African epistemologies.

## 4. ON MONITORING, ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 We commit to establishing an independent civil society monitoring mechanism drawing on the principles of the Escazú Agreement's compliance framework to track implementation of reparatory justice provisions within the Samoa Agreement;

4.2 We call for regular, public reporting on specific reparatory justice benchmarks, with meaningful civil society participation in assessment processes, in line with Articles 86-90 of the Samoa Agreement;

4.3 We propose the development of concrete indicators to measure progress in addressing colonial legacies, including:

- Increased resource transfers from Europe to OACPS states;
- Transformation of trade imbalances;
- Return of cultural heritage items;
- Implementation of historical truth-telling initiatives;
- Institutional reforms within European and OACPS governance structures;

4.4 We advocate for transparent processes for addressing non-compliance with reparatory justice commitments, including accessible complaint mechanisms for affected communities, building on the dispute resolution mechanisms in Article 101 of the Samoa Agreement.

## 5. COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

We, the undersigned, commit to:

5.1 Mobilizing our networks to advocate for the full implementation of the Samoa Agreement with robust civil society participation structures and concrete reparatory justice provisions;



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5.2 Building capacity among African, Caribbean and other diaspora organizations in Europe to effectively engage with reparatory justice processes and the Samoa Agreement implementation;

5.3 Strengthening coalitions between civil society organizations across Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to advance material forms of reparatory justice;

5.4 Documenting and elevating the long history of reparations organizing by African and Caribbean diaspora communities in Europe, creating an archive of this advocacy work that can inform current and future reparations frameworks;

5.5 Advocating for the specific inclusion and recognition of European-based African and Caribbean diaspora communities in CARICOM's Ten-Point Plan, African Union reparations strategies, and other regional reparations frameworks, not as an add-on but as equal partners with their own independently developed glocal reparations plans, processes, and expertise that reflect their unique historical and contemporary experiences of harm in European contexts;

5.6 Engaging proactively with European and OACPS institutions to ensure substantive reparatory measures are integrated into implementation plans;

5.7 Developing and sharing models of community-led reparations initiatives that can be implemented at local, national, and international levels.

### CALL TO ACTION

We call upon the European Union, its Member States, and the OACPS countries to:

- Formally establish adequately resourced civil society participation mechanisms for the Samoa Agreement implementation, with specific provisions for organizations representing African and Caribbean diaspora communities in Europe;
- Create dedicated funding mechanisms to support diaspora-led civil society monitoring and participation in implementation processes, ensuring independence and sustainability;
- Recognise and uphold the fundamental right to free, prior, and informed consent of African and Caribbean diaspora communities in all state-based reparations frameworks, ensuring they are not merely consulted but have decisive voice and vote in the design, implementation, and evaluation of any reparations processes that affect them;
- Develop a comprehensive reparatory justice framework within the Samoa Agreement's implementation plan that operationalizes all five forms of reparation identified in the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines, with specific attention to addressing the unique position of diaspora communities in Europe;





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- Transform approaches to international cooperation to redistribute decision-making authority, resources, and institutional capacity;
- Recognize and support the existing reparatory justice initiatives led by diaspora communities across Europe, providing institutional and financial resources to scale these community-driven approaches;
- Establish legal mechanisms to ensure that African and Caribbean diaspora communities have standing and access to participate in judicial and non-judicial remedies related to reparatory justice at local, national, regional, and international levels;
- Ensure that EU citizenship and residency frameworks address the specific situation of African and Caribbean diaspora communities who are facing Afrophobic/Afriphobic racism and exclusion in Europe;
- Integrate recognition of Europe's colonial history into all commemorative activities, including Europe Day, accompanied by commitments to concrete reparative actions;
- Protect the rights of human rights defenders involved in advocating for reparatory justice, drawing on protections outlined in both the Escazú Agreement and Article 9 of the Samoa Agreement;
- Implement the Samoa Agreement in ways that advance reparatory justice across all domains, including trade, development, education, culture, health, and climate action.

Adopted on this 9th day of May 2025, as we mark both the 75th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration and our collective responsibility to build a more just, equitable, and truly inclusive international order through material reparatory justice and the transformation of structural inequalities.

The Europe Pan African Forum for People of African Descent: [www.epafpad.org](http://www.epafpad.org)  
& the AUADS Sixth Region High Council: [www.auadshighcouncil.org](http://www.auadshighcouncil.org)

On behalf of the Workshop Participants

These includes: Europe Region Pan African and Civil Society Organizations and Networks among others the Pan Afrikan Reparation Coalition in Europe (PARCOE); The International Network of Scholars and Activists for Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR); The Europe Wide NGO Council for Afrikan Reparations (ENGOCAR); Civil Society Associations from and around the Globe: Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas and Pacific.