DECLARATION OF THE ELEVENTH DIASPORA DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE [DDD11]

GLOBAL COMPACT
BREAKING BARRIERS

Diaspora Intervention and Participation in Dialogues and their Contribution to Local Development

We, the representatives of African Diaspora Development Organisations [ADDOs], participating in the 11th Diaspora Development Dialogue [DDD11] organised by ADEPT in Barcelona, Spain on 28 & 30 November 2019, on the occasion of Diaspora Intervention and Participation in Dialogues and their Contribution to Local Development in partnership with Coordination des Associations Sénégalaises en Catalogne (CASC) Fons Catala de Cooperacio al Desenvolupament, and Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament:

THE PAST - THE PRESENT - THE FUTURE

THE PAST - The so-called political innocence is in the past, and the reality is that it is our obligation to make our contribution and make a tangible difference inside and outside both continents. Nobody is going to tell you that you are suitable to be a candidate, a debater, a researcher, or whatever you want to be and achieve, NO ONE. You may certainly take up the chance and the challenge.

THE PRESENT - As they say “it is a small world, after all” but it is all the space that we need for our dreams and achievements. It is important that themes are prioritised, such as migration, as the first step towards achieving this goal was done in Marrakech in 2018. We are now in this present moment when we have to think about a proper performance of how to implement this so beautiful tasks. See it as a gift, but must importantly commit yourself to it, be open in communication, debates, conversations and regarding the needs to achieve it.

Let us be more visible, and let us become the visible and stable link and support to each other.

THE FUTURE - We have done it already, it is written. The history is no more included in a past sentence but we are writing our own history at this very moment for the future, taking our faith and destiny into our own hands for a future where we can own both our past, present and future.

1. WE RECALL that WE the Diaspora constitute the Madaraja (bridge) between both continents and therefore it is our duty towards the very first generation of those who migrate from Africa to Europe and towards all the generations including the ones how are already born and raised in Europe to have one voice and echo it, and stand united as one in all our actions, discussions and debates without leaving anybody out, or behind. For Africa to rise and rise, we have to connect and communicate and debate. Always know and remember where you are coming from, and also know and be determined about where you are going to. Distance is not a barrier, it’s a blessing. The only way to achieve this is by collaborating on all different levels and most importantly by participating in the process.
2. **WE APPLAUD** the 1st generation for being so strong and brave for taking the decision to exchange home for unknown homes, cities and countries and for the fact that under all circumstances its members manage to survive, overcome, live, work, integrate, cater to the people at home, and raise, take care and empower the 2nd, 3rd and sometimes also the 4th generations.

3. This Declaration is **APPLICABLE** to the youth, the generation of unavoidable change, the generation that has adopted both cultures and made them to be its integral part. The youth that is not afraid to speak, to speak up and claim its rightful space. The youth is the FUTURE. The future which we all look up to with high hopes. The future holds all possibilities for the youth, to whom the 1st generation passes on the baton in all confidence, to carry on what has already been started, but to do it with even more determination, until the future we envision becomes our reality.

4. **WE DECLARE** that we as the Diaspora are the core representatives of the African continent abroad with full integrity, and this applies to the future for ourselves and for our children and all generations coming after us. It is time for action. We need to keep in mind that we are the instrument in implementing and renewing and modernizing a new future. We must be the drive behind the change, we have to be the directors and the authors in engagement, in making decisions and we must assure to be directly and actively involved in all political levels, from local, national, to international.

This declaration was adopted on November 29, 2019 in Barcelona, Spain.