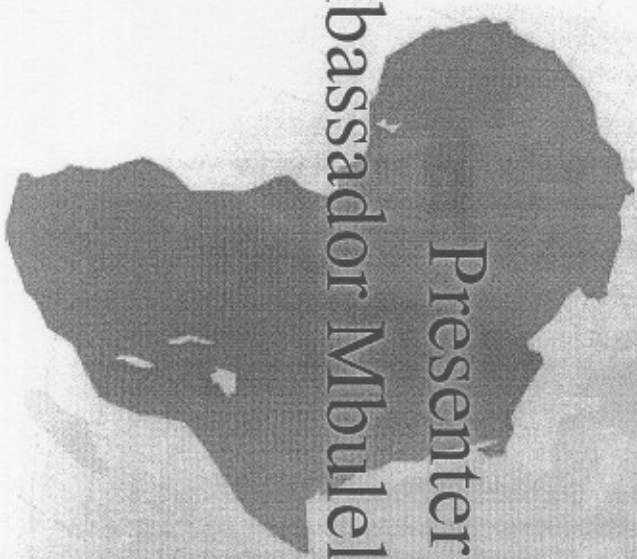


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# Presentation on The African Diaspora

Presenter:

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## Definition of African Diaspora

- People of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality, and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union.”
- The African Union’s constitutive act declares that it shall “invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of our Continent, in the building of the African Union.”



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The strategic importance of the African Diaspora to South Africa and the rest of Africa is a product of particularly four factors that shaped contemporary Africa – namely:

- ξ The Trans-Atlantic slave trade;
- ξ Colonial rule;
- ξ The anti-colonial struggle;
- ξ and Pan-Africanism.



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**Table 1: Geographic Distribution and Comparative Weight of African Diaspora**

Diaspora region	Key country	Population number	Generations	State actor	Status
North America	USA		Descendents and immigrants	No	Excluded and marginalized
Latin America	Brazil		Descendents	No	Excluded and marginalized
Caribbean	Most		Descendents	Yes	Excluded and marginalized
Europe	UK and France		Immigrants	No	Excluded and marginalized
Asia and Middle East	India		Descendents and immigrants	No	Excluded and marginalized



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From reading Table 1

ξThe largest concentration of the Diaspora is in the Americas and the Caribbean;

ξDiaspora immigrants are in parts of North America and constitute a dominant Diaspora presence in Europe and Asia and the Middle East and;

ξThat Diaspora communities are generally excluded and marginalized in their respective countries, with a section of those in the Caribbean the only ones in possession of the state machinery.



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*Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union* proposes in Article 3(q) an additional objective of the AU which is to “invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of our Continent, in the building of the African Union”.



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**The Diaspora as a motive force is a crosscutting player in the matrix of alliance (Table 2) informing South Africa's approach to the world.**

*Table 2: Matrix of Alliance*

Alliance category	Constituencies	Key mobilisation issues
Liberation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ξNational Liberation Movement</li> </ul>	The Pan-African project and transformation of the global system.
Solidarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ξOther historic allies</li> </ul>	A better Africa and the world.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ξTiermondists</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ξAnti-globalisation movement</li> </ul>	
Globalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ξSome Socialist International forces</li> </ul>	Meeting the MDGs; debt relief; reform of the global system making globalisation work for all.
	Other progressive forces	



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## Diaspora can be focused around six priority areas:

- ξ The economy, particularly the promotion of capital flow to the continent;
- ξ Diaspora tourism flow into the continent;
- ξ Diaspora skills attraction and human resources development on the continent;
- ξ Cultural and information exchange, including joint Africa-Diaspora knowledge production initiatives; building strong inter-state partnerships with the Diaspora through bilateral relations and South-South co-operation and;
- ξ Promoting strong and active Africa-Diaspora cooperation in the international system and multilateral forums. The RSA-AU-CARRICOM Conference held in 2005 is one vehicle that has helped realize this agenda.



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