

ADVANTAGES OF CREATING A LINKAGES WITH THE DIASPORA

- Bilateral benefits for South Africa that can accrue from the African Diaspora relationships include:
 - ξ Strengthened historical and cultural ties;
 - ξ Expanded trade opportunities;
 - ξ Increased tourism;
 - ξ Inroads can also be made with regard to skills exchanges in the fields of education, healthcare, science and technology, music and foreign direct investment, all being central aspects of the Accelerated and Shared Growth;
 - ξ Multilateral benefits include increased cooperation between the AU and CARICOM in specific areas identified for collaboration, as elaborated in the program of action.



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REVISTING THE SOUTH AFRICA-AFRICAN UNION-CARIBBEAN - DIASPORA CONFERENCE - 2005 AND OTHER INITIATIVES

The objectives of conference were:

- ξ To celebrate the centuries old historical and cultural bonds and re-affirm the spiritual affinity between Africa and the Diaspora based on a common history and shared experiences;
- ξ Create linkages between Africa and the Diaspora;
- ξ Establish mechanisms for building stronger political and economic relations between Africa and the Caribbean;
- ξ Acknowledge the significant contribution of the Caribbean to the Pan-African tradition and;
- ξ Develop an agenda for confronting common challenges in order to support the implementation of the African Union decisions on the African Diaspora.



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A comparative outcome of the various initiatives undertaken thus far are contained in Table 3

Table 3: Comparative Diaspora Conference Initiatives

Diaspora initiative	Lead actors	Process	Target	Outcome	Follow-up
RSA-AU-CARRICOM	RSA, AU, Jamaica	RSA-AU Jamaica	Civil Society, governments,	Conference Declaration with a Program of Action; Report which is yet to be published South Africa to host 2nd Conference	South Africa to host 2nd Conference
CIAD I	Senegal, AU Libya?	AU Consultative Working Group of intellectuals	Civil Society, particularly intellectuals	Report which was not adopted by conference	Disagreement on follow-up mechanism; Senegal wanted to create a permanent Secretariat
CIAD II	Senegal, AU, Brazil	AU-Brazil multi-stakeholder Steering Committee	Civil Society, intellectuals; Afro-Brazilians	Conference Declaration; Report still to be finalized	Steering Committee to be constituted by AU; Senegal still wants Secretariat
South American Community Of Nations and AU	Nigeria and Brazil?				



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Programme of Action

- That the African Union and CARICOM should continue to develop a concrete mechanism for the institutionalization of the relations between the two bodies;
- That African and Caribbean governments should explore and develop concrete measures for promoting linkages between the two regions in the following priority areas: trade and investment, science and technology, travel and tourism, education and culture, health, and environmental issues;
- That African and Caribbean organs of civil society should explore and develop concrete measures for promoting linkages and collaboration between the two regions;
- That Africa and the Caribbean, through their regional organizations, should explore ways of harmonizing international diplomacy in particular by utilizing the forthcoming UN Millennium Review Summit and the WTO Doha Development Round.



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HOST AND PARTNERS

South Africa's hosting of the second AU African Diaspora Conference was endorsed at the AU Summit held in Khartoum in January of 2006.

All regions of the diaspora which include: North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and the Middle East will be invited to participate and play a role in the Conference.

The following are the principal partners in the organisation of this conference

- The African Union Commission
- The South African Government
- CARICOM



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Suggested themes of the 2007 Diaspora are as follows

- ξ Intellectual capital and human resource development;
- ξ Economy, trade and tourism;
- ξ Identity, cultural and information exchange;
- ξ Geo-strategic partnership.



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SCOPE AND PARTICIPANTS

- Ministers
- Business people
- Academics
- Civil Society and NGOs
- Media
- Regions of the African Diaspora



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VENUE, DATES AND DURATION

- Suggested Venue: Sandton Convention Centre
- Suggested Date: Last quarter of 2007
- Duration: 3 days



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PARTICIPATION COST

- Application and registration fees for each participant
- All participants will pay for their travel and accommodation



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CONCLUSION

- The second conference will contribute to and provide momentum for the process of building a better world.



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