

REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE

TRAVAIL-LIBERTE-PATRIE

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES,
DE L'INTÉGRATION RÉGIONALE ET DES
TOGOLAIS DE L'EXTÉRIEUR

REPUBLIC OF TOGO

WORK-FREEDOM-HOMELAND

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND
TOGOLESE ABROAD



**CONCEPT NOTE
OF THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OF THE DIASPORA
REGION SCHEDULED FROM MAY 20th TO 22nd, 2024, IN BRAZIL
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 9th PANAFRICAN
CONGRESS IN LOME 2024**

I. Context

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its 34th Ordinary Session held on 6 and 7 February 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, declared the **Decade 2021-2031 the « Decade of African Roots and the African Diaspora »**.

Among the initiatives, activities and events scheduled as part of this Decade is the organization of the 9th Pan-African Congress in Lomé, scheduled from 29 October to 2nd November 2024 on the theme **« Renewal of Pan-Africanism and Africa's role in the reform of multilateral institutions: mobilizing resources and reinventing ourselves for action »**.

In the run-up to this important meeting, six (6) regional preparatory conferences or regional pre-congresses are planned, including one for the Diaspora¹ region on the sub-theme **« Memory, restitution, reparation and reconstruction »**. This regional preparatory conference² of the African Diaspora will be held from **20 to 22 May 2024** in Brazil, home to one of the largest populations of Afro-descendants.

More specifically, the conference will be held in Salvador de Bahia, one of the nerve centers of the Afro-descendant presence, marked by the historical and political legacy of the Quilombo communities, fortresses of resistance and freedom created by freed slaves in the 17th century, whose figurehead was Zumbi.

During the preparatory conference for the Diaspora region, issues relating to history, restoration of memory, culture, reparation, reconstruction, justice and dignity of African peoples and their descendants, victims of crimes and injustices of the slave trade, colonization and racial and social discrimination, will be addressed.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to revisit the resilience of Afro-descendant peoples and their contributions to multiracial civilization and to development of Latin American countries, including Brazil. It will link the

¹ The African Diaspora is considered by the African Union as the 6th region of Africa and is « composed of people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality, and who are ready to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union ».

² This is the second regional preparatory conference for the 9th Pan-African Congress in Lomé 2024. The first regional preparatory conference was held on 4 and 5 December 2023 in South Africa for the Southern Africa region on the theme « Pan-Africanism, science, knowledge and technology ».

struggle for freedom and dignity of Afro-descendants to the global struggle of African peoples, from slavery to the present day.

II. Objectives

The preparatory conference in Brazil will contribute to reflection and make concrete proposals under the sub-theme « **Memory, restitution, reparation and reconstruction** », which will feed into the 9th Pan-African Congress in Lomé, which will be an ideal opportunity for Africans from the continent and the diaspora, as well as Afro-descendants from Americas, Caribbean and Europe, to meet, exchange ideas and take relevant resolutions that can help advance the progress of marginalized peoples and their participation in global governance, the idea of development, construction of a world of justice and peace on the international stage.

More specifically, the event aims to:

- bring together, in the wake of the Accra conference on reparations held from 14 to 17 November 2023, the peoples of Africa, the diaspora and Afro-descendants around the crucial issues of reparation, restitution and reconstruction in order to deepen them further;
- harmonize strategies and standardize processes for regaining Africa's sovereignty over the issue of reparations, while at the same time giving it an expansive dimension;
- be part of the process of creating, multiplying and promoting places of memory for Africans and Afro-descendants;
- think about the contours, means, mechanisms and conditions for obtaining the restitution of works of art as well as reparations, taking into account historical, political, legal, cultural and social contexts;
- identify the stakeholders, initiatives, good practices, lessons learned, opportunities and constraints relating to memory, restitution and reparations for the reconstruction of Africa;
- define the principles, criteria, procedures, mechanisms, strategies, actions and partnerships needed to strengthen links and exchanges, particularly economic and commercial, between Africans on the continent and those in the diaspora, as well as the various Afro-descendant communities in the world;
- capitalize on the challenges and prospects of Pan-Africanism for diasporas and Afro-descendants in a changing world;
- formulate concrete recommendations and proposals on memory, restitution, reparations and reconstruction, and on strengthening relations between African peoples living in Africa and Afro-descendants,

which should enrich the Lomé Conference in the context of the 9th Pan-African Congress.

III. Expected results

The following results are expected from the Brazil meeting:

- African and Afro-descendant stakeholders, countries and institutions will popularize the debate on reparation as a continuation of Accra conference, while harmonizing and standardizing the processes of regaining and rebuilding African sovereignty;
- Africans living on the continent, in the diaspora and Afro-descendants will come together and reaffirm their commitment to advancing the cause of reparation, restitution and reconstruction;
- cultural landmarks, places, practices and expressions from a common past are promoted in African countries and those of Afro-descendants, and concrete proposals are made for obtaining the restitution of works of art, reparations and reconstruction, taking into account historical, political, legal, cultural and social contexts;
- actors, initiatives, good practices, lessons learned, opportunities and constraints related to remembrance, restitution and reparations are identified and recommendations are made to overcome existing difficulties;
- principles, criteria, procedures, mechanisms and partnerships needed to implement memory, restitution and reparations are proposed;
- mechanisms, strategies, actions and partnerships are identified to enable the strengthening of links and exchanges between Africans on the continent and those in the diaspora, as well as the various Afro-descendant communities in the world;
- Pan-Africanism is reaffirmed as the fundamental framework for joint action enabling Africans, the diaspora and Afro-descendants to reposition themselves in international bodies;
- concrete recommendations and proposals for strengthening memory, restitution, reparations and reconstruction, as well as relations between the African peoples, the diaspora and Afro-descendants, are made and included in the debate at the Lomé 2024 Congress as part of the 9th Pan-African Congress.

IV. Sub-themes

The preparatory meeting in Salvador de Bahia can be structured around, but not limited to, the following themes:

- Ethos of reparation;
- Understanding the issue of reparation and its best practices around the world;
- The issue of reparation from a historical perspective;
- Issue of reparation to reconstruction;
- Youth and the question of reparation;
- Cultural and human links between Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean;
- Contribution of the global South and the African diaspora to the emergence of a polycentric world...

V. Methodology

The preparatory conference of the diaspora region to be held in Brazil will be organized using a participatory, interactive and inclusive methodology, which will make it possible to gather the opinions, experiences, proposals and recommendations of participants from various backgrounds, countries and sectors of activity.

The meeting will last two days and could include a ministerial segment with various speeches framed by an opening and closing ceremony.

Several discussion sessions on the above-mentioned themes are planned in connection with the sub-theme of the 6th region as well as the Agenda of the Decade 2021-2031 « Decade of African Roots and the African Diaspora » within the framework of which the 9th Pan-African Congress is being held.

Moreover, workshops, exhibitions, shows, sporting and cultural activities and visits to sites open to the public could also be organized.

The closing session may be marked by the reading of the final recommendations sanctioning all the works of the pre-Congress or by adoption of the declaration of the preparatory conference of the Diaspora region, in the presence of medias.

VI. Participants

The aim is to create a space for dialogue, reflection, proposals and action on the place and role of diasporas and Afro-descendants in a changing world.

Thus, preparatory event in Salvador de Bahia will bring together representatives of African States, African personalities and actors, government representatives from the Caribbean, the Americas and other personalities from Afro-descendant communities, regional and continental organizations, civil society organizations, associations, academics, medias, young people, women, artists, sportsmen and women, entrepreneurs and influential personalities from the African world and Afro-descendants to propose avenues for reflection and action as part of the renewal of Pan-Africanism.