



## **AFRICA-CARICOM SUMMIT- 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021**

### ***UNITY ACROSS CONTINENTS AND OCEANS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEEPENING INTEGRATION***

#### **COMMUNIQUÉ**

1. The Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union (AU) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) met virtually for the inaugural Africa-CARICOM Summit. The Summit was hosted by His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.
2. The **theme of the Summit** was ***“Unity across continents and oceans: opportunities for deepening integration.”***
3. The **objective** of this **historic Summit** was to reaffirm the bonds of ancestry and friendship between Africa and CARICOM and to build a foundation for lasting robust socio-economic and political engagements as well as partnerships between the two regions for a collective prosperous future.
4. **The Summit** was addressed by the following Heads of State/Government and leaders of delegations: H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya - the Chairperson of the Summit and the President-in-Office of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and immediate former Chairperson of the African Union (AU), H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and immediate former Chairperson of the East African Community (EAC), H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), H.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairperson of CARICOM, Dr. the Honorable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and immediate former Chairperson of CARICOM, H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados and incoming

Chairperson of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), H.E. Hon. John Antonio Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize and incoming Chairperson of CARICOM, H.E. Dr. Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Chairperson of the CARICOM sub-committee on the Africa-Brazil Caribbean Diaspora (ABCD) Commission, H.E. Dr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali, President of the Republic of Guyana, the Honourable Andrew Michael Holness ON, MP, Prime Minister of Jamaica, Hon. Philip Pierre, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Hon Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, H.E. Dr. Philip Mpango, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and H.E Patrick Rajoelina, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar (representing H.E. Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar and Chairperson of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA).

5. **The Summit was also addressed by the following Heads of Regional and International Organizations:** H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Carla Natalie Barnett, Secretary General of CARICOM, Mr. Strive Masiyiwa, African Union Special Envoy on COVID-19, Dr. Hyginus 'Gene' Leon, President of the Caribbean Development Bank, and H.E. Dr. Georges Rebello Chikoti, Secretary General of OACPS.

**The inaugural Session of the Africa-CARICOM Summit;**

6. **Recalled** the AU Assembly declaration during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 on promoting closer collaboration and cooperation between the AU, the African Diaspora and People of African descent in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.
7. **Further recalled** the 31<sup>st</sup> Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, recognizing the increasing contact between its Member States and African countries and accepted the offer by Kenya to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa-CARICOM Summit.
8. Also **recalled** the spirit and vision of Pan-Africanism championed by African and Caribbean forefathers in the first Pan-African conference of 1900 and **affirmed** the commitment of the current African-Caribbean leaders to revive and renew its tenets in order to affirm the unity and common aspirations of all people of African descent for a fairer more inclusive global order.



9. **Expressed** concern on the rapid mutation and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deleterious economic and social impact it has had on our societies, and our health infrastructure; **Noted** with concern that African and Caribbean countries have faced enormous challenges in mitigating the negative impact of the pandemic; Further **noted with concern** that while many developed countries had vaccinated more than half of their populations, majority of African and Caribbean countries have only vaccinated a small percentage of their adult and vulnerable populations due to challenges in accessing vaccines.
10. **Decried** the prevalence of vaccine hoarding and vaccine nationalism by developed countries and **called for** equity towards vaccine access and distribution and collective action to address this challenge. The Summit **reiterated** that no country is safe from the COVID-19 pandemic unless the entire world is fully vaccinated.
11. **Called** for increased access to vaccines, production of vaccines in the African continent and within the Caribbean, and for the waiver of specific articles of the TRIPS Agreement by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Member States on the intellectual property rights protection for technologies needed to prevent and contain COVID-19. The Summit **appreciated** the work of the Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP) and the AU's COVID-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) to ensure access to medical supplies and vaccines to African and Caribbean countries. The Summit **commended** H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, for the critical role he played in this regard in his capacity as the AU Champion for the COVID-19 vaccine strategy and acquisition by AU Member States.
12. **Noted** the devastating economic effects that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our societies. Further **noted** that even though the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) was welcome, and that progress had been achieved in facilitating higher pandemic-related spending, there is still need for enhanced debt relief measures, concessional financial access, innovative approaches to debt sustainability and broader fiscal space to enable countries in the two regions to refocus on achieving the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change commitments.

13. **Reiterated** the commitment to achieve sustainable development in Member States severely affected by environmental challenges arising from effects of climate change and **affirmed** their commitment to ensure the realization of SDG 14 to “*conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*” and further to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels as called for in the Paris Agreement.
- 14.a). **Noting** the need to address mutual economic and communication challenges facing the two regions within the spirit of South-South Cooperation, the Summit **committed** to establish a joint AU/CARICOM electronic mass media platform to facilitate flow of information, news and artistic programming, collectively endeavour to enhance food security, and exploit the blue economy and technology for the advancement and prosperity of African and Caribbean people.
- b). Further **lauded** the coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as the avenue for the flow of trade and investments across the two regions and noted the existing investment opportunities in health, tourism, creative industries, sports, culture and education for enhanced people to people connections.
- 15.a.) **Underscored** the need to foster increased trade, investment, air travel, maritime shipping links with a view to realize greater economic integration and enhanced people to people contact between Africa and the Caribbean, and to this end;
- b). **Committed to** establish a Multilateral Air Services Agreement, to conclude an agreement to abolish double taxation, and to review the requirement for travel visas, and establish regular weekly direct flights between African and Caribbean regions.
16. **Underpinned** the critical role resources will play in facilitating processes and developing critical infrastructure, calling for the establishment of an African-CARICOM Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) dedicated to mobilizing resources and deploying them to critical cutting edge projects.
17. **Committed** to provide political goodwill and support of activities aimed at fostering closer cultural, educational, scientific and sports relations between



our people, in order to increase people to people engagement through the AU and CARICOM by using mass media platforms whenever necessary.

18. **Called** for the establishment of a Forum of African and Caribbean Territories and States (FACTS), to be jointly coordinated by the AU and CARICOM Secretariats, and the establishment of an Africa-CARICOM Commission as a precursor to the Brazil Caribbean Diaspora.
- 19 Further **committed** to institutionalize cooperation between Africa and CARICOM and the diaspora by designating September 7<sup>th</sup> of every year as Africa-CARICOM Day, setting up a dedicated Secretariat/Structure and holding annual Africa-CARICOM Summits on **September 7<sup>th</sup>**, and called on Member States to support this initiative.
20. **Directed** the AU and CARICOM Secretariats to commence the process of institutionalizing the partnership within six months, and to facilitate adoption of the governance constitutive statutes at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit in 2022. The Summit therefore, **urged** the Chairperson of the AUC and the Secretary General of CARICOM to conclude the Memorandum of Understanding for possible signing on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to take place in Barbados in October 2021.
21. **Reaffirmed** the commitment to uphold and strengthen multilateralism which remains essential for collective action among States and further **urged** the need to strengthen and reform international financial institutions to ensure inclusion and equitable representation from countries from the South, and also to press for reparative justice.
22. **Called for** the lifting of punitive and unilateral economic sanctions and embargos against Cuba and Zimbabwe to allow them to respond to the pandemic and pursue their development aspirations.
23. **Recalled** that the Africa-CARICOM Summit was held against the backdrop of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism and **called** for a collective commitment of Africa-CARICOM Member States to fully participate in the upcoming High Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on **21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021** and use the event to advance the claim for reparations within the process of the UN.

24. Conveyed **appreciation** to President Uhuru Kenyatta for hosting the inaugural Africa-CARICOM Summit.

*Nairobi, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.*