



PROGRESSIVE UPDATES

Pan-African Progressive Front Newsletter

M O N T H L Y N E W S L E T T E R

JUNE 2026

THEME OF THE MONTH

This month's Newsletter focuses on Reparations; Specifically, the High- Level Accra Next-Steps Conference on Reparatory Justice, together with statements and interventions released by Pan-African organisations and institutions.

DISCLAIMER

This newsletter is issued by the Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF) for information, education and public engagement purposes only. The views, positions and analyses expressed reflect the political and policy perspectives of PPF and its leadership, and do not necessarily represent the positions of partner institutions, participating organisations or individual contributors (unless referenced). All materials contained herein are intended to support public dialogue, Pan-African solidarity and civic participation.

EDITORIAL

PPF STATEMENT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON AT THE HIGH-LEVEL NEXT STEPS CONFERENCE ON REPARATORY JUSTICE — ACCRA, GHANA, 17–19 JUNE 2026.

"Words Without Action Are the Loudest Form of Contempt"

The Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF) issues this statement with full political clarity and without diplomatic equivocation. We respect the historic significance of the High-Level Next Steps Conference on Reparatory Justice being convened in Accra by President John Dramani Mahama in his capacity as African Union Champion for Reparations. We recognise the courage, strategic brilliance, and moral authority with which Ghana has led the global reparations conversation, culminating in the landmark United Nations General Assembly resolution of 25 March 2026, backed by 123 member states, formally recognising the transatlantic slave trade and the enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity.

It is precisely because we take this conference seriously that we cannot take lightly the presence of French President Emmanuel Macron as a keynote speaker at this gathering. We do not condemn dialogue. We condemn the laundering of political inaction through the language of solidarity. And we are compelled by history, by conscience, and by our duty to the African working class and peasantry to state plainly what Macron's presence at this conference represents: not accountability, but performance.

France Abstained — That Is Not a Technicality. It Is a Political Position.

On 25 March 2026, the very day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Ghana-led resolution declaring the Transatlantic Slave Trade a crime against humanity, France chose to abstain. Not to vote in favour. Not to stand with the 123 nations who affirmed what every honest historian, every descendant of enslaved Africans, and every person of conscience already knows. France abstained. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot offered the explanation that France refused to "create a hierarchy among crimes against humanity." That answer is an insult dressed as a principle. It means France will not formally acknowledge, in the most basic institutional forum available, that the organised abduction, enslavement, brutalisation, and commodification of millions of African human beings, in which France was one of the primary architects and beneficiaries, constitutes a crime against humanity deserving of a specific, targeted international response. This abstention did not occur in a vacuum. France has also been among the nine states that voted against the 2022 UN Human Rights Council resolution 51/32 calling on states to deliver restorative justice for slavery and colonialism. These are deliberate political choices. They deserve to be named as such, and they disqualify Macron from presenting himself as a good-faith participant in a reparatory justice process whose foundational premise France has twice refused to endorse.

For clarity, France enslaved and trafficked more than 1.4 million Africans. It colonised more African territory than any other European power. It imposed upon Haiti, the first Black republic, born of the greatest slave revolution in human history, an indemnity of 150 million gold francs in 1825, extorted at gunpoint to compensate French slaveholders for the loss of their "property." Haiti spent 122 years repaying that debt. A debt for its own freedom, while France grew richer. That debt, with compound interest, has been estimated at over \$115 billion in today's terms. It has never been repaid. France has never apologised for it.

The CFA Franc Is Not a Currency, It Is a Colonial Leash

It is important to note that, any serious conversation about France and reparations must place the CFA franc at its centre. The CFA franc, controlled by the French Treasury and used by 14 Central and West African nations, is not a

relic of colonialism. It is colonialism's continuation by financial means. It requires African nations to deposit 50% of their foreign exchange reserves in the French Treasury. It fixes exchange rates in ways that serve French industrial and trade interests. It has consistently suppressed monetary sovereignty, limited the capacity of African central banks to finance development, and tied the economic fate of hundreds of millions of African people to decisions made in Paris. The impact of this system continues to manifest in the systemic underdevelopment of the very nations France colonised and whose resources it continues to extract through the architecture of monetary dependency. France cannot speak of reparations while the CFA franc remains in place. France cannot claim to be a partner in African development while it retains structural control over the currencies of 14 African states. Dismantling CFA franc control is not a precondition for the Reparations conversation, it is itself a reparative act, one that France can take unilaterally, immediately, and without a conference.

Stolen Artefacts Are Not Cultural Heritage, They Are Evidence of a Crime

France holds tens of thousands of African cultural objects in its museums and state collections, objects removed from their communities of origin under conditions of colonial violence, forced extraction, and military conquest. The Quai Branly Museum alone holds over 70,000 objects from sub-Saharan Africa. In 2018, the Sarr-Savoy Report commissioned by Macron himself recommended the unconditional return of African cultural heritage currently held in French public collections. A recommendation that has been implemented selectively, partially, and far too slowly.

What France Must Do Before It Has the Right to This Conversation

The Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF) is unequivocal: France can only earn the moral authority to address a reparatory justice conference through actions, not addresses. We demand the following as the minimum threshold of genuine accountability:

1. France must deliver a full, unconditional, and legally meaningful apology, not a presidential speech, not a commission announcement, but a formal state apology for its role in the transatlantic slave trade, in the colonial occupation and exploitation of African territories, and specifically for the debt extorted from Haiti.
2. France must cancel the outstanding 'debts' of its former colonies. Debts that are themselves the continuation of the economic extraction that colonialism imposed. There is no moral justification for African nations to continue servicing financial obligations to an economy built on their exploitation.
3. France must dismantle the CFA franc system and support the full monetary sovereignty of the 14 African nations still operating under its control. This is a reparative act of immediate, measurable, and transformative consequence.
4. France must accelerate and complete the unconditional return of all African cultural artefacts currently held in French public collections; not as loans, not as long-term deposits, but as permanent restitution to the communities and nations from which they were taken.
5. France must establish, fund, and fully resource a reparations fund with meaningful financial commitments, not symbolic gestures, directed by African governments and diaspora communities, not by French institutions.

The Pan-African Progressive Front calls on the organisers of the Accra conference, on President Mahama, on the African Union, and on the global reparations movement to insist that this historic gathering does not become a stage for the rehabilitation of those who have not yet demonstrated the political will to deliver what justice demands. We are not opposed to France being part of the Reparations conversation, we are opposed to France being given a keynote platform in that conversation before it has taken a single concrete, structural, and irreversible step toward reparatory justice.

Words at a conference in Accra will cost France nothing. Cancelling Haiti's debt would cost something real. Dismantling the CFA franc would cost something real. Returning 70,000 artefacts would cost something real. Until France is willing to pay the real costs of the crimes it committed, its presence at this conference serves France's interests, not Africa's justice.

We stand in solidarity with the African people, with the Caribbean nations, and with the global diaspora in their demand for justice that is structural, material, and permanent. We will continue to name those who clothe self-interest in the language of solidarity. We will continue to insist that reparations are not a diplomatic conversation, they are a debt. And unlike Haiti's debt to France, this one is just.

**In Solidarity,
Mr. Humphrey Abbey Quaye Head,
Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF)
On Behalf of the Secretariat of PPF**

#REPARATIONS!!!

SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA CONDEMNS MACRON'S INVITATION TO ACCRA REPARATIONS SUMMIT



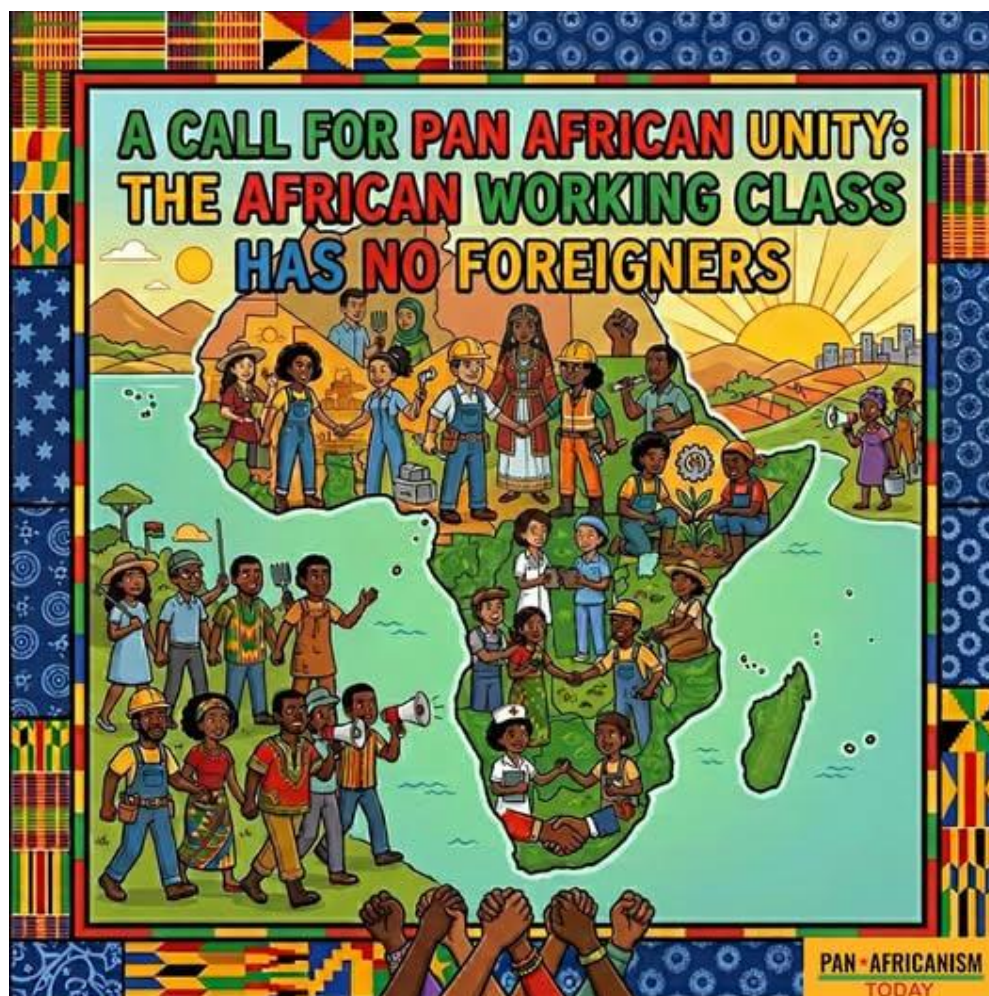
The Ho Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana has issued a statement strongly condemning the invitation extended to French President Emmanuel Macron to deliver a keynote address at the High-Level Consultative Conference on Reparatory Justice, scheduled for June 17 to 19 in Accra.

The statement, signed by **Atisu Olivia**, Youth Wing Leader of the Ho Collective, describes Macron's planned presence and address as "deeply problematic, undignified, and an affront to the very cause it claims to advance," pointing directly to France's abstention from the United Nations resolution on reparatory justice in March 2026 as the central contradiction undermining the invitation.

"A state that will not stand for reparatory justice at the United Nations has no credibility as its mouthpiece," the statement reads, arguing that the abstention represents not a procedural disagreement but a deliberate and continued resistance to accountability. The SMG characterises Macron's sudden interest in the Reparations agenda as a calculated attempt to rehabilitate France's image on the continent and secure continued access to Africa's resources, rather than a genuine commitment to justice.

CLICK ~ [REPARATIONS CONDEMNATION OF MACRON](#)

 [PAN AFRICANISM TODAY INTERVENTION] A CALL FOR PAN AFRICAN UNITY: THE AFRICAN WORKING CLASS HAS NO FOREIGNERS



The Pan African Today (PAT) Secretariat argues that the rise of Afrophobia across Africa is not simply a reaction to migration but the result of state policies and political rhetoric that scapegoat migrant workers for deep-rooted economic problems. The statement contends that unemployment, poor public services, and inequality are products of neoliberal capitalism and political failure, not migration, and warns that directing public anger at foreign nationals only weakens working-class solidarity.

The article calls for a united Pan-African response, urging governments, regional bodies, trade unions, and civil society to reject xenophobia, protect the rights of all workers regardless of nationality, and promote freedom of movement across the continent. It concludes that lasting solutions lie in confronting inequality, exploitation, and imperialism rather than targeting vulnerable migrant communities.

[FIND THE FULL ARTICLE HERE ~](#)

PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU'S DEMOCRACY DAY ADDRESS ON FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026



Photo Source: Presidential Villa State House

“Today, we celebrate democracy and the enduring Nigerian spirit. For 27 unbroken years, since May 29, 1999, Nigerians have chosen their leaders through the ballot, witnessed peaceful transitions of power, and resolved disagreements in courtrooms and legislative chambers—not through violence. We have experienced the longest stretch of civilian rule in our history. Our democracy is not perfect, but it is ours, and we must continue to defend and strengthen it.”

Nigeria's Democracy Day address celebrates 27 years of uninterrupted civilian rule, highlighting achievements in democratic governance, security, economic reforms, and national development. While the speech presents an optimistic vision of progress and prosperity, it also raises an important question confronting many African states: can democracy truly be celebrated when millions continue to grapple with unemployment, rising living costs, insecurity, and widening inequality?

Viewed through a Pan-African lens, the address reminds us that democracy must extend beyond elections and political stability to deliver tangible improvements in people's lives. Across the continent, citizens are increasingly demanding accountable leadership, economic justice, and governance that prioritises the needs of ordinary people over political rhetoric. The Nigerian experience reflects the broader African challenge of transforming democratic promises into meaningful social and economic progress.

[READ FULL ADDRESS HERE~](#)

**OUTCOMES FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE ON THE NEXT STEPS TO
THE LANDMARK UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/RES/80/250 ON THE
TRAFFICKING OF ENSLAVED AFRICANS AND RACIALISED CHATTEL ENSLAVEMENT OF
AFRICANS ACCRA, 17TH – 19TH JUNE 2026**

PRESENTATIONS BY HEADS OF STATE

I. H.E JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA



HIS EXCELLENCY
JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

“We gather not merely to discuss the past, but to determine how humanity responds to one of the greatest crimes ever committed against the people. We gather because history has summoned us to complete a conversation that began centuries ago and remains unfinished. I wish to warmly welcome all participants who have traveled from around the world to take part in this conference.

Your presence here reflects a shared recognition that the issues before us transcend national boundaries and speak instead to our common humanity, our shared history, and our collective responsibility to future generations. On 25 September 2025 last year, I stood before the United Nations General Assembly and announced Ghana's intention to introduce a resolution declaring the traffic of enslaved Africans as the gravest crime against humanity. At that time, it was a bold proposition.

It was ambitious, necessary, but uncertain in its outcome. It was rooted in our conviction that humanity must confront this history with greater honesty and clarity, not merely because of what happened centuries ago, but because of the enduring consequences that continue to shape societies and communities across the world even today. There was no certainty that such a proposition would command broad international support.

And yet, exactly six months later, on 25 March 2026, the United Nations General Assembly addressed that proposition and by a decisive majority, Member States adopted Resolution A/RES-80-250, marking a historic step in the international community's acknowledgement of the scale, brutality, and enduring consequences of the trafficking of enslaved Africans and of racialized, chattel enslavement. But before proceeding further, I wish to express my profound appreciation to all the 123 Member States that supported the resolution, as well as to the many institutions, scholars, civil society organizations, faith leaders, activists, and advocates whose dedication over many years made its adoption possible. Their efforts contributed significantly to creating the conditions for a more honest and constructive global conversation.

For Ghana, this effort is not just an exercise in diplomacy. It is a moral obligation that is rooted in our history, our identity, and our responsibility as a nation whose shores hold both the tragedy of departure and the hope of return. We do not seek to reopen old wounds. We seek to heal those wounds. We do not seek division. We seek justice and understanding and reconciliation grounded in the truth. And at the same time, the significance of this conference lies not only in the support that made the resolution possible, but also in the willingness of a broader community of nations and institutions to engage in the work that follows. The pursuit of historical justice is not strengthened by narrowing the circle of participation. It is strengthened by expanding it.

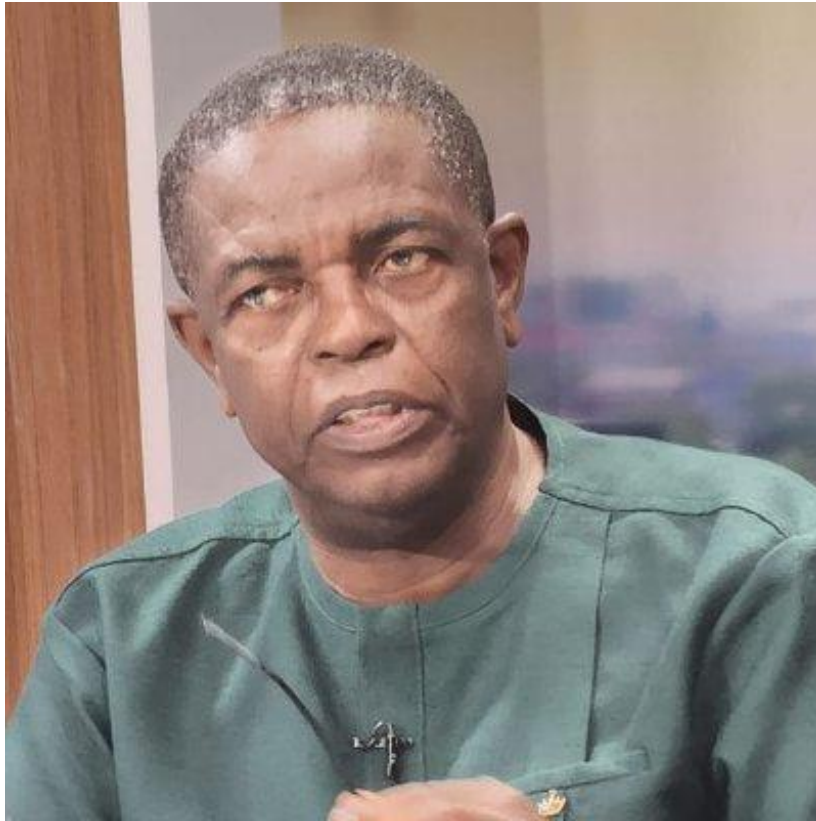
It is strengthened when those who may approach these issues from different historical, political, or legal perspectives nevertheless choose dialogue over silence and engagement over distance. In that spirit, I urge all participants gathered here today to approach our deliberations with openness, humility, and a shared commitment to advancing human dignity.

Distinguished guests, the adoption of the resolution was never intended to mark the end of the journey. It was intended to provide the foundation for a more meaningful process of engagement, reflection, and action. Less than three months after its adoption, we're here in Accra to address the question that naturally follows. What are the next steps? We're here because recognition creates responsibility, and because the enduring consequences of this history continue to demand thoughtful, coordinated, and sustained international engagement.” ...*continue below*

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EXPERT PANEL ON REPARATORY JUSTICE (SPEECHES)

II. KWESI PRATT JNR, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG) & MEMBER OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PAN- AFRICAN PROGRESSIVE FRONT (PPF)



“We gather today not merely to discuss history, but to confront injustice. We gather in memory of the millions of African men, women and children who were deprived the right to life, seized from their homes, chained in dungeons, packed into ships, sold as property, and forced to build the wealth of empires. We gather also in honour of those who resisted: those who fought in the villages, those who rebelled in the ships, those who escaped from plantations, those who preserved African memory under conditions designed to destroy it, and those who turned suffering into struggle.

The landmark United Nations General Assembly resolution on the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialized chattel enslavement is therefore not an ordinary diplomatic text. It is a historical rupture. It represents an important moment in the long struggle to force the world to recognize that the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade was not an unfortunate episode, not a regrettable economic practice, and not merely a tragedy of its time. It was a crime against humanity, African civilization, African sovereignty and African development. But recognition, however historic, is not enough. The task before us is to move from recognition to repair.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade was one of the most brutal systems of organized violence in human history. Over several centuries, African societies were raided, destabilized and drained of millions of their people. Human beings were converted into commodities. Their bodies became items of trade. Their labour became the foundation of plantation wealth. Their suffering became capital. The trade connected European ports, African coasts, Caribbean plantations and American economies in a vast machinery of kidnapping, transportation, torture, forced labour and racial domination.

Its violence was not accidental. It was planned, financed, insured, legalized and defended. Ships were built for it. Banks invested in it. Insurance firms protected its profits. Governments chartered companies to organize it. Laws were written to legitimize it. Churches and intellectual institutions often provided moral and ideological cover. The plantation system that grew from it did not simply exploit labour; it created a racial order in which Africans were defined as inferior in order to justify their enslavement. This ideology of race did not die with formal abolition. It survived in colonialism, segregation, apartheid, capitalism and the persistent devaluation of African lives in the global order.

In my book “Reparations: History, Struggle, Politics and Law”. I insist that reparations must be understood not as charity, but as justice; not as a sentimental appeal, but as a political, legal and historical necessity; not as a narrow demand for compensation alone, but as a comprehensive programme of repair, transformation and liberation. The book reminds us that the demand for reparations is rooted in memory, but it is directed towards the future. It is about correcting historical theft, but also about restructuring the conditions that continue to reproduce African underdevelopment.

Reparatory justice must therefore be understood in its full meaning. It includes acknowledgement, but it goes beyond acknowledgement. It includes apology, but it cannot end with apology. It includes compensation, but it is larger than money. Reparatory justice demands restitution, rehabilitation, truth-telling, institutional reform, cultural restoration, educational correction and guarantees of non-repetition. It requires the return of stolen cultural property. It requires the rewriting of distorted history. It requires development justice for societies deliberately weakened by centuries of extraction. It requires the dismantling of the structures that continue to benefit from the crimes of the past.” ...*continue below*

[CLICK HERE TO READ ARTICLE WITH ANALYSIS OF THE SPEECH](#)

**FINAL RESOLUTION FROM THE CONFERENCE ON THE NEXT STEPS TO THE LANDMARK
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/RES/80/250 ON THE TRAFFICKING
OF ENSLAVED AFRICANS AND RACIALISED CHATTEL ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICANS
ACCRA, 17TH – 19TH JUNE 2026**



“ At the invitation of His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana and the African Union Champion on Advancing the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans, the High-Level Consultative Conference on the Next Steps to the Landmark United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/80/250 entitled “Declaration of the Tracking of Enslaved Africans and Racialised Chattel Enslavement of Africans as the Gravest Crime against Humanity” was convened in Accra, Ghana, from 17th to 19th June 2026. ”

Leaders, diplomats, civil society organisations, and representatives of the African diaspora gathered in Accra to adopt a landmark roadmap for implementing the United Nations resolution recognising the transatlantic trafficking and enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity. The resolution marks a significant step in advancing the global reparations movement, shifting the conversation from historical recognition to concrete action for justice and accountability.

At its heart, the resolution argues that reparations are about more than financial compensation. It links the enduring legacies of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, and systemic racism to today's global inequalities, calling for reforms in international governance, debt relief, cultural restitution, climate justice, and equitable economic development that empower African nations and people of African descent.

The document also strengthens the vision of Pan-African solidarity by urging closer cooperation between Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the global African diaspora. It calls for a united continental position on reparatory justice, greater South-South cooperation, and stronger African institutions capable of advancing sovereignty, self-determination, and development free from neo-colonial domination.

Beyond governments, the resolution places responsibility on international institutions, corporations, and former colonial powers to acknowledge historical crimes, issue formal apologies, and support meaningful reparative measures. It also emphasises the role of education, cultural renewal, youth participation, public memory, and the return of stolen heritage in restoring the dignity and identity of African peoples.

While the resolution represents a major diplomatic victory, its success will ultimately depend on political will and sustained action. As Africa enters what the African Union has declared the Decade of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations, the challenge now is to transform international commitments into tangible outcomes that advance justice, development, and lasting liberation for African peoples worldwide.

[CLICK TO READ THE CONFERENCE OUTCOME DOCUMENT](#)

ABOUT PPF

The Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF) is an international non-governmental organisation headquartered in Accra, Ghana. It stands at the forefront of the fight for Africa's unification and is committed to coordinating and supporting progressive movements across Africa and the diaspora, with the goal of advancing the true interests and future of the continent.

Inspired by the vision of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and other Pan-Africanists, PPF believes that Africa's destiny must rest in the hands of its own people, and that its future lies in its political and economic unity — serving as the bedrock of our strength and continental sovereignty.

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SECRETARIAT

Accra, Ghana • June 2026