



**Communique Final Conclusions**  
**of the UN Women Parallel Event**  
**DATE MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Organized by ECOWAS WOMEN and the**  
**The GLOBAL AFRICAN SHEROES UNION**

*In partnership with*



**VENEU: African Union Mission, New York**

## Introduction

This year, the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 – 22 March 2019. It focused on the theme, “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”.

In addition to negotiations for a new declaration<sup>1</sup>, experts were selected to organize parallel events. Each parallel event/session added an opportunity for community stakeholders to participate with in-depth analysis of emerging trends effecting Global women and the development of resolutions to these issues. As according to the UNCSW NGO, over 20,000 women were in attendance as apart of both official UN Nation member state delegations and civil society with the aim of improving the quality of life and social protections for women.

One of such parallel events was organized by ECOWAS Women Organization and the Global African SHEROES Union held at the African Union Mission in New York City on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with other partners entitled “**YEAR OF RETURN: African Union African Diaspora 6th Region Declaration in Gender Perspective**”.

There were around 160 participants including (African and young) women from all continents of the Globe. Amongst them: professors, scientists, scholars, community leaders, traditional queens and chiefs, political leaders, UN specialists and entrepreneurs.

## Program Focus

The opening statements included an official “**State of Global African Women**” address, given by **Ms. Angela Sayles MBA**, Executive Director of the Institution of Financial Unity.

There was a panel to follow that covered topics including:

***The Year of Return (2019) in perspective of the 7<sup>th</sup> Year of African Union African Diaspora 6<sup>th</sup> Region Declaration (2012), 5<sup>th</sup> year UN Decade of People of African Descent, the 20<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary Durban Declaration and Program of Action 2021 and the final year of the African Women Decade (2020)***

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<sup>1</sup> Link <https://app.box.com/s/imhi0iv4au9941f40a5x9q0f4tbpnzjd> to agreed CSW63 conclusions whereby on page 10 (paragraph 48 *Strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks*) under y page 15 has been referred to the UN International decade for People of African descent. This can define as a victory of the civil society women of African descent who for years seeks for recognition by the nation states as well relevant stakeholders to realise national action plans and to salute Initiatives such as national fora for People of African descent.

presented by **Dr. Barryl A. Biekman**, representing Tiye International, Sophiedela, AUADS and African Diaspora Union;

***Engaging Policy Makers in Creating a Safe Environment for Returnees*** presented by **Mrs. Mouna Moriah Ahmed-Berry**, President of ECOWAS Women Organization;

***The Year of Return in Gender Perspective*** presented by **Ms. Kim Poole**, Global African SHEROES Union Founder and International Host;

***Benefits of Engaging the Diaspora to Increase Capacity Building in General*** presented by **Ms. Flora Edemode-Oyakhilome** MNIM, Executive Director EDO SACA.

## **Agreed Conclusions**

A series of decisions respective **agreed conclusions** were made at the parallel event of the ECOWAS Women Organization and the Global African SHEROES Union in collaboration with other partners (see logos on page 1). The decisions include:

1. **The Adoption of an International Decade of Return 2020-2030.** This decision has been Inspired by the President of Ghana's "*2019 Year of Return Declaration*" to commemorate the 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived in the Americas during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. Participants are of the opinion that this Return initiative needs attention of all AU Head of States.
  - The Program of Action for the implementation of the Decade must be developed in close cooperation with Regional African Diaspora Organizations.
  - The Program of Action must set the tone for adoption by the African Union Head of states during their next AU Summit in 2019.
  - The Decade of Return must see as a tool to realize concrete steps for:
    - Implementation of the African Union African Diaspora 6<sup>th</sup> Region Declaration;
    - Implementation of the claims for Reparation for Africa and African peoples, taken in consideration amongst others all the Declarations from Pan-Africanist Movements: the programmes and manifestos of the Europe-wide NGO Consultative Commission for Afrikan Reparations (ENGOCCAR), 'Stop the Maangamizi: We Charge Genocide/Ecocide!' Campaign (SMWeCGEC), the International Network of Scholars & Activists for Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR), the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations International Affairs Commission, the National African American Reparations Commission and the Abuja, Gambia, Libya, Caricom Declarations and UN Resolutions;
    - Repatriation Policies for the International African Diaspora Return. This includes the issuance of permanent visas to diaspora with no fees and ease of entry to African countries;
    - African Union Policies to integrate the Diaspora as the experts to assist in sustainable development when major projects are being sourced; the first resources to be considered in African, Caribbean and Pacific Programs and other agreements should be the International African Diaspora;

- Implementation and legalization of the integration of the Diaspora in the diverse political, socio-economic and social organs and bodies in the African Union with a gender approach.
  - Policies to implement the advancement of ownership in the agribusiness global food industry and supply chain for the International African Diaspora to create more trade between and within the Global African Diaspora.
  - Policies to implement in the acquisition, development and sustainability of land for Global African Women.
2. **Recognition of Global African Women’s Day celebration on March 16<sup>th</sup> every year.** The day is designated to honor and respect the rich diversity of women of African descent around the world, and to celebrate a shared vision of unity, despite historical separations through the processes of global and intercontinental enslavement and colonialism upon African people. To see beyond the ethnic, linguistic, and cultural barriers that have caused separations for too long, claim sisterhood regardless of where one stands in the world, and to recognize mother elders both past and present who are the first caretakers - thanking them for their protection, strength, and will to endure over the millennium.
3. **Initiate effective strategies for the Promotion of the:**
- **5<sup>th</sup> year mid-term Review regarding the UN International Decade for People of African descent.** This includes: evaluation of how political will has realized to implement the DDPA 2001 as being the central focus of the Decade; the input of the civil society and best practices.
  - **20<sup>th</sup> years anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. This includes a High Level Panel.**
  - **UN Permanent Mission for People of African descent as for the Indigenous Peoples.**

**The receivers includes**

UN Women CSW New York  
 Regional African Union African Diaspora Organizations  
 African Union Commission  
 African Union Permanent Mission Ethiopia  
 African Union Civil Society and Diaspora Office  
 African Union Commission on Peoples and Human Rights  
 United Nations Office of the High Commissioner  
 European Union Parliament/Commission on Human Rights  
 Caricom Reparation Commission(s)  
 United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African descent  
 Secretariat ACP (Brussels)