# **Statement in Response to Call by the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent**

Following an International Conference on Reparations held in Bridgetown, in the 20th Anniversary year of Global Afrikan Congress (GAC), we, the International Co-Chairpersons, elected at the International Congress of Members of 7th August 2022, wish to state as follows:

* We are pleased that the Permanent Forum will carry on much unfinished business after the UN international Decade ends in 2024 but would like the Global Community to properly resource the work that is needed.
* Self-repair and true knowledge of Afrikan Identity needs to be pursued through a deeper understanding of the History of Afrikan People which was distorted as part of the Crime Against Humanity that was the Trafficking and Enslavement of Afrikans. It is imperative that training should be by politically committed and conscious Afrikans in order that Afrikans can better appreciate their place in the world, correct the distortions of White Supremacy and achieve the confidence needed to assert their rights to self-determination and full liberation.
* Globally, we must invest in Young People and build them up, giving them a future and hope. They must be grounded in a deeper appreciation of Afrikan History.
* Afrikan Communities must be resourced, wherever they live in the world, so they can mobilise the grassroots and transform live outcomes as a priority;
* The Reparations narrative must always reflect the Global Afrikan Family.  It must also be expanded to include the social, economic, cultural and political realities of each region. Mobilisation and Institution Building in Afrikan Communities must be a priority;
* Economic Migration and lack of rights have to be addressed as both the migration and denial of rights are rooted in enslavement and the Afriphobia that sought to justify it;
* Global Organisations such as GAC must be properly resourced locally, nationally and internationally to carry out the vision of the founding Fathers and Mothers. Properly resourced, GAC can be the catalyst to bring the admirable work going on in silos to Global Afrikan attention and celebrate the work in order to incentivise and encourage excellence;
* This Statement echoes the August 2022 Conference demand for the full exoneration of the most Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey, National Hero of Jamaica and prominent Pan - Africanist of the UNIA – ACL from the trumped up wire fraud charges of the Afriphobic approach to Law Enforcement.
* This Statement calls on the US government to make amends by using reparatory resources to build libraries to educate the World, especially Afrikan peoples about Garvey’s philosophy of self-reliance and economic sovereignty.
* This Statement highlights the Conference Resolution on Political Prisoners demanding the unconditional and immediate release of all Afrikan Political Prisoners including Mumia Abu Jamal, Mutulu Shakur, Sundiata Acoli, Leonard Peltier. Our solidarity with all political prisoners leads us to demand the release of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab, unjustly imprisoned in the United States.
* This Statement reiterates Conference support for the Resolution on the Freedom from Colonial Domination of the People of Bonaire, Cayenne (Guyane), Guadaloupe and Martinique, and all Afrikan people seeking liberation and independence.
* This Statement recognises the interconnections of the struggles of the oppressed and exploited peoples of the world and the necessity to defend the right of all peoples to self-determination, and, therefore, calls for an end to all illegal western sanctions against countries of the global south, which constitute a form of economic warfare on those countries and their Afrikan populations, especially Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua and the nine countries on the Afrikan continent that have been specifically targeted: Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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