



## END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM AIDO PRESIDENT

*The Year 2022 And AIDO's Exponential Outreach Expansion*

Happy New Year and fraternal global greetings as we enter 2023!

The entire AIDO Leadership and I, wish to express our appreciation across the AIDO Network for the relentless efforts and hard work by all country chapters to create the Africa we aspire to bring about. We experienced renewed energy after the timid resumption of activities in 2022 following the earlier two years of uphill navigation through a cultural world environment under the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Milestones and Achievements of 2022**

**January:** AIDO Network Uganda Chapter officially launched and announced a donation from the US-based Project C.U.R.E. worth US\$350,000 of medical equipment and supplies for Teso.

AIDO Network Uganda received a delegation from Project C.U.R.E. that visited Soroti Regional Referral Hospital and four other health facilities from the surrounding districts for an onsite needs assessment.

Fundraising for shipping and aggregation costs for the medical equipment appeal launched with a \$30,000 target set; \$16,273.87 has so far been realised towards this appeal.

**February:** Consolidation of AIDO/STL Black Woman Missouri collaboration in preparation for the 2022 Annual Royal Summit MOU signed.

**March:** Initiation of discussions with CARICOM Secretariat representatives – exploring areas of mutual interest and cooperation between AIDO and CRC.

**March:** AIDO invites a delegation jointly with CARICOM, DAKA and STL Black Woman representatives to attend the African Traditional and Cultural Leaders' Summit in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa by AKDA.

**March:** Enstoolment of Diaspora Chiefs: Chief Samson Esudu, Chief Eric Phillips (Siphosezulu), Chief Samuel Robinson Rollington (Bhekinzalo), Queen Ameenata Koita (Asale II) and Nana Asamoah Sakyi I (Queen Lindiwe Asianut II) in South Africa.

**May:** AIDO directs DAKA President Prof. Chief Gershon William Ongaria to travel on a fact-finding mission to Missouri, America.

**June:** Roots of Africa weekly series facilitates a joint AIDO/CARICOM and African Royals interviews on the 2022 Annual Royal preparation of Africa and her diaspora in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America.

**July:** AIDO is invited by two CARICOM member states – Antigua & Barbuda and Guyana to attend the national emancipation commemoration events.

**July:** AIDO highest level delegation led by AIDO president HH Papa Ateker Eganda and HH Papa Emorimor Sande Emolot joined by HRM Queen Cynthia Khumalo Mzilikazi and HRM Queen Ameenata of DAKA, Princess Tshepi Motloun, Princess Lindiwe, Mr David Emoot and Lady Mpho Dindi of AIDO South Africa were part of the Guyana Delegation.

AIDO delegation was received well and met several stakeholders including the Head of State of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, His Excellency President Muhammed Irfan Ali, the First Lady, Prime Minister and Cabinet members.

The Deputy Secretary General of CARICOM, Dr Armstrong Alexis welcomed the AIDO delegation at CARICOM Secretariat. The delegation was able to meet the Guyana Reparation Committee leaders, the Opposition party leaders and MPs. The AIDO delegation also met the business community, several civil society groups including ACDA and visits were also made to villages of historical significance in Guyana.

The royal visit also saw the creation of the Caribbean chieftaincy and the Royal Enstoolment of Queen Asianut II (Dr Hilary Brown), Princess Africa (Aisha Jean Baptiste), Princess Apadet (Shebakie Fernandes), Chief Siphosezulu (Eric Phillips), Chief Uhuru (Dr David Hinds), Chief Toori (Muhammed Odinga), Chief Bhekinzalo (Mr Rollingstone Robinson), Chief Enoka (Mr Andrew Williams Jr), Queen Mother, Toto Akisa (Ms Yvette Herod), Queen Mother Atiang (Catherine Henrietta Penda Guyan), Chiefess Amuron (Karlina Prakash-Phillips), Queen Mother Esther Gittens and Chief Samson Esudu who is also the AIDO Ambassador in the Caribbeans.

AIDO's Vice President, HE Namboka travelled to Antigua & Barbuda and represented AIDO as logistical complications prevented HM King Robinson Tanyi, African Indigenous Governance Council (AIGC) and HRH Princess Nikiwe Bam from attending.

**July:** AIDO terminated its MOU with STL Black Woman after the latter failed to meet terms agreed upon in the MOU and dropped Saint Louis City, Missouri, as the venue for the 2022 AIDO Annual Convention.

**July:** Following fast-tracked negotiations with the NUMI Kingdom, AIDO signed an MOU with the Kingdom for the hosting of 2022 Grand Royal Summit and Annual Convention in the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

**August:** AIDO's historic Human Rights Declaration was finally signed on August 26, 2022 during AIDO 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Grand Royal Summit in the City of Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

The summit in Atlanta brought together some of the most world-renowned intellectuals of African descent and famous human rights educators/promoters. Consequently, during the summit, African Kings and Queens after their symposium signed a solemn declaration committing themselves to adhere to all the human rights enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948.

All the participants were invited to sign the declaration as they also unanimously acknowledged the relevance of the authentic Kurukan Fuga (Manden Charter) promulgated by Emperor Sundiata Keita of the Mali Empire on human rights.

**August:** Royal Enstoolments of; the Paramount Chief of Global Africa HRH Papa Osikol II (Professor Sir Hilary Beckles), Chief Ongaria (Prof. Gershon Williams), HRH. Queen Ameenata Asaleh II, Sarauniya (Queen) Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Chief Odeke (Mr Bob Johnson), Queen Mother Atiang II (Ms Laleta Davis Mattis), Chief Opolot (Mr. Dorbrene O'marde) and Queen Uhuru Wingi (Kimberlene Lanier), who is currently AIDO's Ambassador in the states of Georgia and Texas.

**August:** - AIDO receives a Proclamation from Atlanta City Council and Fulton County authorities in recognition of AIDO's work in promoting African culture and Human Rights.

**October:** Diaspora Royal Kingdoms (DRK) is born.

**November:** - A **Honorary Fellow** of the Institute of Information Management (FIIM) is conferred to His Highness Paul Jones Eganda in recognition of his good work, remarkable achievements and exemplary leadership in the society. (London).

**November:** AIDO management held their annual fundraising Gala Dinner at the Hilton Hotel London, UK within the spirit of Ubuntu in support of AIDO's programmes. Funds raised were intended to support AIDO's human rights campaign, as well as supporting the medical equipment to Soroti Regional Referral Hospital in Teso, Uganda.

**November:** Following the obtention of valuable information provided by Africa's diaspora about their conditions, the continuing discrimination they are still subjected to and their being denied equality as well as basic human rights in many aspects of their lives, AIDO undertook to convey the message to political, and spiritual leaders as well as civil society opinion leaders on the continent to appreciate for themselves. An important subject raised during the Grand Royal Summit was the issue of restorative justice which is also referred to as "reparations". The capture of millions of Africans, the death of so many millions of them during the raids on the continent, during their trans-Atlantic shipment as cargo to the Americas, enslavement and dehumanising exploitation of the survivors over 500 years left descendants in conditions of such grave psychological, physical, mental and material deprivation to which descendants of Africa must unitedly draw the attention of the nations which committed the crimes cited above. Africans of the historical diaspora urge nations on the continent to hear their voice and to help by engaging former colonial powers to recognise the pertinence of the demands. AIDO heard the message and offered to seek and encourage dialogue between the two sides.

**December:** AIDO attends the United Nations Human Rights Day in London and presented the Atlanta Human Rights Declaration.

### **AIDO's Future work plan 2023**

AIDO's highest priority being to be the voice of the voiceless in regard to universally recognised human rights, all future efforts will be devoted to seeking non-political ways and means to enable all concerned parties accept to dialogue, i.e. listen to one another with a view to addressing wrongs committed by preceding generations in the interest of bringing about peace, social-economic amelioration of victim societies resulting in respect and equality for all human beings.

Cognisant of the current but soon-to-expire United Nations Decade for People of African Descent programmes, AIDO will devote much of its resources to advocating for justice, recognition and development in favour of all people who are historically disadvantaged in one way or another. Advocacy as well as education of human rights will be central because nations and the people who live in them will not see peace, justice, security or development without adherence to human rights.

AIDO's grand event for 2023 is its Annual Convention scheduled to take place in Mombasa, Kenya from May 24 to 29, 2023. Civil society will constitute the bulk of participants but given the importance the United Nations gives to NGO contributions, AIDO closely follows the United Nations country team in Kenya as we work out the strategy to align our conference objectives to the country's UNCT priorities. AIDO seeks to understand Kenyans' and all Africans' deepest concerns regarding justice, peace recognition, non-discrimination and cultural traditional values.

AIDO fully acknowledges the invaluable role traditional rulers in their societies are capable of playing when appropriately supported, guided and enabled. For this to happen, AIDO will simultaneously offer expertise to national state actors, traditional leaders and opinion leaders in civil society. This will consist of respectfully engaging interlocutors in information exchange on matters affecting citizens in their daily lives. An example of these is the sensitive issue of subjecting girl-children to genital mutilation or forced/early marriage. As a culturally focused NGO, while advocating for the preservation of the positive values and practices, AIDO will determinedly use its good working relations with traditional leaders to help discourage/do away with harmful practices. It is in this approach that AIDO trusts governments and United Nations Country Teams will support our efforts.

With the above envisioned work plan for 2023, AIDO decided in 2022 to create a specific committee to do fundraising work. The past four-year experience has shown that funds are just as crucial as pertinent ideas. Part of the reasons for aligning AIDO's work plan and its implementation approach with states or United Nations policies is the hope that AIDO complements what national governments and United Nations agencies want to do for the people.

Ultimately, for the year 2023, AIDO will associate ourselves with the African Union and most individual African nations in their solidarity which views the Caribbean countries as part of Africa, and therefore the 6<sup>th</sup> region of the continental organisation. In this regard AIDO, with the strong cultural and human rights focus will promote respect for shared values, language

and whenever possible indicate areas of possible “south-south” economic, social and cultural cooperation domains.

The potential intellectual contribution by the increasing Africa’s historical diaspora is largely untapped. It is perfectly feasible to build on the foundation laid by the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent – particularly while it lasts to launch this area of educational cooperation. The University of West Indies will most probably welcome it if AIDO offered to link some of their research work with that going on in some universities on the African continent.

AIDO will continue its relentless efforts to maintain the positive relations already established with governments on the African Continent and in the Americas in the year 2023.

On behalf of AIDO Board of Directors, Advisory Board, the Secretariat, Chapter Directors, AIDO Ambassadors, and Management teams, I would like to wish each of you a very prosperous New Year 2023.

Yours Faithfully ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

His Highness Paul Jones Eganda  
**Founder and President, AIDO Network International**  
31/12/2022