

BROCHURE  
2023

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***Rethinking African Presence  
in the World and Contribution  
to Humanity***



**FROSPECTIVES**

A Global Africa Initiative

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# RATIONALE

AFROSPECTIVES is the result of a series of consultations and exchanges between scholars, thinkers, creators and practitioners from Africa and African diaspora during the drafting of the three last volumes of the prestigious collection of the General History of Africa and the development of pedagogical contents based on this historical rewriting for African schools.

AFROSPECTIVES also builds on the advances of research and combat to break the silence on the global system of slave trade and slavery and document the significant contributions of people of African descent to the cultural, intellectual, political and scientific development of modern world.

Finally, AFROSPECTIVES is part of the critical reflection on the different dimensions of coloniality engaged by thinkers in South America, Africa, Asia and in the West who have developed new concepts and paradigms to reconceptualize the very notion of humanity, universalism, nature, cultural heritage, human rights, development and well being.

AFROSPECTIVES is a Think tank, which aims at addressing the global crisis of dominant models and of the grand narratives elaborated since the 16th century to justify slavery, colonization and contemporary geopolitical dominations.

It responds to the objectives and action plan the activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) adopted by the United Nations, which provides an opportune and operational framework to address historical legacies and demands for reparatory justice.

AFROSPECTIVES relies on a new operational concept to override the divisive dichotomies imposed during slavery and colonization between African different regions and between the continent and its diasporas across the world. The concept of Global Africa emerged from a critical rethinking of African presence in the world since the origin of humanity to present time to revisit the universal experience and endogenous knowledge and practices developed by people of African descent to resist dehumanization, sustain their culture and defend their worldviews against all odds. The concept of "Global Africa" highlights the transversal cultural continuum and the different circulations within the Afro-diasporic spaces (circulation of people, ideas, spiritualities, technologies, know-how, etc..) and proposes a dynamic mapping of African contributions to diverse forms of modernity.

The concept of Global Africa provides the grounding for the development of a new approach on Pan-Africanism that could help re-mobilize African and Afro-descendant Youth and serve as conceptual foundation for the African Renaissance.



Moving beyond the victimization and the usual self-defending posture in which we exhaust ourselves in vain arguments against others' prejudices on our Africanness or capacities, AFROSPECTIVES intends to mobilize continental and diasporic intelligence to actively contribute to the rethinking of the important issues of our time and of the future of humanity.

AFROSPECTIVES is therefore a Global Africa initiative led by researchers, creators and professionals from different backgrounds, selected on the basis of their experience and expertise, their intellectual or creative productions and their willingness to contribute to the renewal of knowledge about Africa and its diasporas. Intellectual independence, rigorous research approaches and freedom of expression in exchanges are at the foundations of this Think Tank, which is not affiliated with any political, economic or other interest group or school of thought.

AFROSPECTIVES aims at participating in the global effort of reconceptualization to define endogenous concepts and paradigms capable of reflecting the plurality of worldviews and building a true "pluriversality".

The originality of this initiative is its efforts to learn to think collectively in order to overcome personalization of ideas and other egocentric temptations and facilitate a collective appropriation of the results of the reflection and of its translation into policy papers for Global Africa' communities in general and their decision-makers in particular.



# OUR OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of AFROSPECTIVES are to:

- 01** | Offer a forum for exchange, and reflection to reinforce dialogue between scholars, creators, inventors, professionals and decision makers on the one hand and between the African Continent and its Diasporas on the other hand;
- 02** | Initiate research and debate revisiting and revalorizing endogenous knowledge, know-how, and practices that could contribute to the development of alternative responses to current global crisis;
- 03** | Produce strategic analyses and policy papers on major regional and global challenges for African and Afro-descendant decision-makers, notably for those of the African Union, CARICOM and of other regional Organisations;
- 04** | Promote relevant experiments and alternative solutions on global and local issues informed by the historical experiences and wisdom developed successful experiences and innovative alternative solutions for the Global Africa that can effectively bring about social transformations;
- 05** | Advise and support efforts of Global Africa to renew the conceptual frameworks, the content of education and the narratives on history, cultural heritage, universalism, social justice and development in view of providing alternative perspectives.



# **ACTION**

The following activities will be undertaken at the initial stage:

- 01|** Organization of different kinds of encounters (colloquium, forum, workshop, conference, Web debate, etc) bringing together African and Afro-descendant scholars, thinkers and creators around specific themes to share expertise, search for alternative solutions, and agree on conclusions.
- 02|** Publication of strategic analyses and policy papers on specific topics requiring collective approach and action for African and Afro-descendants communities and their decision-makers.
- 03|** Organization of information sessions and training workshops for professionals and decision-makers on the development of African perspectives about continental and global stakes.
- 04|** Realization of focused research and studies for African partners on specific topics to inform their policy formulation;
- 05|** Publish and dissemination, through AFROSPPECTIVES publication series and dedicated internet platform, of the findings of the research and exchanges on the selected topics



## **PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnership will be established with the African Union, CARICOM and other regional organizations of Global Africa as well as with governments looking for independent analyses from an Afro-diasporic perspectives on important issues and stakes.

The Think Tank will also build partnership and synergy with existing research networks and fora of exchange (Research institutes, Think Tank, Foundations).

Partnership will be established with medias (standard and electronic) to ensure a wider distribution of the studies, analyses, and policy papers produced by AFROSPECTIVES.



## STAY IN TOUCH

 [WWW.AFROSPECTIVES.COM](http://WWW.AFROSPECTIVES.COM)

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