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APARC Communiqué: Summer 2006

Boston University African Presidential Center

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Boston University
The fourth summit of former African heads of state convened on April 19-21, 2006 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Like the first three summits, an important objective was to provide a sustainable, credible forum for former democratically elected African heads of state to meet and address issues that impact U.S.-Africa relations. This event was organized by the African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC) at Boston University in collaboration with the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

“One aim of the initiative is to provide former leaders, who constitutionally retired from the presidency as required by democratic rule, with a platform to discuss issues pertaining to Africa, to share and reflect on their experiences during their term of office with the continent and upcoming leaders on issues of economic and political governance” said David Monyae, Professor of International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand.

This was the second African Presidential Roundtable held in Africa, reinforcing several of APARC’s objectives, including affirming Africa as a site for prestigious international forums and facilitating visits by prominent international business, academic, public and private sector leaders to Africa. The Republic of South Africa was a natural fit for the Roundtable 2006 African host-country because it is an internationally recognized leader in Africa’s movement toward democracy, development, free market reform, and good governance. South Africa is also an information, transportation, communication, education, and finance hub for the continent.


The distinguished former heads of state who attended the Roundtable 2006 were joined by over two hundred participants and ninety students and faculty members representing six universities as part of APARC’s American – African Universities Collaborative (AAU): the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa; the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania; the University of Ghana at Legon; Morehouse College in Atlanta; and Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina. In addition, student fellows from Talladega College in Alabama, Medgar Evers College in New York, and Philadelphia University attended the summit under the sponsorship of Macy’s Department Stores.

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The Roundtable 2006 was composed of three sessions with the goal of identifying strategies that foster a stronger economic relationship between African nation states and the United States and Europe.

Session I, *Africa’s Image in the American Media*, focused on a research project entitled “A Survey of American Media Coverage of African Democracies: 1994 – 2004” undertaken by APARC to explore media coverage of Africa in the Western world. The survey catalogues and characterizes coverage of African democracies by select major American media outlets. It is indicative of the continuing challenges faced by African democracies to receive fair and balanced coverage in the American press. The data – based upon both quantitative and qualitative analysis – points to a decidedly negative bias in news coverage of African democracies. Present coverage does not accurately or completely reflect current trends and developments toward democratization and free market reform on the continent.


These publications were selected because they are national in scope (*USA Today*, *US News*). In addition, they influence news coverage nationwide, and are considered sources of record for large readerships (*Times*) and strategic constituencies like the U.S. federal government and policy makers (*Post*), or corporate executives and market investors (*Journal*). All have significant Africa reporting capacity via foreign bureaus and/or correspondents.
Session I discussions were lead by Ambassador Charles R. Stith, Director of APARC, followed by comments from Ms. Phylicia Rashad, star of The Bill Cosby Show, and Ms. Charlayne Hunter-Gault, former CNN Johannesburg Bureau Chief.

Session II, Engaging the Diaspora in Africa’s Development, centered on the investment potential of the African Diaspora in Africa’s future development. Discussants included The Honorable Dr. Ewart Frederick Brown, Deputy Premier and Minister of Tourism and Transportation of Bermuda; Ambassador Patrick R. D. Hayford, director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations; and Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh, Senior Associate for Africa and Regional Director for Central and West Africa at the National Democratic Institute.

Deliberations concluded with Session III, Facilitating Private Capital Flows to Africa, with a presentation from Mr. Ronald Gault, former Managing Director, JP Morgan, Johannesburg. Among the over eighty participants who contributed to the Roundtable 2006, were Ambassador Peter R. Chaveas, Deputy Director and Diplomatic Advisor, Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University; Mr. Milton Nkosi, BBC News Bureau Chief, Africa; and Mr. Paul Edwards, Executive Chairman of Chartwell Capital Group. The foci of the Roundtable were best summarized by Ambassador Stith; “Improving Africa’s ‘brand’ and engaging the African Diaspora in Africa’s development are critical to increasing private capital flows to the continent.”

The Roundtable 2006 concluded with a historic Public Forum held at the University of the Witwatersrand’s Great Hall. The forum engaged the Wits student body and faculty, as well as the general Johannesburg public in a debate with the panel of former heads of state. The Great Hall was filled to maximum capacity, attracting approximately 1,000 people. An engaging Q&A session followed the forum, illuminating different perspectives on African issues from corruption to succession. These Leaders and Legends of the past shared their experiences and outlooks with those of the future. They took note of the ideas and concerns of the students, addressing them as the next generation of leaders and policy makers.
This year’s Roundtable deliberations have been particularly productive in terms of our two primary areas of focus – a discussion about Africa’s image in the American media and engaging the Diaspora in Africa’s development. Both matters have profound implications for Africa’s continued growth and development.

Our deliberations started with a discussion of Africa’s image in the America media. This has profound relevance to everything from the world seeing Africa as a worthy investment venue and valuable trading partner to tourism.

Award winning actress Phylicia Rashad, of Cosby Show fame and veteran journalist Charlayne Hunter Gault stimulated provocative and probing questions on these issues.

In summary, if Africa’s image is going to change it will require both the institutional capacity for Africa to “tell its story” and the individual savvy of African leadership on the continent to engage media in a constructive dialogue regarding trends and developments in their respective countries. Further strategies included:

- African countries, and institutions like the African Union, need to develop a set of strategies to counter the negative media portrayal of Africa. Included among the initiatives that should be considered are (i) developing alternative mediums through which to tell Africa’s story, (ii) developing a multi-media campaign to counter Africa’s negative image in the Western press, and (iii) developing a strategy for engaging major media outlets, like those identified in the survey we reviewed, in order to encourage more fair and balanced coverage of the continent.
- A plan should be devised to encourage more American NGOs and non-commercial media forums to create new paradigms for training Western and African journalists covering emerging African democracies.
- A strategy must be developed to encourage leading American schools of journalism and journalism organizations to develop specific tracks for covering emerging economies and developing democracies, particularly in Africa.

We raise this concern about how Africa is covered not because we don’t appreciate the need for a critical and skeptical press as a guarantor of democracy. Our complaint is that skeptical and critical coverage does not have to be cynical. Our point is simple, tell Africa’s whole story.

The problems in African countries deserve to be brought under the spotlight of public scrutiny; but the continent’s progress and potential also deserve attention.

Our second focus was the importance of engaging Africa’s Diaspora in Africa’s development. Our discussions on this issue were prompted by Bermuda Deputy Premier Dr. Ewart Brown, Dr. Chris Fomunyoh from NDI, and UN Special Advisor on Africa Ambassador Patrick Hayford.

The “bottom-line” on why the Diaspora needs to be engaged is rather straightforward. There are 750 billion reasons why African leaders need a strategic plan for cultivating relationships with the Diaspora. Seven hundred and fifty billion dollars is the annual aggregate income of African Americans. That economic potential needs to be harnessed for Africa’s development and to create expanded economic opportunities for African people world-wide.

Beyond the economic incentive, the skills shortage under which the continent labors can be reversed by tapping the talent in the Diaspora. There are 200,000 African scientists in the United States (which is more than we have on the entire continent.) There are 40,000 African Ph.D.’s living outside the continent. It is important to do more than lay out a welcome mat to encourage our brothers and sisters to come back home. We must develop strategies to recruit and encourage them, and demonstrate that we are serious about their return.

The strategies for doing so start with African leaders leading the way in building a bridge to the Diaspora. The time for talk and romanticizing the necessity for coming together is past. The time for action is now!

We intend to make a greater effort as African leaders to engage our brothers and sisters throughout Diaspora; and we will encourage our successors to do the same.

African leaders must give higher priority to cultivating a connection. We must give high priority to meeting with business people in the Diaspora as well as engaging cultural, social, political, and fraternal organizations and educational institutions.

Two of the most dynamic economies in the world today are India and China. In both cases, the capacities and capital of their people in their Diasporas are critical factors in driving their growth. Africa would do well to follow that example.

Our Roundtable discussions were enormously productive. But, in the end, talk alone will not make a difference. We are committed to doing our part; and we hope that the public and private sector leaders who joined us in these deliberations will be inspired to do their part as well.
(Boston) – United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has praised BU’s African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC) for encouraging developing democracies on the African continent.

APARC Director Charles Stith, a former U.S. ambassador to Tanzania, briefed Annan upon returning from APARC’s annual African Presidential Roundtable in Johannesburg, South Africa, which was attended last month by 10 African former presidents.

“I very much appreciate your willingness to come to New York to brief me,” Annan wrote to Stith. “Hopefully, the focus of the deliberations will yield some strategic responses to the urgent challenges of peace, security and development facing Africa.”

Annan said that beyond the Roundtable, “APARC’s mission to chronicle contemporary trends and developments in Africa by engaging former African heads of state is a unique and important contribution to encouraging democratization on the continent. I commend Boston University and you for this exemplary initiative.”

Stith founded APARC in 2000 to complement BU’s African Studies program — one of the nation’s oldest, established in 1953. It organizes forums regarding Africa’s global relationships, and hosts a residency program for African former heads of state.

“I accept the Secretary General’s words as a compliment to our work in developing APARC,” said Stith, “and as a testament to the legacy of excellence in African studies at Boston University.”

Founded in 1839, Boston University is the fourth largest independent university in the United States, with more than 30,000 students in its 17 colleges and schools. BU has established an international reputation for excellence in teaching and conducting research on Africa, and has built and maintained broad collaborations with institutions in Africa.
THE AFRICAN PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE 2006: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
The African Presidential Roundtable 2006 Opening Reception
Hosted by U.S. Consul General Steven P. Coffman
Opening Remarks: His Excellency Daniel arap Moi
Former President, the Republic of Kenya
Residence of Consul General Steven P. Coffman

Thursday, April 20, 2006

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Registration & Continental Breakfast
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
The Historic Wits Club, West Campus, University of the
Witwatersrand, Yale Road, Braamfontein

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
SESSION I: AFRICA’S IMAGE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA
Welcome: His Excellency Sir Q. Ketumile J. Masire
Former President of the Republic of Botswana
Moderator: His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa
Former President of the Republic of Tanzania
Discussants:
Ambassador Charles R. Stith, Director of the African Presidential Archives and
Research Center, and Former U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania
Ms. Phylicia Rashad, Actress
Ms. Charlayne Hunter-Gault, former CNN Bureau Chief

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
Working Lunch

1:15 PM - 3:30 PM
SESSION II: ENGAGING THE DIASPORA IN AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT
Moderator: His Excellency Dr. Kenneth Kaunda
Former President of the Republic of Zambia
Discussants:
Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh, Senior Associate for Africa; Regional Director for Central
and West Africa, National Democratic Institute
The Honorable Dr. Ewart Frederick Brown, Deputy Premier, Minister of Tourism
and Transportation, Bermuda
Ambassador Patrick R.D. Hayford, Director of the Office of the Special Adviser
on Africa, United Nations

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Reception
Hosted by Professor Loyiso Nongxa, Vice Chancellor & Principal, University of the
Witwatersrand
Remarks: His Excellency Karl Auguste Offmann
Former President of the Republic of Mauritius

8:00 PM
Private Dinner
Hosted by Professor Loyiso Nongxa
Remarks: His Excellency Karl Auguste Offmann
Former President of the Republic of Mauritius
THE AFRICAN PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE 2006: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 21, 2006 Johannesburg

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  Continental Breakfast
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
The Historic Wits Club, West Campus, University of the
Witwatersrand, Yale Road, Braamfontein

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM  SESSION III: FACILITATING PRIVATE CAPITAL FLOWS TO AFRICA
Moderator: His Excellency Nicephore D. Soglo,
Former President of the Republic of Benin
Discussant:
Mr. Ronald Gault, Former Managing Director, JP Morgan, Johannesburg

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM  African Presidential Roundtable 2006 Press Conference
Moderator: Mr. Milton Nkosi, BBC News Bureau Chief, Africa
Introductory Remarks: His Excellency Aristides Maria Pereira
Former President of the Republic of Cape Verde

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM  Working Lunch

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM  African Presidential Roundtable 2006 Public Forum
Closing Remarks: His Excellency Ali Hassan Mwinyi
Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Saturday, April 22, 2006 Johannesburg

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  African Presidential Roundtable 2006 Breakfast
Hosted by Donald G. Teitelbaum, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of the United States of
America in Pretoria

Their Excellencies Buyoya, Soglo, Pereira, Kaunda, and Mkapa at
the opening session of the African Presidential Roundtable 2006

H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa addressing the topic of Facilitating
Private Capital Flows to Africa during Session III
**HIS EXCELLENCY NICÉPHORE D. SOGLO, REPUBLIC OF BENIN**, served as President from 1991 to 1996. He served as the Prime Minister, Chief of Government and Minister of Defense of the transitional Government of the Republic of Benin. He also served as Deputy Executive Director for the Board of Directors of the World Bank representing 24 African States from 1979 to 1982. Following his presidency, President Soglo took a year’s sabbatical and wrote *Democratic Change and Economic Reforms in Africa: The Case of Benin*.

**HIS EXCELLENCY SIR Q. KETUMILE J. MASIRE, REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**, co-founded the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and served as President from 1980 to 1998. During his tenure, he was Chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and now co-chairs the Global Coalition for Africa. He was knighted in 1991. President Masire was the fourth Balfour African President-in-Residence at Boston University’s African Presidential Archives and Research Center.

**HIS EXCELLENCY PIERRE BUYOYA, REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**, served two terms as president of Burundi, the first from 1987-1993 and the second from 1996-2003. In the interim between his presidential terms, he created and served as head of the Foundation for Unity, Peace, and Democracy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to studying the institutional, judicial, and security systems of Burundi and issues related to peace and reconciliation in Burundi. He was recently appointed visiting senior fellow at the Watson Institute of Brown University.

**HIS EXCELLENCY ARISTIDES MARIA PEREIRA, REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE.** The first President of the Republic of Cape Verde, Mr. Pereira played an important role in the building of the state of Cape Verde. During his three terms in office, Cape Verde was instrumental in several peace processes in Africa, mainly in Southern Africa. He played an important role in the negotiations between South Africa and Angola and between the ANC and the regime of Apartheid. He was among the first leaders in Africa who stepped down peacefully from politics when he lost a fair and transparent election in 1991.

**HIS EXCELLENCY FLIGHT LIEUTENANT JERRY J. RAWLINGS, REPUBLIC OF GHANA**, directed the destiny of Ghana for nearly twenty years. He was the first elected President of Ghana in the 1992 Presidential elections and was re-elected in December 1996. Throughout his presidency he retained his rank as Flight Lieutenant in the Ghanaian Armed Forces.
HIS EXCELLENCY DANIEL ARAP MOI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA, became President following the death of His Excellency Jomo Kenyatta on 22nd August 1978. Moi served as Chairman of the Organization of African Union (OAU) for two consecutive terms. He has also been involved in mediation of various conflicts in Uganda, the Congo, Somalia, Chad, Sudan, Mozambique, Eritrea/Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi, among others. On 30th December 2002, Moi handed over the reigns of power to Mwai (mwhy-ee) Kibaki in a peaceful transition. Currently, he runs the Moi Africa Institute which addresses conflict resolution and management, AIDS, poverty, and disease eradication in Africa.


HIS EXCELLENCY ALI HASSAN MWINYI, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, was the first elected president of Tanzania in a multi-party system in November 1985 and was reelected to another five-year term in 1990. He initiated Tanzania’s political transition to a multiparty state. Under the terms of Tanzania’s constitution, Mwinyi was barred from seeking a third term and completed his presidency in 1995 following Tanzania’s first multiparty elections.

HIS EXCELLENCY BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, was born in 1938 in Masasi, in the Mtwara region of the country. He received his primary and secondary education in Tanzania, and continued his studies at Makerere University College in Uganda, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in English (with honours) in 1962. President Mkapa’s career began in local administration in Dodoma where he was appointed District Officer in 1962. He served as High Commissioner to Canada and between 1983 and 1984 as Ambassador to the United States of America. In 1992, he served as Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, prior to being elected President in 1995, and Chairman of his Party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, in 1996. He was re-elected President in 2000 for another 5 year term.

HIS EXCELLENCY KENNETH DAVID KAUNDA, REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, led Zambia to independence and served as the first President of the Republic of Zambia from 1964 to 1991. In addition to his efforts in Zambia, Dr. Kaunda was in the forefront of the efforts to liberate all of Africa, serving as the President of the Pan African Freedom Movement for East, Central and Southern Africa (Pafmesca) in 1962 and as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) from 1970 to 1973. President Kaunda was the first Lloyd G. Balfour African President-in-Residence at Boston University’s African Presidential Archives and Research Center.
I listened well at this session last year (as I have been listening throughout the eight years that I have lived on the continent) to African leaders, African journalists, and African people talking about taking control and ownership of their own stories. I have had the good fortune of having been exposed to leaders like yourselves, leaders who are not present, leaders of civil society, journalists on the continent, all of whom have helped me find my own voice in covering Africa. Therefore, I would like to think that some of us are exceptions to the general rule of reporting what I call “The Four D’s” of the African Apocalypse—death, disease, disaster, and despair. There is plenty of that to go around.

I think that I would be remiss this morning if I did not say that there is also far too much repression of journalists who, like the leaders on this continent, are trying to take control of their own story.

Earlier, Ambassador Charles Stith talked about this uneasy relationship between the media and government, or the media and leaders, but generally that is true no matter whether you are in a developing country, or in one like the U.S. I am sure most of you saw on television that Scott McEllan had just resigned as the President’s Press Secretary. I am sure he will be writing a book, about his relationship with media (it is not necessarily ever and always an agonistic relationship) but, it is and should be an uneasy one, because journalists, the media, even the state media journalists are not there to be cheerleaders for the government. They are there to reflect what is going in the government and to inform the people about what is going on, and sometimes what is going on. (I am sure your Excellencies, would agree – sometimes what is going on is not always cool.) So, it is important to have an independent organization to report on things that are not cool and to report on things that are cool.

I think that it is very important, as I have tried to point out in my forthcoming book to give a balanced view of what is happening on this continent and at this moment in time. My book is not a definitive study because I am not like David Moyoae, and some of the others here. I am not an expert. I am just a simple journalist who reflects what I see and what people tell me. And, what I see is a moment in time that is critical to this continent’s development, and perhaps future.

I sense a second wind that is blowing across this continent that is heralding the most dramatic changes on the continent since the end of colonialism. Most American don’t know about this. The newspapers you mentioned in the study have not covered it. (I am sorry you did not also do a study on television, but that would have been totally negative.) This development on the continent is not known by the American people, with the exception of the professors and these very sharp young students here. The average American does not have an idea of what NEPAD is, what the peer review mechanism is about, or the Pan-African Parliament. None of these dramatic developments on the continent are known to the vast majority of America, and possibly even Africans. While I think these have not yet demonstrated Africa’s potential; they certainly hold out the potential of one of the most dramatic developments in the history of this continent. This is what I have tried to capture in my book. I have included the story of AIDS. I have included some of the stories of corruption. I have included some of the stories of repression of the media that take place totally without any rhyme or reason. But, I have also included the struggles of the people who have worked without any compensation or acknowledgement, in trying to help their neighbors make up for the kinds of deficits that AIDS is creating and the civil societies that are working with government to try to strengthen institutions. So with every negative out there, if you look hard enough, and if you talk to the people and if you have good communication (which is critical between the media and government), if you have good two-way communication, you could achieve that balance that each of you have so often talked about when you criticize the media. I do not think that any of you are asking us to be cheerleaders. What I heard you say last year, and what I know you will say again this year, is that you simply want fairness and balance in reporting.

And so finally, if there is one thing I would like you to keep in mind, about the relationship between the media and government—it is that it is a two way street. I was just in Addis (Abba) speaking with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, as you know, he is having a few problems with journalists in his country. We talked very honestly and openly about some of the challenges that both sides face. What the Prime Minister acknowledges is that the relationship in Ethiopia right now between the media and the journalists is as he said, “Poisonous”. “But,” he said, “it does not have to be.” He also acknowledges that one of the best antidotes to that poison (I am sorry, this is going to be a mixed metaphor), but it is two-way street. You have to have communication. You have to figure out a method and mechanism by which you communicate with the communicators.
isappointed, dismayed, and disgusted with images of African- American people that were being presented in the media, Bill Cosby set out to make a change. He brought the best of everything he knew of literature, music, human behavior and patterns in society, to form a show about a family, an African- American family whose appeal was so universal that it attracted the attention and admiration of people the world over. He told his own story, without compromise. The result attests to the importance and power of imaging in the media.

Thirteen years after the final taping, people are still watching and learning many things from episodes of THE COSBY SHOW. Perceptions of who African-American people are, what African-American people think, and how African-American people live are changed, but more important I think, is the way young African-American people began to perceive themselves.

I have received countless letters from young African-Americans stating that they were going to law school, were in law school, had graduated from law school because of what they saw on THE COSBY SHOW. And, it doesn’t stop there.

I have encountered young people who are pursuing careers in various fields such as communications, education, design, and medicine, to name just a few, and they attribute their interest and success to what they saw on THE COSBY SHOW. In fact, here in South Africa, a number of students have approached me to say that they were pursuing higher education because of the work we were able to do. Some years ago, renowned director, choreographer, and designer, Geoffrey Holder, said to me, “Phylicia, you must tell your own story because if you don’t tell your story someone else will tell it for you. They won’t tell it correctly. They won’t tell it truthfully.”

SESSION I: AFRICA’S IMAGE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

Discussant: Ms. Phylicia Rashad
Actress

A native of Houston, Texas, Ms. Rashad graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theater from Howard University.

Ms. Rashad most recently appeared in the Lincoln Center Theatre production of Bernarda Alba. Her Broadway credits include Gem of the Ocean, Raisin in the Sun (2004 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play/Drama Desk Award), Blue, Jelly’s Last Jam, Into The Woods, Dreamgirls, The Wiz and Ain’t Supposed To Die A Natural Death. Off Broadway credits include Helen, The Story and Everybody’s Ruby at the NYSF Public Theatre, The Negro Ensemble Company productions of Puppet Play, Zooman and the Sign, Sons and Fathers of Sons, In An Upstate Motel, Weep Not For Me and The Great Mac Daddy, Lincoln Center’s Production of Ed Bullins’ The Duplex and The Sirens at The Manhattan Theatre Club. In regional theater, she performed as Euripides’ Medea and in Blues for an Alabama Sky at The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. Other Regional theaters at which she has performed are The Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. and the Huntington Theatre in Boston.

Known to television audiences for her role as “Claire Huxtable” on The Cosby Show and as “Ruth Lucas” on the CBS sitcom, Cosby, she received the NAAACP Image Award for “Best Actress in a Comedy Series” for both of these roles. She has also been nominated for two Emmy Awards and has received two People’s Choice Awards.

Feature film credits include: Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored, directed by Tim Reid, Free of Eden (opposite Sydney Poitier), Loving Jezebel, directed by Kwye Bader and The Visit, directed by Jordan Walker Pearman.

Television film credits include: The Old Settler (AFI nomination), directed by Debbie Allen, David’s Mother, False Witness, Jailbirds, and Polly-Comin’ Home. Other television appearances include Touched by an Angel, Blossom, and A Different World. Ms. Rashad is also an member of the Broadway Inspirational Voices.

As an active participant in charitable and nonprofit organizations, Phylicia supports the work of the PRASAD Project, an international charitable organization and RNT- Recruiting New Teachers. In addition to supporting these organizations, Ms. Rashad is dedicated to the importance of the Fine Arts in education.

Phylicia has received honorary doctorates from Providence College in Rhode Island, Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Clark University, and Barber-Scotia College and is a recipient of the Harvard University Foundation Award. In 1999 she was the recipient of the Dorothy L. Height Dreamaker Award sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women Inc. in association with Aunt Jemima/The Quaker Oats Company. In December of 2001 Ms. Rashad was honored by the Board of Directors of New York Women in Film and Television with The Muse Award for Outstanding Vision and Achievement.
come to the subject of ‘Engaging the Diaspora in Africa’s Development’ with the humility of knowing that this century-old battle cry has been heralded by icons such as Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, Dr. E.W. Blyden, Marcus Garvey, John Padmore, Martin Luther King Jr., and many of the founding fathers of independent African nation-states—Kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Toure, Julius Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta, and Nelson Mandela, to name a few.

These leaders understood that the only hope for true emancipation of the Africans of the Diaspora lay in the freedom of Africa. The symbiotic struggle for recognition, equal rights and civil rights for people of African descent overseas (or across the Atlantic) and the struggle for independence and an end to the colonial rule gave birth to the powerful concept of pan-Africanism, whose galvanizing effect lives on, despite the gains of the last four decades on both issues for the Diaspora and motherland Africa. I can safely say that the commitment to mother Africa remains very strong among African peoples of what has been referred to as the first wave of the Diaspora—the wave whose forefathers were forcibly uprooted from the motherland in that historic humanitarian tragedy of slavery. We couldn’t be here today under Ambassador Stith’s leadership at the African Presidential Archives and Research Center, if those bonds weren’t that strong.

Deputy Prime Minister Ewart Frederick Brown, from the Caribbean, is here with us today. We wouldn’t have the Leon Sullivan initiative and the African, African-American summits that continue to grow in size and influence. We wouldn’t have had the cultural festivals in Ouidah, Benin, that allowed peoples of African descent to renew their cultural bonding with the continent.

Today, that bonding transcends the political and the cultural, into the economic and private sector development. I realize tomorrow’s panel will delve into the question of capital flows and will certainly enrich our approach to economic relationships between mother Africa and its increasingly powerful Diaspora. Last night, the International Monetary Fund projected that sub-Saharan Africa’s economy will expand 5.3 percent this year, the fastest pace in more than 30 years. What portion of that expansion will be spearheaded by the Diaspora to help enrich and develop the continent?

With regards to the Diaspora of the first wave, I would say that decades and centuries have gone by, battle lines have shifted as the world has evolved, new generations of leaders have emerged on both sides of the Atlantic, but the flame of bonding burns on and only demands to be rekindled and nurtured as frequently as possible, else it fall victim to complacency and a false sense of finished business.
SESSION II: ENGAGING THE DIASPORA IN AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT

Discussant: The Honorable Dr. Ewart Frederick Brown
Deputy Premier, Minister of Tourism and Transportation, Bermuda

Dr. the Hon. Ewart F. Brown was the first appointed Minister of Transport following Bermuda’s General Election of November 1998 when the Progressive Labour Party swept to power. After the General Election in July 2003, he returned to Government as the Minister of Transport and was also appointed Deputy Premier of Bermuda. In July of 2004 following a Cabinet shuffle, Dr. Brown assumed the single Portfolio of The Ministry of Tourism and Transport, when the two Ministries were combined.

His most absorbing interests have been Bermuda Health Care Services Limited of which he is Medical Director, and his constituents in Warwick West. In each of these realms and from one end of Bermuda to the other, he has proven to be a counselor and friend to people across the party lines. He has been particularly supportive of young people wishing to further their education.

He received the Physicians Recognition Award in 1977 from the American Medical Association; the Grassroots Health Award from the Sons of Watts California in 1979; the Dubois Academic Institute’s Community Leadership Award in 1982; the Pacesetter Award from the NAACP in 1984; Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Marcus Garvey School in Los Angeles in 1991; and in 1993, the Scroll Award from the Union of American Physicians and Dentists.

He is a certified Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice, a Diplomat of the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, and Vice President of the Union of American Physicians and Dentists. He was the driving force behind the Bermuda Times newspaper.

Dr. Brown is a member of several professional organizations and has held such significant positions as Trustee of Howard University and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Practice at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; Director, Marcus Garvey School in Los Angeles, California; Vice President of the Union of American Physician and Dentist (California Federation), and Member of the Editorial Board of Feeling Good magazine. He is a Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Western Park Hospital in California and has also served as Director of Quality Assurance for the Los Angeles Doctor’s Hospital; as Student body President of Howard University, Washington D.C.; as Chairman of the Minority Group Affairs of the Student American Medical Association and as a Coordinator of the Summer Health Task Force of the National Urban Coalition in Washington D.C.; as Chairman of the Utilization Review Committee, West Adams Hospital, Los Angeles, California; and as Secretary of the Charles R Drew Medical Society in Los Angeles.

The topic we broach today is one that has taxed great minds for a number of years since the advent of the post-colonial period. Mother Africa has been the subject of more than its share of discussions and panels. The issues of poverty, famine, under-development, and HIV/AIDS have occupied countless hours of analysis.

We noted in last year’s conference that the achievement of what one presenter termed “Millennium Goals” was far behind. As such our topic today is more than timely, it is urgent. The Diaspora spans continents and oceans and joins a potentially disparate people into a cohesive unit. Our challenge is to engage that Diaspora in meaningful dialogue and, more importantly, action. Permit me to share with you the manner in which my government is preparing to convert words into action.

Many of you will be aware of the African Diaspora Heritage Trail, pioneered by my late predecessor the Hon. David Allen. Our efforts since his passing have been aimed at enhancing the Trail as a successful, alluring tourism product for our Island. To this end, we have engaged experts in the field to devise strategies aimed at injecting realism into the visitor’s Bermuda experience with the Trail.

We want to energize our visitor and spur him into awareness of his connection to the Diaspora and stimulate him to action in addressing the issues of Mother Africa.

We seek not only to create a tourism product, but my Ministry is preparing to form the African Diaspora Heritage Trail Foundation. It is a charity registered in Bermuda and incorporated as a company. Through this vehicle the trail will be able to solicit and receive donations from all over the world and it provides for those of our brethren from the United States to so do in compliance with their tax laws.

The creation of this Foundation will provide a real link between the nations of the Diaspora. As the focal point, the donations received will be used to further the aim of the Foundation through the enriching of the Diaspora of which Africa is the heart.

I share this experience and concept with you in the hope that others will return to their countries and do similar things in the way of forging structural links and lasting relations with our brothers and sisters, both throughout the Diaspora and in Africa.

In this era of the Internet and email it is amazing just how little we know. It is not that the information is not available it is more a failure on our part to stress its importance and to continue to hold high the pride of being descendants of Africans. This is precisely why the ADHT Conference is so important in that it provides the opportunity for us in the Diaspora to reconnect with Africa and all of her people.

In whatever way we can, we must continue to educate our people about their history and encourage in them the desire to consistently learn more. An understanding of the history of Africa will do more to yield positive results in the area of development and will genuinely engage the Diaspora in this process.

This method is embraced in the “Peace through Tourism” initiative, which by its very nature evokes images of the settling influence of exposure, cultural interface, and fruitful dialogue between peoples of different lands.

I continue to support these forms of interaction and believe that only through strengthening the ties that bind us will we achieve our goals.

Engaging the Diaspora in Africa’s development must have a meaningful start and this small, but significant, step taken by my government is our pledge to leading the way to making this ideal a reality.
would like to highlight the importance of appropriately identifying the different components of the Diaspora. The Diaspora includes, inter alia, the black communities in North America, in the Caribbean, Central and South America; the community in the UK and other parts of Europe; the large number of African professionals now reside in the USA, Western Europe, and elsewhere who send remittances, establish businesses, and support the development of their countries of origin.

In addition, I must draw attention to the steadily increasing numbers of unskilled African migrants entering western developed countries in desperate search of a better future for themselves. However, it should be noted that a small but growing number of African Americans and West Indians are re-settling in Africa and making their contribution to the continent’s development.

I recall the contributions of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, George Padmore and other pioneers, to African nationalism. In their struggle for independence, Africans were greatly encouraged and inspired by the outstanding achievements of black icons such as, Jesse Owens, Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong. I would also like to highlight the role of the late Reverend Leon Sullivan’s African/African-American Summits, in promoting the engagement of the Diaspora in Africa’s development. In this context, I will note, with appreciation, the current initiatives of African celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey and leading American pastors such as Bishop Charles Blake of Los Angeles, in support of Africa’s development. A great deal of useful work is already taking place.

What is urgently required at the present time, is to intensify, expand and scale up the successful initiatives already under way in terms of the Diaspora’s multi-faceted engagement in Africa’s development. In this regard, I draw attention to important decisions taken by Africa’s leaders in the African Union, inter alia, to recognize the Diaspora as the “6th region” of Africa and to create structures for their active involvement in Africa’s development.

Finally, I would like to inform all those present that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, recognizes the growing significance of international migration, and has planned to convene in mid-September, in New York, a High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. This will be a useful forum within which discussions will take place regarding a number of pertinent issues relating to migration and development, including the role of the Diaspora.
Ronald T. Gault, the former Managing Director of JP Morgan South Africa, opened JP Morgan’s office in Johannesburg in 1994 in the aftermath of the first multi-party, multi-racial, truly democratic elections in South Africa’s history. The topic of the session at which he spoke was “Facilitating Private Capital Flows to Africa.” Mr. Gault is one of the few western bankers in the world with actual experience in facilitating private capital flow to the continent.

Born in Chicago and educated in the Midwest, respectively high school in Chicago, college at Bernell Iowa, and graduate school at the University of Michigan. Mr. Gault worked for the U.S. State Department in the mid-1960’s and shortly thereafter joined the U.S. Justice Department Community Relations Service where he served until 1969. Joining the Ford Foundation in May of 1969, Mr. Gault moved to New York City and served as a Program Officer in the National Affairs Division (of the Ford Foundation) for 10 years. He left the world of philanthropy for Wall Street and the First Boston Corporation (Credit Suisse First Boston) and later joined JP Morgan. Following the demise of the apartheid system in South Africa, JP Morgan asked Mr. Gault to open and head its office in Johannesburg where he served until January of 2006. Retiring from JP Morgan, Mr. Gault has pursued a number of business and board opportunities which bring him regularly to the United States and other parts of the world. Mr. Gault is a permanent resident of South Africa and retains his U.S. citizenship.

Ron Gault’s comments at the Roundtable were directed at to the Presidents and other attendees of the conference in response to this question: “How does Africa get greater access to the world’s capital markets? He focused specifically on the negative perceptions that many lenders and investors have of African countries, and what must be done to address them. Those concerns are largely directed at a list of specifics: political risk, commercial risk, social issues, sound economic planning, and confident financial management.

I am delighted to meet you all and hear about what you think is important, not only for your country, but for the continent regarding the subject of facilitating private capital flows. I believe political leadership is important as well as the perceptions created by Presidents and those that support them. There is no right or wrong way to engage the world’s capital markets but there is an ample amount of skepticism and cynicism that has to be overcome.

Let us start with what my comments will not be. They will not be a dazzling show of statistics and numbers; and, how you fit into those statistics and numbers. I am going to share with you the reflections or the musings, out loud, of a retired J.P. Morgan Managing Director. My comments will be directed at inflows rather than outflows because I think that is the overwhelming concern, especially during your tenure in office.

Who are the critical decision makers on capital flows? Clearly the first critical decision makers are the multinational corporations; the automotive, manufacturing, and banking and financial sectors. These multinationals decide where to spend their money and what to spend their money on. This significantly impacts what you can do in your respective countries. The second critical decision makers are the institutional investors. These are the large insurance companies, and the other capital vessels in the West, which ensure growth and enhancement of financial resources. These dramatically impact the continent. The third critical players are the development financial institutions such as the World Bank. They tell you what they think you need to do to get their money and you tell them what you think you need to do to get their money. These relationships are sometimes hostile, and sometimes not. Often, the two never merge.

One of the keys to Africa’s economic development is competent as opposed to confident financial and fiscal management. Political leaders have to demonstrate their broad understanding of and commitment to a list of universal values that give investors confidence in their leadership.

What are the decision points investors look at? One is political stability. This is the cornerstone of their decisions. If there is a coup around the corner, they will not invest. Money is a dynamic commodity feeding a very greedy machine. Among other things, investors have to stay ahead of inflation. A second consideration is the need to focus on the legal and regulatory frameworks in your country. If people put their money in, they are going to want to be able to take it out. These are important considerations.

The negative perceptions that many business leaders and foreign investors have about Africa is another factor that must be addressed and overcome. Many of them lump all of Africa into one basket—an emerging market—and their business decisions are driven by many considerations associated with that class of investment. In many cases, these considerations are affected by global issues that are beyond the control of individual African countries.

South Africa falls in the emerging markets basket (rightly or wrongly some would argue). Who else is in that basket? China, the Eastern European countries, and South American countries. People in multinational corporations are looking at statistics and data. Often, Africa is not in that decision-making mix. The Far East is the obvious favorite among investors for all the reasons that I mentioned above, and for the low cost of labor.

As I bring my comments to a close, I have laid out those things which are within the realm of possibility for political and government leaders because it is there where you can have the most influence. One such example of what I mean took place in South Africa. South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, at one point early in his tenure, said “I will not be dictated to by muses of the Market”.

This struck people in the financial sector and the markets as absurd. As a result, South Africa’s stock took a nosedive. He then said “this drop in stock is a racist reaction to what I previously said.” South Africa’s stock took another nosedive. Then, his public comments became much more temperate. South Africa’s market regained, and continues to make gains, in value. Now, he has received the top rank in grade.

Political leaders’ comments are absolutely critical to the economic stability of a country. The role that government officials play in this is critical to ensure a positive impact on capital flows. The challenge for you is how you can have an impact on those capital flows.
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The African Presidential Roundtable 2006 Closing Breakfast hosted by Donald G. Teitelbaum, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of the United States of America in Pretoria, South Africa