



ANNO TERTIO & QUARTO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

C A P. LXXIII.

An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the *British Colonies*; for promoting the Industry of the manumitted Slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves. [28th August 1833.]

WHEREAS divers Persons are holden in Slavery within divers of His Majesty's Colonies, and it is just and expedient that all such Persons should be manumitted and set free, and that a reasonable Compensation should be made to the Persons hitherto entitled to the Services of such Slaves for the Loss which they will incur by being deprived of their Right to such Services: And whereas it is also expedient that Provision should be made for promoting the Industry and securing the good Conduct of the Persons so to be manumitted, for a limited Period after such their Manumission: And whereas it is necessary that the Laws now in force in the said several Colonies should forthwith be adapted to the new State and Relations of Society therein which will follow upon such general Manumission as aforesaid of the said Slaves; and that, in order to afford the necessary Time for such Adaptation of the said Laws, a short Interval should elapse before such Manumission should take effect: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the First Day of August One thousand eight hundred and thirty-

10 Y

All Persons
who on the
1st August
1834 shall
four

SLAVERY AND THE COMMONWEALTH -REPARATIONS FOR THE PAST AND RECOGNITION FOR THE PAST AND THE RECOGNITION FOR THE FUTURE: THE LAW IN ACTION- THE GHANAIAAN EXPERIENCE.

By: Mrs. Efua Ghartey



UNESCO has documented 32 forts and castles as World Heritage sites in Ghana along Ghana's coastline where the Atlantic Ocean flows.

From being used as trading posts for mainly gold when Ghana was then called the Gold Coast, these edifices became slave posts for a dehumanizing human trade that went on for about 150 years.

Slavery was officially abolished by the United Kingdom Act of 1837, the Slave Compensation Act 1837, which was signed into law on December 23, 1837. Compensation of twenty million pounds sterling was paid to about 40,000 slave owners and not the victims.



Some effects of the transatlantic slave trade:-

- Land deprivation
- Depopulation,
- Increase in inter-ethnic warfare,
- Erosion of cultural norms
- Traditional leadership was in disarray
- Prized relics and artifacts were taken away
- General insecurity, and
- Stunted growth and development as a nation.



Reparation has taken various forms including:-

- Monetary compensation
 - Rehabilitation
 - Education and training
 - Satisfaction
- Restitution
 - Cultural preservation
 - Guarantees for non-repetition

Reparation Strides by some African Countries

Organisation of African Unity(OAU) now the AU at its first Pan-African Conference in 1993 on Reparations held in Nigeria took the first common position.

Adoption of the Durban Declaration and its programme of action in 2001, Development of a common African position paper on the Restitution of Cultural Property and Heritage as well as the production of a Framework for Action on the Negotiations for the Return/Restitution of Illicitly Trafficked Cultural Property from the African continent in 2021, in Senegal.





Ghana's response

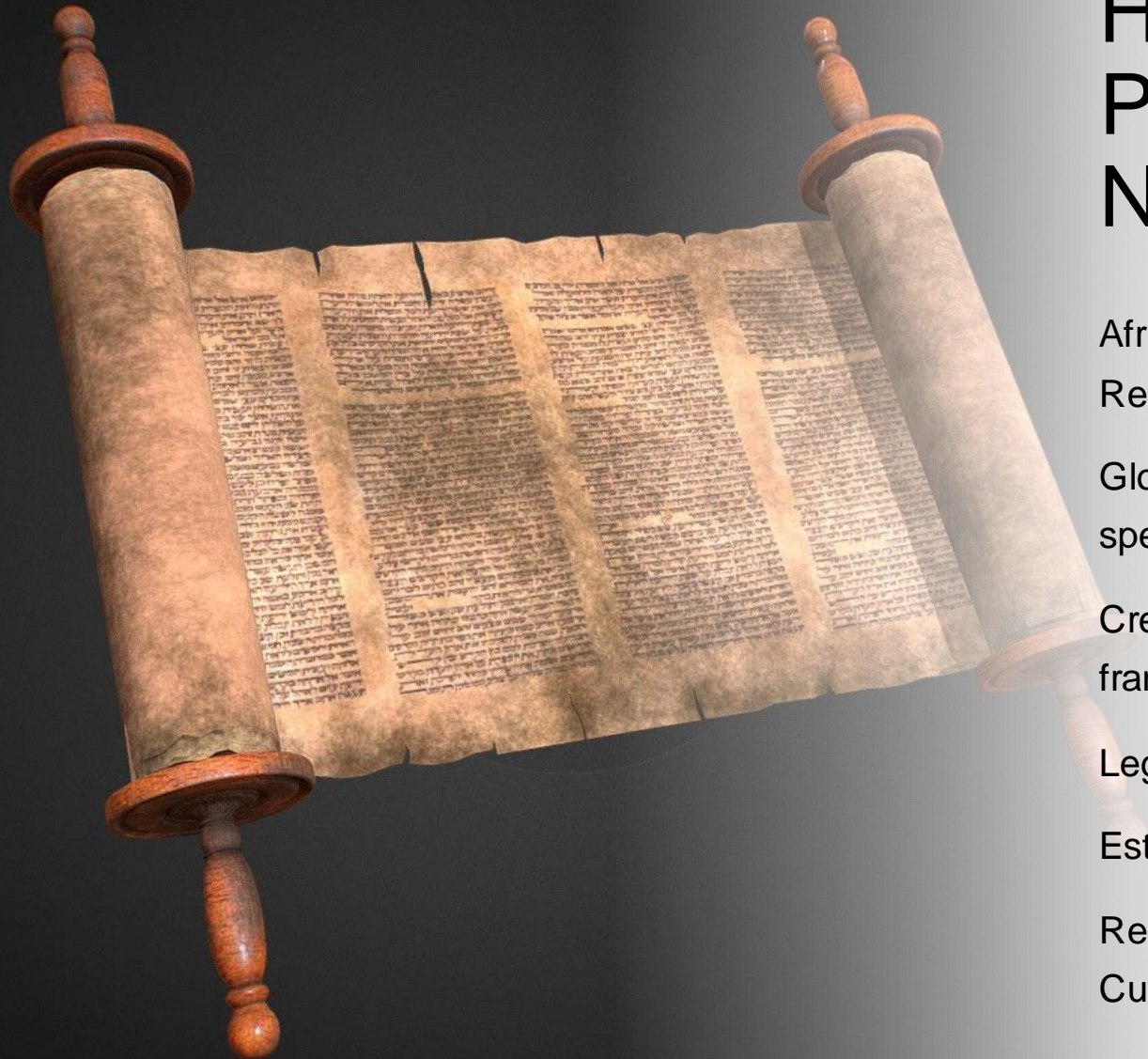
“the time has come for Europe and the United States of America to acknowledge that the vast wealth they enjoy was harvested from the sweat, tears, blood and horrors of the trans- Atlantic Slave Trade and the centuries of colonial exploitation.

President of Ghana, President Akufo Addo at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, on September 23, 2023.

“ no amount of money can restore the damage caused by the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade and its consequences... Surely, this is a matter that the world must confront and can no longer ignore”.

“Let me reiterate that the call for reparations is not a plea for alms, but a valid demand for justice...It has been four hundred (400) years, and we want closure to this tragedy”.

President of Ghana, President Akufo Addo on Tuesday the 14th of November 2023, at the Accra Reparations Summit held on the theme “ Building a United Front to Advance the cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations,”



Highlights of Accra Proclamation - November 2023

African Committee of Experts on Reparations .

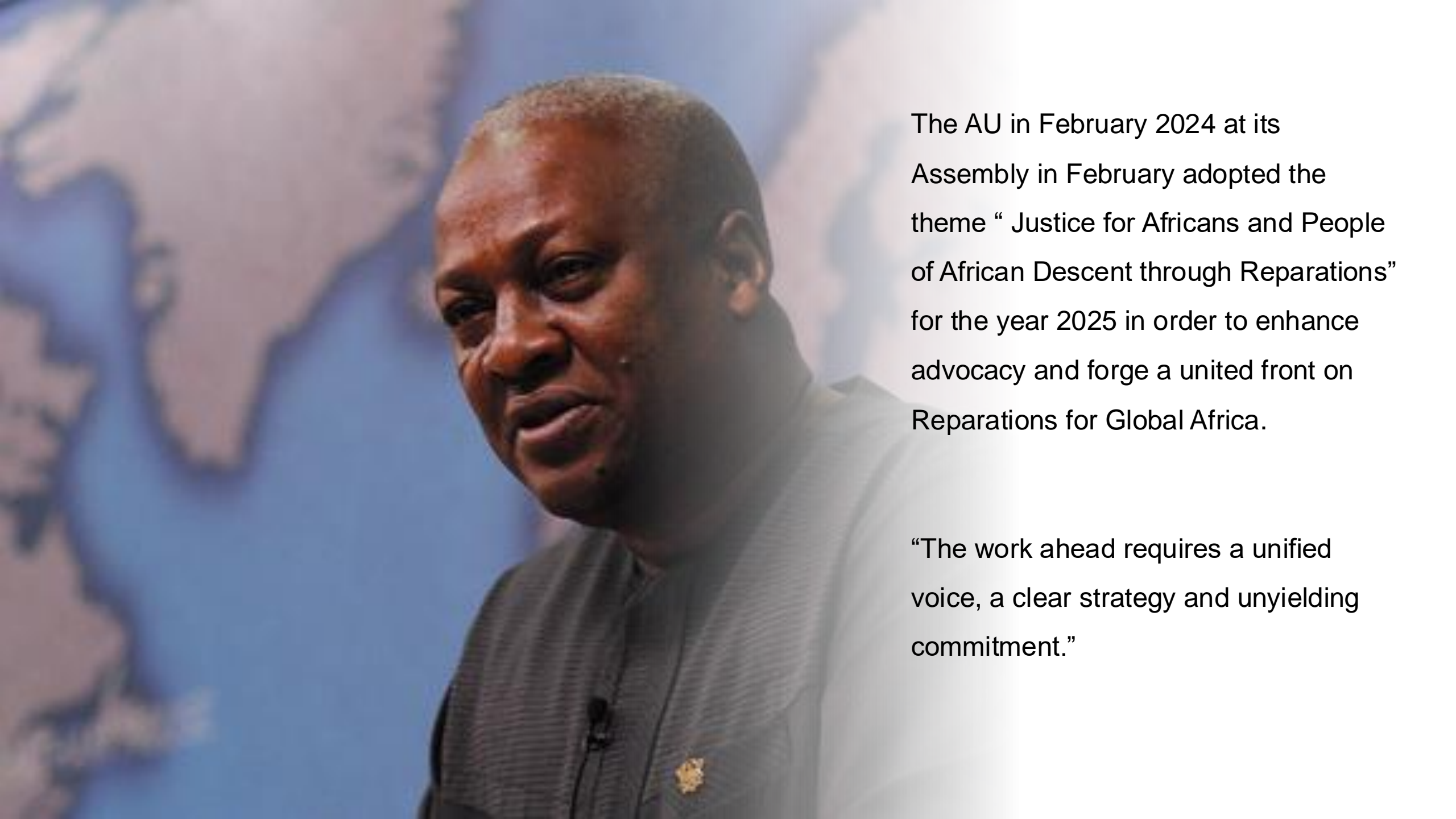
Global Reparations Fund Office of AU special Envoy on Reparations for Africa,

Creation of a transcontinental partnership framework

Legal and judicial options for reparations

Establishment of a legal reference group

Restitution and safeguarding of African Cultural Artifacts.



The AU in February 2024 at its Assembly in February adopted the theme “ Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations” for the year 2025 in order to enhance advocacy and forge a united front on Reparations for Global Africa.

“The work ahead requires a unified voice, a clear strategy and unyielding commitment.”

The time is upon us:

Accelerated action is necessary to bring all the stands together where Reparation efforts are concerned.

Although Reparation is not our all in all, unalloyed commitment is urgently required to ensure that developed roadmaps are reviewed and operationalized.

Member states that have made inroads should be highly commended and their experiences shared at such fora, as part of the awareness creation drive.

The legal framework can involve the utilization of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms in the resolution of Reparation issues to provide win win outcomes.

The issue of Reparation has no space for timorous souls or rhetoric. It calls for bold leadership by influencers , be it member states, organizations or individuals to “part the Red Sea” so others can follow suit.

Thank you

Asante

Na gode

Dankie

O seun

Siyabonga

Enkosi

Amesegenallo

Shukran

Daalų

Ndatenda

Sources:

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Commonwealth" (2020)

2. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM): "CHOGM 2018:

Leaders' Statement" (2018)

3. The Commonwealth Charter (2013)

4. Graphic Online February 12, 2019