INSTITUTIONAL CONCEPT NOTE

The Road to Reparations

1. Context and justification

The Historical Reparations Pillar of the CELAC–Africa High-Level Agenda is a strategic framework for political, ethical, and social reconciliation between Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Both regions share a history marked by colonisation, the transatlantic slave trade, indigenous genocide, structural racism and multiple forms of dispossession, whose differentiated impacts on African, Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples continue to be felt today in the form of deep social, economic, cultural, spiritual and symbolic divides.

Within this framework, **Historical Reparations Day** is conceived as a high-level political, academic, spiritual, and social space aimed at deepening the global debate on historical reparations and their contemporary structural manifestations. This space is based on the recognition that historical reparation is not limited to an interpretation of the past, but rather constitutes a necessary condition for the transformation of power relations, the overcoming of racism and the construction of more just, egalitarian and dignified societies.

The event is taking place within the framework of the **Africa Strategy**, led by the Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia, Francia Elena Márquez Mina, and the **CELAC–Africa High-Level Forum**, with Colombia holding the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States). Based on this political commitment, Colombia proposes to position historical reparation as a transformative framework for action for the present and future of bi-regional relations, reaffirming its regional and international leadership in promoting a Historical Reparation Agenda as the central pillar of racial, ethnic, social, economic, cultural and spiritual justice.

March 19th will thus serve as a central space for political, spiritual and cultural dialogue, recognising that comprehensive reparation must articulate material, symbolic and spiritual dimensions, aimed at the full restoration of human dignity. This space also seeks to advance the collective construction of a global reparations agenda that collects, articulates and harmonises the actions, experiences and proposals of the Caribbean, CELAC and Africa, based on a common purpose of historical justice, recognition and structural transformation.

2. General objective

To promote high-level bi-regional dialogue between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in order to advance the development of a shared agenda for historical reparation, integrating political, social, cultural and spiritual perspectives, with an emphasis on dignifying Afro-descendant, African and indigenous peoples.

3. Methodological approach

The methodological proposal is based on a political perspective of Afro-reparation, memory, and historical justice, understood as concepts under construction by Afro-descendant peoples, the Caribbean, and indigenous peoples of Colombia and the world. This approach seeks to contribute to the recovery of collective memory, the recognition of ancestry, and the

appreciation of the meanings and knowledge of diverse traditions as fundamental elements for the preservation of the history and dignity of ethnic peoples.

From this perspective, the methodology articulates political, legal, cultural, and spiritual dimensions, prioritising horizontal dialogue, the collective production of knowledge, and the recognition of non-hegemonic systems of justice and reparation.

4. Outline of the Forums – March 19th

4.1 Forum on Historical Reparations: Perspectives from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Venue: Room 1
Organised by: Office of the Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia

Specific objective
To promote and recognize global political alliances between Africa, CELAC member countries, Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of contributing to shaping the field of action for historical reparations and moving towards the construction of a common political agenda, identifying international challenges and obstacles.

Opening
Presentation of the political and contextual framework of the forum by the moderator.

Main topics

- Recognition of the damage caused by enslavement, colonialism and structural racism.
- Identification of state dynamics and non-hegemonic memory exercises as a basis for an international reparations agenda.
- Promotion of a high-level global agenda for the historical reparation of peoples who survived enslavement and colonialism.
- Recognition of millennial legal and political strategies for reparation from the perspective of women and a gender approach within the framework of CELAC.

Expected results
Global strategic dialogue aimed at the international political construction of justice, memory and reparation actions with an ethnic-racial focus in the countries of the Global South.

4.2 Memory and Justice

Time: 11:45 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.
Location: Room 1
Organised by: Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Colombia

Participants

Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), Constitutional Court, Supreme Court of Justice, representatives of ethnic-racial justice and special indigenous justice.

Specific objective
To promote a reflective and non-hierarchical conversation between the ordinary, restorative, ethnic-racial, and indigenous justice systems, aimed at jointly considering how historical reparations for Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples have been, can be, or should be addressed by the administration of justice.

Main topics
- Recognition of historical structural and racialised harm.
- Memory and restorative justice as pillars of comprehensive reparation.
- Construction of an international justice agenda within the framework of CELAC.
- Proposal for a permanent roundtable to monitor reparation actions from an ethnic-racial justice perspective.

4.3 Forum on spirituality, African and afro-descendant religiosity and restoration of dignity

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Room 1
Organised by: Office of the Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia

Specific objective
To recognise spirituality as a political and restorative dimension in the processes of historical reparation and restoration of dignity for Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples, through an inter-institutional dialogue that contributes to the construction of a global reparations agenda.

Conceptual approach
The forum is based on a comprehensive conception of historical justice, which articulates spiritual, cultural, political and structural dimensions. From a decolonial and intercultural perspective, Afro and indigenous spiritualities are recognised as systems of knowledge and ethics of life, historically marginalised but fundamental to collective healing and the restoration of dignity.

Main topics
- Spiritual memory and historical reparations.
- Experiences, lessons learned and proposals for a global reparations agenda from the Global South.

Expected results
- Positioning spirituality as a political dimension and a restorative force for historical reparations.
- Conceptual inputs for strengthening the National Plan for Historical Reparations.
- Ethical and political convergences for a global reparations agenda.
- Reading and delivery of the proposal for an exhortation to the Catholic Church.

5. Cross-cutting focus: women and gender in historical reparation

The agenda incorporates a cross-cutting focus on women and gender, understanding historical reparation as a political practice in the Global South aimed at strengthening networks, processes and relationships that guarantee a dignified life for women, their families and communities. This approach seeks to position women as central actors in the construction of the international political agenda for justice and reparation within the framework of the CELAC–Africa High-Level Agenda.

6. Expected outcomes

- Substantive contributions to the Global Agenda for Historical Reparations.
- Strengthening Colombia's leadership in promoting historical justice and comprehensive historical reparation at the regional and international levels.