

The background of the entire page is a photograph. In the foreground on the left, a dark-skinned arm is raised with a clenched fist. To the right, the back of a person's head with dark, curly hair is visible. The background is a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a large gathering or protest.

ALL-AFRICAN MOVEMENTS ASSEMBLY

2nd Edition

29-31 AUGUST 2024

Contents

Context – *A defining moment*..... 3

About the AAMA..... 4

Issues on the table;..... 5

Proposed Activities;..... 7

 Fireside chats and healing sessions 7

 Action Clinics (Break-out sessions) 7

 Singing and dancing; having fun while changing the world..... 8

 Power Chants and morale boosting..... 9

 Training Sessions 10

 Activists networking 10

Participants: *Who is coming to AAMA 2024*..... 11

Expected Outcomes..... 11

About Africans Rising..... 13

Context – A defining moment

The world is in the grip of multiple crises, with the climate crisis being the highlight of deep systemic imbalances. Within this context, the world stands (at the same time) at the crossroads of momentous change and painful stagnation. We are in a *defining moment*.

In Africa, systems of oppression and extraction at national and international levels hold sway, ensuring that our resources benefit everybody but us; that in the abundance of water we are thirsty; that our environments are destroyed beyond repair; and that our people are killed, and our dignity trampled upon. At the same time, African governments insist on shrinking civic spaces, cracking down on dissent and using the people's power to deprive them of the basics of life. Polarizing politics and increasing inequality are making the world less safe every day.

But millions of African people globally continue to organize and fight back. How do we harness collective people power and solidarity towards a reimagined future? This is the challenge of our time.

In all this, one thing is clear, the issues we are faced with are not isolated from one another but are interconnected in a mutually reinforcing system. Thus, it is important that the solutions are likewise sought from a systems perspective. We must therefore build solidarity through intersectional approaches that enable sustainable solutions. But the challenge is not just to effectively challenge and defeat the oppressive system. It is also to imagine what will stand in its place as our alternative.

This challenge stares us as we converge for the All-African Movements Assembly.

About the AAMA

The **All-African Movements Assembly (AAMA)** is the largest gathering of African movements, activists, and human rights defenders. A people's platform, it provides the opportunity to assess our collective mandate as Africans in our quest for unity, justice, peace, and dignity; an opportunity to reconnect, ask deep questions about the African situation, take stock and re-strategize on ways forward.

The first edition was held in 2022 in Arusha, Tanzania as hybrid people power convening. It brought together more than 600 movement representatives (362 of whom were physical participants), activists, Pan-Africanists, human rights defenders, feminists, mainly young people but with a good inter-generational mix.

2024 will be the second edition that will expand on the first and build on the successes, taking stock of

emerging challenges and opportunities for building solidarity and connecting struggles across borders.

It will be held from **29-31 August 2024 in Accra, Ghana** as a platform to reimagine the future of Africa that we hope to build, together.

There will be **400 physical participants and at least 1000 virtual participants** with critical representation criteria being *gender, regional and age*.



Issues on the table;

The issues that we face as a people are interdependent parts of an oppressive system. Thus a systems approach is required to fully understand the full scale of the challenge before us and to devise the alternative system that will give us just and dignified life. Even though the following are listed separately, the AAMA will present a platform where the systemic inter-relations between them are explored in order to come up with solutions, campaigns and processes that are sufficiently intersectional.

- **Climate and Ecological Justice:** Africa is disproportionately affected by climate change, despite contributing the least to CO2 emissions – only 4% of the global total. Climate change presents a multifaceted cross-issue challenge, showcasing the symptoms of a system designed to extract, exploit, and oppress. Instead of addressing the root causes, the world's attention is diverted to false solutions that will most certainly exacerbate the plight of the masses while the ultra-rich smile to the bank. Adaptation, loss and damage, renewable energy, just transitions, sustainable climate finance, food sovereignty etc.
- **Civic Space, Free Expression and Freedom of Association:** The civic space in Africa is under significant strain with significant human rights violations, which have worsened in the post COVID era. Majority of the countries in Africa is facing restrictions on civic freedoms, according to the 2023 CIVICUS monitor. We are witnessing increasing trends of clamp down on free expression and association constant attacks harassment arrest abduction or kill of activists. As economic crisis worsens, it is feared that more governments will seek to Use legislation, protest balance, surveillance, and other tools to further restrict civic space in Africa.
- **Ethical Governance:** good, ethical, transparent, and accountable governance is a prerequisite for economic development and the enjoyment of life. Despite some progress, corruption, lack of inclusivity, participation, and lack of accountability continue to hinder ethical governance in Africa. Recent coups d'état in parts of West and Central Africa and the seeming return of the military into government is a cause for concern. There is an urgent need for a collective dialogue to arrest the backslide. The All-African Movements Assembly offers such a platform.
- **Economic Justice:** In spite of its vast material and human resources, African people continue to wallow in poverty. Standards of living are exacerbated by the recent pandemic and geopolitical tensions leading to high cost of living. More and more are being pushed into poverty. Meanwhile the resources of the continent continue to be exploited by foreign multinational companies, such that the wealth from those resources benefit not Africans primarily. At the same time, steep inequality threatens to condemn millions to perpetual poverty tied to both local and international systems and institutions. Economic justice for all Africans is one of the key elements of dignity.
- **Gender Justice:** Gender justice is at the heart of African Rising's organizing. Our Engendering African Social Movements program seeks to mainstream gender justice in the operation movements. The program has run training, produced a curriculum, a draft feminist manifesto and a feminist task force. The AAMA offers a platform for feminist dialogue regarding the system of oppression reface, their intersections and the

approaches we can collectively adopt to fight back as patriarchy continues to dominate institutions, attitudes, and behaviors.

- **Reparations:** The conversation around reparations for historical injustices is gaining momentum, after decades of dedicated work by campaigners and advocates, especially in the diaspora but more recently also in the continent. In Africans Rising's ReRight History campaign, the governments of UK, Belgium and Germany were targeted to acknowledge the harm caused by centuries of slavery and colonization. Last year a reparation conference took place in Ghana. Clearly reparations are connected to the struggle for a just world. Lack of acknowledgement for previous harm leads to impunity on the part of the perpetrators and generational trauma for the victims.
- **African Unity, Borderless Africa, and Single African Currency:** The vision for a unified Africa with free movement is a mission to complete the decolonization process. The restrictions on freedom of movement in Africa are a concrete manifestation of the legacy of colonial borders created in the 19th century. These restrictions place enormous limitations on the ability of young people to connect, interact and trade across borders, thus limiting solidarity. Africans Rising's operations and campaigns have been to delegitimize the borders as they are unnatural, divisive, and counter-productive to our progress. This people's gathering will assess the Borderless Africa campaign, its relationship with security, trade, economic development, and others to advance the African people's desire to remove artificial barriers between them and come together to create the African we want.
- **Anti-racism and modern day slavery:** the enduring legacies of slavery and colonialism also continue to shape the relationships among the peoples of the world. Unfortunately, African people across the world continue to bear the brunt of institutionalized racism manifested in various ways. Economic, trade, law enforcement, financial, diplomatic multilateral institutions operate on remnants of racist domination. Additionally, discrimination against people based on descent is not absent even from the African continent. It requires collective effort by coming together as global African family to achieve a complete systems overhaul that will produce an alternative world based on mutual respect, understanding, justice and dignity for all peoples.
- **African and African-Diaspora solidarity building:** The above are issues reflected in the Kilimanjaro Declaration that affect all people of African descent to various degrees and in different contexts. Mobilizing global African solidarity to tackle them collectively is one of the bedrocks of Pan-Africanism. Africans Rising recognizes the African Diaspora as the sixth (6) region of Africa in line with the African Union proclamation. While the history of collaboration among people of African descent (wherever they may be) in our collective struggle is well documented, translating this collaboration into practical models of organizing is one of the issues that will be discussed at the AAMA.

Proposed Activities;

Fireside chats and healing sessions

Activists and human rights defenders encounter trauma and trauma-inducing experiences in their work. Healing sessions with professional healing experts using feminist approaches do not only help us heal but teach relevant skills and steps for well-being, psychological welfare, and mental health.



Action Clinics (Break-out sessions)

Through action clinics, we delve deeper into the issues on the table, and everybody gets the chance to make an input helping to co-create collective actions to take post-AAMA.



Singing and dancing; having fun while changing the world

With **Artistic Activism** as a key instrument of change, the AAMA features art performances as more than just entertainment. It helps to connect deeply with the sub-conscious. Music, dance, poetry, painting, and other art forms take AAMA participants on a journey to connect with the soul, emotion and body.



Power Chants and morale boosting

Amandhla! Awethu! High morale; High discipline. No People Power gathering in Africa can ever be complete without liberation chants highlighting the power of the people. These are morale-boosting power chants that connect with our anti-colonial struggle showing how the past connects with the present and the future. These are not just props but a key part of the convening.



Training Sessions

When we gather in our numbers, we share knowledge and skills on a range of issues relevant to movement work –

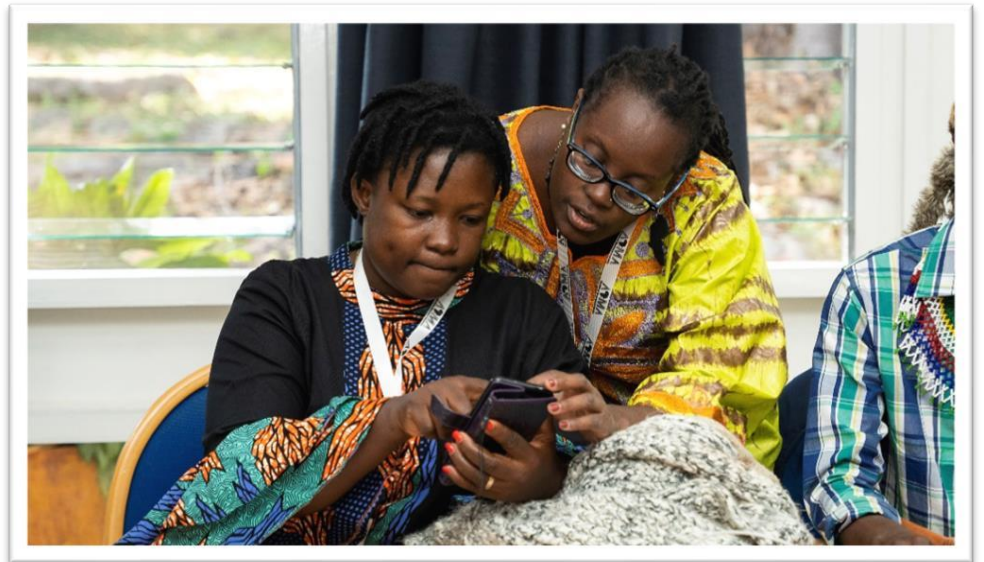
- digital security,
- movement building,
- advocacy and campaigning,
- documentation etc.



Activists networking

What better opportunity is there to connect and network than the largest gathering of progressive thinking people from each country on the continent?

These connections build lasting relationships long after the AAMA as the interconnectedness of our struggles become ever more apparent.



Participants: *Who is coming to AAMA 2024*

The AAMA will bring together 400 participants physically and at least 1000 online drawn from

- Movement representatives
- activists
- artists
- journalists
- trade unions
- civil society actors
- Diaspora representatives
- human rights defenders
- allies
- Pan-African organizers

At least one delegate from each country in Africa, 60% of whom should be youth and 51% women.

Expected Outcomes

Adoption and strengthening of Joint campaigns on *climate justice, gender justice, ethical governance, civic space expansion, African unity*:

Movement members across the continent and diaspora are part of different campaigns. In most cases, these campaigns have many overlaps and the issues they seek to resolve are similar across geographies despite particular contexts. Bringing us together, we will get the chance to jointly assess some of these campaigns and agree on new ones to take forward. Of particular importance are campaigns on *climate justice, gender justice, civic space, reparations, governance etc.* This does not preclude other important issues that members may decide on in action clinics and members' self-organized sessions. The aim is to have joint campaigns that can advance a systems outlook.

Unveiling of Action Groups

Action Groups at the All-African Movements Assembly emerge from break-out sessions based on what movement members are working on. They will become the platforms for post-AAMA continuous engagements. These platforms will make it possible for constant sharing of information among movement members, activists, campaigners working on different issues or on the same issues across different geographical areas in Africa.

Framework for adoption of a Systems Approach with a United Front to advance the Pan-African struggle for unity, peace, justice, and dignity.

While each of the issues on the table is very important, we cannot truly win on any issue unless its interconnectedness with other issues is fully explored. A systems approach affords us the opportunity to tackle issues more comprehensively. Thus, at the AAMA 2024, we will come out with a framework for working together where each issue is tackled within the framework of the oppressive system as a whole. Equally importantly, our discourse will focus on thinking about the kind of alternative system we want.

Official Launching of Pan-African Solidarity Action Network:

The Pan-African Solidarity Action Network is a network of action-oriented organizers across the continent designed to rapidly Pan-Africanize African and African diaspora issues. For example, if human rights defenders are waging a struggle against police brutality in Kenya, they will need solidarity across the continent in order to amplify their voices. Leveraging the large membership of Africans Rising and its continental coverage, the PASAN provides the platform for such solidarity to be easily and quickly mobilized. It is a continental coordinating platform where solidarity is built around African issues across the borders by facilitating marches, sit-ins, protests, petitions, letters, art etc. in different countries to amplify the voices of activists in one country.

Adoption of a common curriculum for political education and Pan-African movement building:

This curriculum will serve as a critical element in our movement building effort. It will not only provide clarity of our mission but also ensure that movement members across the continent can operate from a common position in terms of our objectives for an alternative future for all African peoples.

Validation and adoption of Feminist Manifesto

As part of the (En)**gendering** African Social Movements program, Africans Rising is developing a feminist manifesto to articulate the clear demands and position of feminist principles on the key issues facing our continent. This manifesto will be validated and adopted at the AAMA by members.

Adoption of amended Africans Rising movement constitution:

As a member-based movement, Africans Rising operates under a constitution that derives its mandate from the entire membership. After six (6) years of operation, the constitution is to be amended this year to take account of contemporary changes.

Adoption of new 5-year strategy

Just like the constitution, Africans Rising's strategy for the first five (5) years elapsed in 2022, with 2023 as a bridge year. A new five (5) year strategy is being discussed by members and this will be adopted at the Assembly.

Date:

August 29-31 2024

Venue:

Accra, Ghana



About Africans Rising

Africans Rising for Unity, Justice, Peace and Dignity is a Pan-African movement of movements, activists, people, and organizations, mobilizing African people in Africa and the diaspora. Through movement building and support, Pan-African Mobilization and Solidarity, Advocacy and Campaigns, we work collectively to build solidarity and unity of purpose of the peoples of Africa towards the future we want – of peace, social inclusion, and shared prosperity for all Africans everywhere. The movement has over 40,000 members both individual and organizations in all 55 countries in Africa and over 100 countries and territories in the diaspora. By working together and pulling resources, movement members are well placed to create impactful change for the future.

