

African Diaspora Summit, 7 - 11 October 2008
Sandton Convention Centre

Frequently asked questions and answers

	Question	Answer
1.	When is the Summit?	<p>The Summit will be held from 6 to 11 October 2008.</p> <p>The Summit breakdown is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07/10/08 - Sectoral Civil Society Meetings of Science and Technology, Arts and Culture, Education, Trade and Industry, and Social Cooperation • 07/10/08 - Senior Officials' Meeting • 08/10/08 - Joint Senior Officials and Civil Society Meeting • 09/10/08 - Ministerial Meeting • 10 - 11/10/08 - Summit: Meeting of Heads of State and Government
2.	Where is the Summit?	The Summit will be held at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, Gauteng.
3.	Why is the Summit held in South Africa?	At its 8 th Ordinary Session held in Khartoum, Sudan, from 16 - 21 January 2006, the African Union (AU) Executive Council took Decision EX.CL/269 (VIII) on the African Diaspora initiative, which authorised the preparation of a follow-up to the first AU-South Africa and the Caribbean Diaspora Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 16 - 18 March 2005. The Decision endorsed South Africa to host this first African Diaspora Summit and requested that South Africa co-operates with the AU Commission to ensure the successful implementation of the Decision.
4.	Who will be attending the Summit?	79 Heads of State and Government have been invited from the AU member states, Caribbean, and Latin America; as well as prominent business people, and members of the African Diaspora civil society.
5.	Is the Summit open to public attendance?	Only invited guests will be allowed to attend; however, the opening and closing sessions of the Summit are expected to be broadcast live on certain SABC channels, and some radio stations.
6.	Who is the African Diaspora?	The AU Executive Council definition of the African Diaspora reads: <i>"the African Diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the</i>

		<i>Continent and the building of the African Union.”</i>
7.	Has the South African community living outside Africa been invited to attend the Summit?	The event is an AU occasion, and invitations were sent to the African Diaspora as per the definition of the AU.
8.	What is South Africa benefiting from hosting the Summit?	<p>The Summit provides an opportunity for our country to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • showcase its preparedness to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup; • market the country’s investment and tourism opportunities; • exchange ideas on how artists and cultural performers could forge collaborative projects; and • showcase the career advancement opportunities that our country has for highly skilled members of the African Diaspora.
9.	What has been the progress since the 2005 1 st AU-South Africa -Caribbean Diaspora Conference?	<p>Regional Consultative Conferences (RCCs) have been held in the following regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America: Brasilia, 16 April 2007; • United Kingdom: London, 23 – 25 April 2007; • North America: New York, 22 – 23 June 2007; • The Caribbean: Barbados, 27 – 28 August 2007; • Europe: Paris, 12 – 13 September 2007; and • Africa: Addis Ababa, 15 –16 October 2007 <p>The first African Diaspora Ministerial Conference attended by Ministers for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and civil society members from the African Diaspora was convened in Midrand, South Africa from 16 – 18 November 2007.</p> <p>Since 2005, increased interaction between Africa and the Diaspora has led to joint projects being undertaken between Africa and its Diaspora in countries like Ghana and Senegal.</p>
10.	Is the issue of reparations on the agenda for the October Summit?	Reparations formed part of discussion during the RCCs and consensus was reached that the Summit should focus on cooperation initiatives between the Continent and its Diaspora. It was agreed that other avenues could be used to pursue the matter forward.