



## **Pretoria/Tshwane Declaration on the Chagos Question**

We, the participants at the International Conference on the Status of the Chagos Islands, hosted by the Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) which is part of the University of Johannesburg, conscious of the plight of the Chagossian people across the globe,

Noting that the Chagossians are an Indigenous People of the Chagos Islands as per the definition of the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous People 2007,

Cognizant that their status as an Indigenous People of the Chagos Islands is based on their ancestors' presence on the Chagos Islands as early as 1793 as enslaved people from Mozambique and Madagascar who were later joined by indentured labourers from India,

Recognizing that Chagossians have been subjected to French and British slavery and colonial rule, and have been living in exile for over 50 years since the UK and US governments conspired to expel them to Mauritius and Seychelles during construction of the US military base on Diego Garcia,

Aware that the Chagos Islands are still under colonial rule by the UK government, having been established as a brand-new colony in 1965 by way of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Ordinance,

Noting the failure of the UK government to cooperate with the Mauritian government in facilitating the resettlement of the Chagos islands (as required by the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion of the Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/295),

Further noting that Chagossians continue to live in conditions of poverty and marginalisation,

Expressing our loyal and unstinting support for and solidarity with all Chagossians.

Calling for Chagossian unity in pursuit of the many goals that they share.

Hereby declare that:

1. Chagossians have a fundamental human right to return to the Chagos Archipelago to visit or resettle there as they desire.
2. The relevant authorities – including Mauritius, UK, and US governments – should support and facilitate the return to and resettlement of the Chagos islands.
3. The US military must end all employment discrimination against Chagossians and give them the opportunity to work on the base on Diego Garcia.
4. The UK and US governments were primarily responsible for the displacement – and consequently for over 50 years of harm – and should therefore provide full and proper compensation, without prejudice to the right of resettlement.
5. Chagossians have an inalienable right to self-determination.
6. Chagossians alone have the right to decide when and how to exercise their right to self-determination, whether statehood or association with any other state.

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
1.	Prof. Siphamandla Zondi	Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC)
2.	Dr. Maureen Tong	Sessional Lecturer Wits Business School
3.	Dr. Chidochshe Nyere	Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC)
4.	Prof. David Vine	American University, Washington
5.	Prof. Laura Jeffery	University of Edinburgh
6.	Mr. Jean Noël Pierre	French filmmaker
7.	Mr. Olivier Bancoult	President, Chagos Refugees Group
8.	Ms. Claudette Pauline Lafade	Chagos Asylum Peoples
9.	Mr. Muhammad Ali Ibrahim Ackburally	Chagos Asylum Peoples
10	Ms. Marie Sabrina Jean	Chagos Refugees Group UK
11	Mr. Bernard Nourrice	Chagossian
12	Mr. Louis Elysé	Chagossian Voices
13	Mr. Frankie Bontemps	Chagossian Voices
14	Ms. Mylene Augustin	Chagossian Voices

15	Ms. Janine Sadrien	Executive member of Chagos Refugees Group
16	Mr. Jean-François Nellan	Chagossian Voices
17	Ms. Bernadette Dugasse	Chagossian
18	Ms. Nompumelelo Ndawonde	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
19	Ms. Ratidzo C. Makombe	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
20	Ms. Lesego Motsage	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
21	Dr. Noluthando Phungula	Institute for pan African thought and Conversation
22	Dr. Hlengiwe Phetha	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
23	Dr. Alexander Rusero	Lestema Fellow
24	Prof. Fidelis Allen	Lestema Fellow
25	Dr. Alissa Halidou	Lestema Fellow
26	Dr. Tumba Diedudonne	Letsema Fellow
27	Dr. Adeoye Akinola	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
28	Ms. Olerato Manyapelo	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
29	Ms. Lebogang Ayobiojo	University of Johannesburg
30	Mr. Blessing Maloka	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
31	Mr. Keaobaka Tsholo	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
32	Dr. Tella Oluwasuen	Institute of Future Knowledge
33	Mr. Masilo Lepuru	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
34	Dr. William Mpofu	University of the Witwatersrand
35	Bosun Kazeem	University of Johannesburg
36	Ms. Nthabeleng Rantso	University of Johannesburg
37	Ambassador Febe Potgieter	African National Congress
38	Dr. Dawn Khanyile	University of South Africa (UNISA)
39	Mr. Buntu Siwasa	University of Johannesburg
40	Ms. Tshepiso Dhlamini	University of Johannesburg
41	Mr. Gallons Afabong	University of Pretoria

42	Mr.Simo Zulu	Vunani Africa Advisory Group
43	Ms. Divine Keren Yamulamba	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
44	Dr. Njabulo Banda	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
45	Dr. Emmaculate Asige Liaga	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
46	Dr. Tinuade Ojo	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
47	Dr William Mpofu	Wits Diversity Studies Centre
48	Ms Reshika Dwarika	Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation