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# Secretariat

"Ubuntu"

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The Ominous Removal of Ambassador Chihombori-Quao

The African Diaspora Congress (ADC) and friends of Africa around the world are appalled by the abrupt removal of H.E. Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao as African Union (AU) Permanent Ambassador to the United States. This unilateral decision was taken by the African Union Commission Chairperson, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, on October 7th, 2019, and purported to represent the opinions of all 55 African heads of states. Ambassador Chihombori-Quao was terminated without any due process appropriate for a diplomat of her caliber. Curiously, no reasons were given for removing an envoy who has brought so much hope to many about the AU and its vision for the Diaspora. Therefore, ADC members are outraged and are calling for her immediate reinstatement.

The ADC called for her reinstatement in a petition that garnered worldwide support amassing over 10,000 signatures daily since launching on October 12, 2019. We believe that her removal is ostensibly connected with her public criticisms of the continuing European post-colonialist and neocolonialist stranglehold and pillaging of Africa, with France being the major culprit in this process given its direct involvement, and sometimes, direct intervention in African affairs. The ADC affirms that whatever benchmarks that the AU envisioned for its envoys in the US, Dr. Chihombori-Quao has surpassed those expectations. She has led with courage and vigor in galvanizing and empowering peoples of African descent globally to come together, mobilize and build the "Africa We Want" as espoused in African Union Agenda 2063.

Ambassador Chihombori-Quao is treasured by a vast majority of Africans in Diaspora and was quite successful in uniting them to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development in Africa. She was quite effective in providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels just as envisioned in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She is a symbol of hope not only for the African Diaspora, but for humankind. The Ambassador was a crusader for African liberation and reconnection with its Diaspora; and her removal has rallied Africans and African Diaspora in her support in the spirit of UBUNTU – I am because we are!

The African Diaspora Congress (ADC) is a coalition of concerned citizens from the African Diaspora, committed to addressing major issues affecting Africa and the peoples of African descent on a global scale. The ADC promotes peaceful, progressive, and inclusive solutions to issues and challenges facing Africa and the African Diaspora; in order to complement the efforts being made in the continent by the African Union (AU) and other regional non-government organizations towards the advancement of African peoples and their societies for sustainable development, growth, and wealth creation.

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