



PRESS STATEMENT

15 JUNE 2026
ACCRA, GHANA

PPF STATEMENT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON AT THE HIGH-LEVEL NEXT STEPS CONFERENCE ON REPARATORY JUSTICE — ACCRA, GHANA, 17–19 JUNE 2026.

"Words Without Action Are the Loudest Form of Contempt"

The Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF) issues this statement with full political clarity and without diplomatic equivocation. We respect the historic significance of the High-Level Next Steps Conference on Reparatory Justice being convened in Accra by President John Dramani Mahama in his capacity as African Union Champion for Reparations. We recognise the courage, strategic brilliance, and moral authority with which Ghana has led the global reparations conversation, culminating in the landmark United Nations General Assembly resolution of 25 March 2026, backed by 123 member states, formally recognising the transatlantic slave trade and the enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity.

It is precisely because we take this conference seriously that we cannot take lightly the presence of French President Emmanuel Macron as a keynote speaker at this gathering. We do not condemn dialogue. We condemn the laundering of political inaction through the language of solidarity. And we are compelled by history, by conscience, and by our duty to the African working class and peasantry to state plainly what Macron's presence at this conference represents: not accountability, but performance.

France Abstained — That Is Not a Technicality. It Is a Political Position.

On 25 March 2026, the very day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Ghana-led resolution declaring the Transatlantic Slave Trade a crime against humanity, France chose to abstain. Not to vote in favour. Not to stand with the 123 nations who affirmed what every honest historian, every descendant of enslaved Africans, and every person of conscience already knows. France abstained. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot offered the explanation that France refused to "create a hierarchy among crimes against humanity." That answer is an insult dressed as a principle. It means France will not formally acknowledge, in the most basic institutional forum available, that the organised abduction, enslavement, brutalisation, and commodification of millions of African human beings, in which France was one of the primary architects and beneficiaries, constitutes a crime against humanity deserving of a specific, targeted international response. This abstention did not occur in a vacuum. France has also been among the nine states that voted against the 2022 UN Human Rights Council resolution 51/32 calling on states to deliver restorative justice for slavery and colonialism. These are deliberate political choices. They deserve to be named as such, and they disqualify Macron from presenting himself as a good-faith participant in a reparatory justice process whose foundational premise France has twice refused to endorse.



For clarity, France enslaved and trafficked more than 1.4 million Africans. It colonised more African territory than any other European power. It imposed upon Haiti, the first Black republic, born of the greatest slave revolution in human history, an indemnity of 150 million gold francs in 1825, extorted at gunpoint to compensate French slaveholders for the loss of their "property." Haiti spent 122 years repaying that debt. A debt for its own freedom, while France grew richer. That debt, with compound interest, has been estimated at over \$115 billion in today's terms. It has never been repaid. France has never apologised for it.

The CFA Franc Is Not a Currency, It Is a Colonial Leash

It is important to note that, any serious conversation about France and reparations must place the CFA franc at its centre. The CFA franc, controlled by the French Treasury and used by 14 Central and West African nations, is not a relic of colonialism. It is colonialism's continuation by financial means. It requires African nations to deposit 50% of their foreign exchange reserves in the French Treasury. It fixes exchange rates in ways that serve French industrial and trade interests. It has consistently suppressed monetary sovereignty, limited the capacity of African central banks to finance development, and tied the economic fate of hundreds of millions of African people to decisions made in Paris. The impact of this system continues to manifest in the systemic underdevelopment of the very nations France colonised and whose resources it continues to extract through the architecture of monetary dependency. France cannot speak of reparations while the CFA franc remains in place. France cannot claim to be a partner in African development while it retains structural control over the currencies of 14 African states. Dismantling CFA franc control is not a precondition for the Reparations conversation, it is itself a reparative act, one that France can take unilaterally, immediately, and without a conference.

Stolen Artefacts Are Not Cultural Heritage, They Are Evidence of a Crime

France holds tens of thousands of African cultural objects in its museums and state collections, objects removed from their communities of origin under conditions of colonial violence, forced extraction, and military conquest. The Quai Branly Museum alone holds over 70,000 objects from sub-Saharan Africa. In 2018, the Sarr-Savoy Report commissioned by Macron himself recommended the unconditional return of African cultural heritage currently held in French public collections. A recommendation that has been implemented selectively, partially, and far too slowly.

What France Must Do Before It Has the Right to This Conversation

The Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF) is unequivocal: France can only earn the moral authority to address a reparatory justice conference through actions, not addresses. We demand the following as the minimum threshold of genuine accountability:

1. France must deliver a full, unconditional, and legally meaningful apology, not a presidential speech, not a commission announcement, but a formal state apology for its role in the transatlantic slave trade, in the colonial occupation and exploitation of African territories, and specifically for the debt extorted from Haiti.



2. France must cancel the outstanding ‘debts’ of its former colonies. Debts that are themselves the continuation of the economic extraction that colonialism imposed. There is no moral justification for African nations to continue servicing financial obligations to an economy built on their exploitation.
3. France must dismantle the CFA franc system and support the full monetary sovereignty of the 14 African nations still operating under its control. This is a reparative act of immediate, measurable, and transformative consequence.
4. France must accelerate and complete the unconditional return of all African cultural artefacts currently held in French public collections; not as loans, not as long-term deposits, but as permanent restitution to the communities and nations from which they were taken.
5. France must establish, fund, and fully resource a reparations fund with meaningful financial commitments, not symbolic gestures, directed by African governments and diaspora communities, not by French institutions.

The Pan-African Progressive Front calls on the organisers of the Accra conference, on President Mahama, on the African Union, and on the global reparations movement to insist that this historic gathering does not become a stage for the rehabilitation of those who have not yet demonstrated the political will to deliver what justice demands. We are not opposed to France being part of the Reparations conversation, we are opposed to France being given a keynote platform in that conversation before it has taken a single concrete, structural, and irreversible step toward reparatory justice.

Words at a conference in Accra will cost France nothing. Cancelling Haiti's debt would cost something real. Dismantling the CFA franc would cost something real. Returning 70,000 artefacts would cost something real. Until France is willing to pay the real costs of the crimes it committed, its presence at this conference serves France's interests, not Africa's justice.

We stand in solidarity with the African people, with the Caribbean nations, and with the global diaspora in their demand for justice that is structural, material, and permanent. We will continue to name those who clothe self-interest in the language of solidarity. We will continue to insist that reparations are not a diplomatic conversation, they are a debt. And unlike Haiti's debt to France, this one is just.

In Solidarity,

Mr. Humphrey Abbey Quaye
Head, Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF)
On Behalf of the Secretariat of PPF.