

Call for Papers & Preliminary Program 2012 Afrodescendant Congress on Nation Formation

During Afrodescendants' over 400-year sojourn in North America, there have been several nation formation and independent living efforts.¹ The most notable effort was the American Colonization Society's work to establish Liberia in West Africa. Nevertheless, there are now over 40 million Afrodescendants living in the United States—a nation within a nation. The proposed Congress on nation formation asks the following questions about this 40-million-strong nation.

1. Should nation formation efforts be undertaken? Why? Why Not?
2. What is the best method for proceeding with nation formation efforts?
3. What should be the economic and social structure of a newly found Afrodescendant nation?
4. How can we ensure that nation formation efforts proceed historically to a natural conclusion without interruption?

Therefore, we issue a call for papers on each of the four questions just posed.

Prospective presenters should prepare no more than 5000-word (excluding references) doubled spaced papers on topics related to the four questions. Congress participants are invited to prepare papers on these four topics from a range of perspectives: Historical, religious, economic, sociological, scientific, educational, etc. Papers should be submitted in a Microsoft WORD format no later than May 31, 2012 by e-mail; BlackEconomics@BlackEconomics.org. .

The Congress will be designed to permit 10-15 minutes for paper presentations and for discussion by Congress participants. The Congress will also feature a session for the formation of committees or other organizational structures that are required to carry out nation formation work.

Prospective Congress attendants who plan to prepare papers for presentation should communicate with Congress organizers to ensure that sufficient and appropriate coverage is provided for each of the topics that will be considered.

Finally, because the Congress is designed to serve as a point of departure for nation formation efforts, Congress participants should come prepared to volunteer their services within a committee framework to carry out nation formation work—including organizing subsequent Congresses--after the Congress concludes.

¹ For a summary of several nation formation and independent living efforts, see Chapter 2 of 53 by Brooks Robinson (2011); <http://www.BlackEconomics.org/BEAP/53MONO.pdf>.

Preliminary Program for the 2012 Afrodescendant Congress on Nation Formation

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

- 8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Congress opening remarks and introductions
- 9:30 a.m. **Topic 1:** Should nation formation efforts be undertaken? Why? Why Not?
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. **Topic 2:** What is the best method for proceeding with nation formation efforts?
- 3:30 p.m. Afternoon tea/coffee
- 3:45 p.m. First day wrap-up

Thursday, July 19, 2012

- 7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. **Topic 3:** What should be the economic and social structure of a newly found Afrodescendant nation?
- 10:15 a.m. **Topic 4:** How can we ensure that nation formation efforts proceed historically to a natural conclusion without interruption?
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Establishing an infrastructure for the nation formation effort
- 3:30 p.m. Afternoon tea/coffee
- 3:45 p.m. Summary and concluding statements
- 5:00 p.m. Congress adjourns