

International Socialist Network SOVINTERN

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Africa – Compensation for the Legacy of Colonialism and Neocolonialism

The International Socialist Network SOVINTERN notes the growing role of Africa as one of the most important centers of development and influence in the emerging multipolar world. Africa's population has surpassed 1.5 billion, and half of Africans are under 20 years of age. Based on these parameters, as well as the continent's resources, Africa has the potential to occupy a prominent place in the international system. Africa has access to global transport corridors, and its natural, climatic, and soil conditions allow it to feed its entire population. Politically, Africa comprises 54 UN member states.

The International Socialist Network SOVINTERN notes that Africa is the continent most affected by colonialism. For centuries, it was plundered by European empires, which drained it of its human and material resources. Africa served as a source for the slave trade. The reasons for Africa's underdevelopment and the disasters it faces, associated with numerous ethno-religious conflicts, are largely a direct consequence of the deliberate policies of Western states.

The formal end of colonialism did not bring Africa true liberation from external dependence; only its forms and methods changed. The continent remained a testing ground for Western transnational corporations, which did everything they could to derive superprofits by infringing on the interests of African states and stifling their sovereign development. Meanwhile, Western countries, abusing their disproportionate role in the global economic governance system, resorting to unilateral restrictions in violation of the UN Charter, acting through power structures, not shying away from assassinating undesirable political leaders, sought to consolidate their neo-colonial domination.

Africa continues to occupy a place in the international division of labor that does not correspond to its potential. The policies of international financial institutions, represented by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, are not aimed at providing genuine assistance to African states, but rather at implementing external control, financial enslavement, and predatory schemes to shift profits to Western jurisdictions. Western development institutions, when

providing financial resources to African countries, condition this on the implementation of a political agenda, adhering to values and priorities that are alien to the peoples of Africa.

Attempts to break this system, to form pan-African initiatives, to put the continent's wealth at the service of Africans, to promote the development of pan-African infrastructure and regional integration came into conflict with the interests of the West, and one of the outstanding African leaders who put forward these initiatives – the head of Libya, Muammar Gaddafi – was brutally murdered with the support of NATO.

To renounce neocolonial practices and other forms of pressure on independent states, the West must intensify and consolidate the corresponding efforts of the global majority. Good examples of such steps include the adoption of the resolution "Eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations" by the UN General Assembly on December 4, 2024, led by Russia, and the proclamation by the UN General Assembly in 2025 of December 14 as the International Day against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations, and December 4 as the International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures.

On March 25, 2026, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution recognizing the transatlantic slave trade and the enslavement of Africans as one of the most serious crimes against humanity. COVINTERN supports this decision as an important step toward recognizing historical truth and overcoming the consequences of the colonial past.

The International Socialist Network SOVINTERN states that the continent's development must utilize formulas and approaches developed by Africans themselves, resisting external dictates and neocolonialism. The colonial empires of Europe and the United States are responsible for the exploitation of the continent's human and natural resources and must compensate Africa for these losses, which the region will use for its own development.

The International Socialist Network (SOVINTERN) expresses solidarity with the peoples of African countries who envision their development in a multipolar world, liberating themselves from neocolonial oppression and practices that hinder their development. SOVINTERN supports African states' efforts to strengthen their sovereignty and independence from the West, diversify their external relations, and

participate in mechanisms of cooperation in financial, trade, technological, and other key areas outside Western control.