



A Bespoke Transnational Future: The Diaspora and Her Africa:

Abstract submitted by HRM Queen Mother Rev. Dr. Dòwòti Désir

The presentation of Her Royal Majesty Queen Mother Rev. Dr. Dòwòti Désir, is aligned with the UN International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024, and the Black Futures Summit, as integral components of her mandate as Queen Mother of the African Diaspora, Bénin Republic. This presentation answers questions about the nature of the future for Africans descendants, and African Americans of the US, with the Motherland. Unpacking transnationalism, and the *droit de retour*/right of return narrative, and movement of Africans in the Diaspora is a complex reality we face. As a futures construct, it encourages the freedom of movement of global African persons yet poses challenges for operationalizing the larger Pan-African vision shared, from theory towards praxis. As, “Year of Return” events unfold, long term concerns from the role of spirituality in development of Africa to sustaining cooperation agreements between the global South, and people of the global South who are based in the North are raised. As the *Kpodjito* (Mother of the Leopard) of, The Royal Palace of the African Diaspora, the Queen Mother works in partnership with various entities to generate public-educational programs, scholarship and documentation intended to serve heads-of-state; government/non-government organizations; and various institutions who are building bridges and scaffolding ties between the worlds of Africa and her Diaspora.