THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE DIASPORA:
FROM INSPIRATION TO ASPIRATION

WORKING PAPER II
2ND MEETING
CALI, 17 -20 MAY, 2017

Prepared by Team AFROIINNOVA: Paula Moreno (President, Manos Visibles); Javier Ortiz (Senior Advisor) and David Murillo (Technical Coordinator)
“Progress is never permanent, it will always be threatened, and because of this it must be reinforced and reestablished for it to survive”.
Zadie Smith
AFROINNOVA: INSPIRATION AND ASPIRATION

THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE DIASPORA – 2ND MEETING

WHO IS WHO

CONNECTED

ATTACHMENT:
REPORT – THE POWER OF THE DIASPORA
(FIRST MEETING)
AfroInnova is a group of innovative organizations and leaders from the African Diaspora that seeks to create strategic connections that promote concrete actions in favor of the visibility and empowerment of African and African descendant populations in light of the Decade of African Descendants (2015 – 2024) proclaimed by the United Nations. In the end, our goal is to bring about and sustain a renewed vision that reflects and encompasses Afro-Diasporic Global Power.

Since 2015 we have initiated a process of mapping, analysis, and reflection on the dynamics of action from the African Diaspora in the world. From there, our work has focused on generating other mechanisms that rethink and reinforce the impact of African Descendants and their journey.

In 2016, during the first meeting in Cartagena, we defined AFROINNOVA as:

- A Network of capacity and strategy.
- A Network of transnational conceptualization, negotiation of ideas, and collective learning.
- A space to cultivate leadership, renew focus, and generate a collective comprehension of the African Diaspora and its context.
- A space to construct new narratives, so that the people see their own struggle in a different way.
- A resource broker and catalyzer of transnational processes.

The members of AFROINNOVA are leaders that have platforms and mobilize. Leaders that read reality together, create balance between changes and challenges, and as we concluded in the first meeting, contribute to reinventing complexity and working on the creation of a future, beyond their own specific exercise. Consequently, the principal objective of AFROINNOVA is to know in order to recognize and in this way, through collective learning and strategic collaboration, to multiply transforming factors and effective empowerment for Afro-descendant and African communities.
To express the words Afro, Africa, and Afro-descendant in relation to the word ‘technology’ is, without a doubt, not so obviously relatable. Technology, as it is understood in its semantic meaning derived from the Greek language, makes reference to the study of technology – that to which Africans and their descendants have contributed in different areas, such as the economy. Therefore, this ancestral knowledge, which is accumulated and renewed over time, is not clearly referenced.

In the first meeting, the need to place value not only on the “what” – or that which makes each member of AFROINNOVA stand out in their organizational platforms – as well as the “how” to do things was deeply considered. As the report summarizes in Annex I, the mechanism of solidarity was highlighted, based on a power of love as the foundation which has permitted Africans and their descendants to reinvent and redefine their humanity. This is considered in a rhetorical framework of equality, in which wellbeing and privilege continues to be exceptions. An ‘Afro’ mechanism that demonstrates the power of innovation from the margina is defined by a member of our network who works at the Community Innovation Lab of MIT as:

““By innovation we are referring to the different mechanisms, tools, and methods that historically marginalized communities have designed and implemented to respond to systemic barriers, extractive development models, and structural racism. The term also applies to the use of individual, collective, and territorial assets to promote societal change, often using a self-determination narrative.”

In this second meeting, we are interested in deepening our understanding of the “logics of rupture” which was defined by the President of Africa 2.0 as “Afri-Can Do” – suggesting the need to reinvigorate current and future actors and protagonists, to support individual and collective advances, and above all to highlight the importance of effort.

The three axe of the agenda in Cali will be:

1. African Diaspora: What is our concept?
   On this point, the AFROINNOVA definition of diaspora and aspiration will be discussed in terms of power and future, where diaspora is understood both as a concept and also as an aspiration.

2. Technology of experiences
   In this space, the “how” of the experiences of AFROINNOVA will be discussed by sector – which will allow us to learn about the strategies used in different contexts to generate transformation, to open space and contribute to the advancement of the Afro-descendant population.

3. What can we do together? For what?
   As Mandela said: “Critical Organization means: there must not be an action for the sake of an action. Every individual action must be done to implement the strategic aim…” Under this premise, we review the analyses of diaspora organizations, and we map out the group assets and connections. In this way, we define an initial agenda that permits this exercise to become a dynamic and project AFROINNOVA mid-term.

In this second meeting we will consider the definitions of ‘diaspora’ and ‘power’. At the same time we will also consider collective learning and exchange and how these rich institutional efforts combined with those stemming from individual and collective, business, and communal organization, generate disruptive platforms that challenge the exclusionary system that has been constructed over time.
### THURSDAY, MAY 18, CALI

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<tr>
<td>9:00 a 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>African Diaspora:</strong> From concept to aspiration</td>
<td>Practical exercise about influence and collective construction.</td>
<td>African Diaspora initial concept for AFROINNOVA</td>
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<td>11:00 a 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>AfroTech:</strong> The wisdom of practice</td>
<td>Group work by sectors to share by strategies of effective empowerment based on different experiences</td>
<td>Strategic Manifesto AFROINNOVA</td>
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<td>2:00 a 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Workshop:</strong> AFROINNOVA assets</td>
<td>The group cartography and their assets</td>
<td>Map of competition, incidence and audiences</td>
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<td>4:00 a 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>AFROINNOVA</strong></td>
<td>How to strengthen our assets in a collective and strategic way?</td>
<td>Strategic Manifesto AFROINNOVA</td>
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### FRIDAY, MAY 19, CALI

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<td>8:30 a 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Presentation:</strong> Diaspora organizations analysis AFROINNOVA Portfolio</td>
<td>Analysis of more than 300 organizations at a global level. Trends and inputs for the AFROINNOVA Agenda.</td>
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<td>10:30 a 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>¿What comes next?</strong> From inspiration to aspiration Agenda AFROINNOVA 2018 – 2020</td>
<td>Define agenda items. Preparation final meeting – II Semester 2017</td>
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<td>2:00 a 6 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Commemoration:</strong> Afrocolumbian day (May 21 – slavery abolition) AFROINNOVA Seminar – Center of Afro Diasporic Studies – U. ICESI</td>
<td>Panels with AFROINNOVA members and Manos Visibles leaders, Colombian AFROINNOVA</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Cali is Africa through his music and dance: Pacific cost night.</strong></td>
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### CULTURAL SATURDAY, MAY 20, CALI

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<td><strong>Cultural Agenda - Cali Living and meeting Cali Salsa’s Night</strong></td>
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<td>Tourism and experiences</td>
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Abiola Oke (Nigeria/United States)
@abiolaokayfrica www.okayfrica.com @okayfrica
CEO of OkayAfrica, the leading media company of its kind connecting a global audience to the African continent through compelling content and high-profile cultural events. Abiola Oke, holds a bachelor’s degree in Economics with a focus in Finance from the City University of New York’s City College. Prior to joining Okayfrica, Abiola spent over 10 years in the financial services industry holding senior executive positions at Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, TD Ameritrade, and Barclays PLC. As a passionate activist, Abiola serves on the board of various not-for-profit organizations including the Brooklyn YMCA, FACE Africa and MoCADA. He is a member of the United Nations Association, New York Chapter and is a participant in the next generation of leaders & philanthropists supporting the Clinton Foundation.

Adriana Barbosa (Brasil)
http://www.feirapreta.com.br/ @feirapreta
Cultural producer and manager who works to make the afro market into a new model of development for the black population in Brazil. Founded in 2002 by Adriana Barbosa, an established leader in ethnic entrepreneurship, this institute launches an annual Fair aimed at the promotion of cultural expressions, products, and services Afro-descendants of various countries. In addition to having received the Trophy creditor Zumbi of Palmares (Nov/2006), and the prize Expedition Artemisia - Social Entrepreneurs, Feira Preta has been awarded by the State Secretariat of Culture of São Paulo (2008), thanks to her contribution to social equity measures in Brazil. Adriana Barbosa is listed as one of the 1,000 most influential women by Goldman Sachs.

Aurora Vergara
Centre for Afrodiasporan Studies CEA- U.ICES (Colombia) http://www.icesi.edu.co/ceaf/en/ @CEAFICESI
Founder and director of the first and only Center of Afro-diasporic studies in Colombia (CEAF), Aurora Vergara Figueroa -only 28 years old- holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts. Aurora is also the third person in the country to be awarded the Martin Dinsky distinction, for her dissertation, ‘Race, gender and property in Colombia: a historical ethnography of the Afro-Colombian struggles for land tenure’. As the current director of CEAF, part of the University ICESI, in Cali - Colombia, she has also received recognition from the mayor for her notable contribution to the advancement of Afro-Colombian communities.

Ebele Okobi
Public Policy Director, Africa at Facebook @EbeleOkobi
Ebele Okobi is the Head of African Public Policy at Facebook, where she leads Facebook’s political agenda across sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to Facebook, Ebele was the founding Global Head and Senior Legal Director for Human Rights at freedom of expression, and Internet accessibility.

Ibrahima Thiaw
Profesor Universidad de Dakar, Senegal
Ibrahima Thiaw (Ph.D., Rice University, Houston, Texas) is an Associate Professor of Archeology at the Fundamental Institute of Africa Noire (IFAN) in Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal. His research interests include the trans-Saharan and Atlantic trade, craft production, cultural contact, archaeological studies of identity, and cultural heritage management. He has done research in the Middle and Upper Senegal River, and since 2001, his work has focused mainly on Gorée Island and Senegambia Coastal.

Ifeanyi Awachie
(Nigeria/United Kingdom/United States)
African Salon http://www.africasalon.org/#africasalon @ifeanyiawachie
Ifeanyi Awachie is a Nigerian-American writer and curator driven by a passion for creating black and African representation through storytelling and programming. With a B.A. in English and creative writing from Yale University, Ifeanyi is author of “Summer in Igboland,” a work of personal nonfiction and documentary photography based on her experience visiting her birth country, Nigeria, for the first time. She won the Tristan Perlroth Prize for Summer Foreign Travel to support her research.

Ifeanyi has also worked as a spoken word poet and teaching artist. Ifeanyi founded contemporary African arts festival AFRICA SALON as an undergraduate and was later hired by her alma mater to curate the event at the University. In 2015, she founded Literary Happy Hour, a reading and performance series for writers of color in New Haven, Connecticut, which Ifeanyi developed into a grant-funded program and successfully embedded in the local community. Ifeanyi is currently pursuing an M.A. in Global Creative and Cultural Industries at SOAS, University of London.
goals and not settle for anything less than what is legal. Today, the goal of the collective is to show that women should have these rights and to become a leader for change. The main driver of this group is María Roa, a victim of forced displacement, this situation motivated her to fight for labor rights for women working in this sector. As a victim of violence, she saw firsthand the discrimination, exploitation, and lack of respect for the rights of domestic workers in Colombia. She has been a speaker in several forums, including an event organized by the Rockefeller Center for Latin American studies at Harvard University. Her leadership began when she went to Medellín to study history.

Iván Laranjeira (Mozambique)
Leader and Tour Guide - IVERCA
http://www.iverca.org/
@AssociacoIVERCA

Ivan has always had a passion for the arts, culture, and speaking, having produced and acted in films, theater pieces and radio soap operas. Seeing the needs of the impoverished community of Mafalala, where his parents grew up, Ivan wanted to combine tourism with culture and thus contribute to the development of Mafalala through tourism, integrating the local community in the process. He is currently working as a Tour Guide in the neighborhood, where he organizes the Mafalala Festival, Mafalala Walking Tour, and Mafala’s Community Museum. He also coordinates the Association IVERCA Tourism, Culture and Environment’s activities, of which he is a founding member and director. He is also a current member of Mandela Washington Fellowship–2016, part of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

Lucía Asué Mbomío Rubio (Spain)
Journalist (Aroféminas, Radio Melanina, among other initiatives)

With a degree in documentary filmmaking, Lucía now works as a reporter for TVE1 Spain in their environmental show called “Earth Calling”. Before that, she worked in the TV Show “Spaniards around the World,” during which she obtained various awards from the Spanish Television Academy. Following this role, she worked for a year in Equatorial Guinea directing documentaries about HIV and early pregnancy. Along with her TV career, she has volunteered at the African Film Festival in Córdoba, Film Africa London (as editor, camera team, and interviewer), UNICEF (teaching in workshops about media and HIV), and Amnesty International press. She has recently released a documentary about the Cañada Real Galiana, the largest informal settlement in Europe, which has given her two international awards and was showcased at the Rivas Vaciamadrid World Migration Forum. In 2010, she was chosen as a Reference Young Afrodescendant in Spain and in 2013 she was listed in Lloyds Banking Group and Thomson Reuters top 30 of Afro-Europeans ranking.

Maria Roa Borja (Colombia)
President of Union Domestic Service Workers @empleadas_hogar
http://www.trabajadorasdomesticas.org/
Maria Roa is the president of the Union of Domestic Service Workers, UTRASD, which advocates for legislative change that would provide Christmas and vacation bonuses compulsory for housekeepers. She has been a speaker in several forums, including an event organized by the Rockefeller Center for Latin American studies at Harvard University. Her leadership began when she went to Medellín for the first time and started working as a housekeeper, where she saw firsthand the discrimination, exploitation, and lack of labor rights for women working in this sector. As a victim of forced displacement, this situation motivated her to fight for these rights and to become a leader for change. The main goal of the collective is to show that women should have goals and not settle for anything less than what is legal. Today housekeepers in Colombia have achieved greater protections against occupational hazards, higher minimum wages, and more robust social security benefits.

Sophia Lafargue (United States)
Team lead organizer for Congressman Gregory Meeks, Congressional Black Caucus member. @lafarguesophia

For longer than a decade, Lafargue has actively supported the progress of all the commercial legislation in the US Congress. Her consulting portfolio includes mainly policy on international trade and foreign affairs issues in emerging economic systems and geopolitical and economic policy concerns. Since 2005, Lafargue has been the main commercial counselor to Congressman Meeks, who is a senior member of the Financial Services Committee of the White House. Sophia is a graduate of Queens College in New York City and Harvard University.

Susana Palacios David
Musician Universidad Javeriana
Advisor for the Office of Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia. I am in charge of planning and accompanying cultural exchanges that are offered to boys, girls and teenagers who perform Colombian traditional music. The youngsters participating in this project live in high risk regions regarding forced recruitment by unlawful armed groups. Through these cultural exchanges we promote intercultural dialogue, pacific coexistence and social inclusion. Additionally, we look forward to prevent the recruitment, and to encourage the construction of a better society through young leaders who we hope will be able to find paths for peace, respecting values such as tolerance and social linkage. All of this, through music.

William de Almeida Reis (Brazil)
Project Coordinator for AfroReggae
http://www.afroreggae.org/ @afroreggae
William is 30 years old and was born and grew up in a favela of Rio de Janeiro. He graduated with a degree in physical education and was the coordinator for diverse programs at the Cultural Group AfroReggae since 2011.

Among other accomplishments, he has coordinated sports events for young people in several favelas in Rio de Janeiro, managing resources with the support of Red Bull, Santander, and Coca-Cola.

Additionally, since 2013 he has been in charge of coordinating programs that aim to empower Afro-descendants in AfroReggae, in order to promote African history in Brazil and inspire greater pride for those of African ancestry. Currently, William coordinates the project CAMINHO MELHOR JOVEM in 10 favelas of Rio de Janeiro and is planning to attend university to study history.
Zakiya Carr Johnson (United States)
Director of the Race, Ethnicity, and Social Inclusion Unit, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs U.S.
Zakiya Johnson coordinates with U.S. embassies and interagency partners in the region to support efforts to address race, ethnicity, and gender issues as part of Department of State’s social inclusion policy. For 17 years, Ms. Carr Johnson has worked with marginalized communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, and has also written articles and coordinated dialogues on the inclusion of ethnic and minority groups, economic, social and cultural rights-based development and diversity. She earned her B.A. in Communications and Spanish at Howard University and a M.A. in International Relations at Syracuse University.

MANOS VISIBLES TEAM

David Murillo
AFROINNOVA Coordinator
Professional in Government and International Relations. He currently holds a master’s degree in Development Management and participates in MIT’s CoLab Economic Democracy program. He completed his internship at the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations, based in Geneva, Switzerland, where he worked in the area of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. He has been linked to Visible Hands since 2014 where he has coordinated different programs.

Diana Restrepo Berrio
Manos Visibles Vice President
Bacteriologist of the School “Mayor” of Medellin, she worked more than 20 years in pharmaceutical marketing and public relations. Between 2007 and 2010 she served as Private Secretary of the Office of the Minister of Culture. She is one of Manos Visibles’s founders and currently is the Vice President. She resides in Medellin.

Esteban Palacio Castrillón
Manos Visibles Communications Coordinator
Communications coordinator with experience in communication for development and organizational communication. Experience in research, process management, media management, consulting, project management, and organizational communication. Mr. Palacio has worked on community projects focused on the communication component with the Department of Municipal Planning of Medellin and the School of Communications at the University of Antioquia.

Javier Ortiz Cassiani
Afroinnova Methodology Advisor
yosoydelcaribe@hotmail.com
Historian and writer. Phd in History at El Colegio de México; Magister in History at the Universidad de los Andes; and historian at the Universidad de Cartagena. Researcher and university professor; specialist in Afro-descendant culture and history. Author of book, “The Uncomfortable Color of Memory” and co-author of “Disorder in the Square.” Dr. Ortiz is recognized for his publications of chronicles, essays, research articles, and interviews in national and international media. He has coordinated programs related to historical memory and culture, and has been advisor on issues related to heritage and the Afro descendant population for the Ministry of Culture and the ethnic differential approach for the National Center for Historical Memory. In 2014 he received the prize Afrocolombian of the year. He is also a columnist for the newspapers El Espectador and El Heraldo.

Maité Rosales Escarria
Technical Coordinator of the Program Educapazífico-Manos Visibles.
Undergraduate student and training leader. She is in tenth semester of Agronomy in the Pacífico University. She is a DÁLE Fellowship holder. She studied in the Manos Visibles School of Government, and participated in the Pacífico Internship Program as an intern in the Center for Regional Studies of the Central Bank of Colombia-Cartagena. Currently, she is the social coordinator at the NGO Steps that Transform: we built the city from here (Pasos que Transforman: Desde aquí Construimos Ciudad). She leads the research university team XILEMA & FLOEMA and is the project technical adviser of the NGO Steps of Mangrove: Safeguarding a Life (Pasos de Mangle: Salvaguardando una Vida) which works in peace building processes.

Paula Moreno
Manos Visibles President
Ms. Moreno is a Colombian industrial engineer and graduate in Italian language and culture. She also holds an Mphil in the philosophy of management from the University of Cambridge, in addition to studies in urban planning and leadership at MIT and Yale University. As Colombia’s former Minister of Culture, she was the youngest to hold the position and the first female Afro-Colombian to hold ministerial office. In 2013, she was recognized by the BBC as one of the top 100 female world leaders and has received multiple awards from a number of organizations such as the Association of Black Mayors in the United States, the Council of the Americas, the BMW Foundation, the World Economic Forum, the Mexican Government and the Colombian Government, among others. She founded Manos Visibles in 2010 and since then has presided over this organization as President. She is currently one of the 15 members of the Board of Directors at the Ford Foundation.
STRATEGIC CONNECTIONS
More information about AFROINNOVA:
Twitter: @afroinnova
Facebook: Manos Visibles
www.manosvisibles.org/afroinnova
e-mail: diaspora@manosvisibles.org
CONTENTS AFROINNOVA

- Working paper # 1. Africa and its diaspora: A new global power?
  Link: https://issuu.com/manosvisibles/docs/working_paper_afroinnova_official_1

- AFROINNOVA - First Meeting english version: The power of the diáspora
  Link: https://issuu.com/manosvisibles/docs/afroinnova__first__meeting__english

- Conference Africa and its diaspora: A new global power?
  Link: https://issuu.com/manosvisibles/docs/africa_and_its_diaspora__a_global_power

- Who is who in the african diáspora.
  Link: https://issuu.com/manosvisibles/docs/who_is_who__consolidado_en

Playlist: AFROINNOVA
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnNy3rtjkeLqtgk2X8-Ko057dloB4HRUn


- What is a slave and the enslaved? Historian Javier Ortiz Cassiani | AfroINNOVA de Manos Visibles

- OkayAfrica’s CEO, Abiola Oke is a member of AfroINNOVA of Manos Visibles

- Constructing New Narratives, New Realities. Grupo AfroINNOVA of Manos Visibles

- Business Project to Provide Solutions for Social Problems of Manos Visibles

- Connecting to Solve Structural Problems of the Afro-population of Manos Visibles

- The Ethnic Struggle for the Rights of Afro-domestic Workers of Manos Visibles

- Different Realities that Strengthen Ties – AfroINNOVA Group. Lucía Asué Mbomío Rubio of Manos Visibles

- The Community Movement to Conserve the Cultural Heritage of Manos Visibles

- Construction of Links from Cultural and Ancestral Manifestations of Manos Visibles

- The Power of the Diaspora: Connection – Investigation - Knowledge, Aurora Vergara of Manos Visibles

- Unión y poder afrodescendiente colectivo para cambios reales - Abiola Oke de Manos Visibles