

# *Long-Term Strategic Plan for Black America*

## **Nine Functional Sectors: “Responsible Parties” that Develop and Implement Plans for Meeting Black America’s Human Requirements**



**Long-Term Strategic Plan Panel**

**July 2023**

# **Executive Summary**

## **Introduction**

In January of 2022, Baba Laurence Tunsill began assembling a Long-Term Strategic Plan (LTSP) Panel at the urging of Baba Amefika Geuka. The Panel convened for the first time on February 24, 2022, and met monthly thereafter until this LTSP document was released in July 2023. The charge given to the Panel by Baba Tunsill was to produce a plan that would provide guidance that Black Americans can use to find our way from the bottom of the US socioeconomic ladder to the very top. The “top” here does not refer solely to the highest possible US level, but to the top or best in the world. Imagine a Black America 100 years hence that assesses its condition as being the most favorable possible condition.

## **LTSP Rationale**

This LTSP document was developed because a long-term plan did not exist for Black America. In fact, the entire world at the lowest socioeconomic levels features short-term thinking: From media programs, to business and statistical reporting, to government budgets, to business plans. However, for a people of over 45 million to transition from nearly nothing to substantially something, a long and systematic plan is required.

The purpose of the LTSP document is to provide a roadmap for real change and progress for Black America. During our engagement with Europeans in America that began during the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Afrodescendants have been spun up and around on a sojourn designed by others for others’ benefit. All the eras experienced (imprisonment/slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and now Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) included the promise of favorable outcomes and change. However, what was initially sold as favorable for us was always turned on its head, became a detriment to us, and favorable for others.

The fact that Blacks in America had no long-term plan meant that we had no goals, landmarks, or longitudinal metrics against which to measure real progress. Not knowing where we were in relative terms on a path of real progress meant that we kept repeating the same mistakes and remaking the same wheel when plans operationalized against us led to crises. This LTSP is designed to provide an exit from a road of oppression and second-class citizenship treatment, and to place us on a path of real and measurable progress that will culminate in a superior position for Blacks in America in a global context.

## **LTSP Design**

By “design” of the LTSP is meant the process by which the LTSP document was produced, the reference unit to be considered, underlying assumptions, the document’s framework, and identification of the plan’s key operators.

The LTSP Panel was comprised of grassroots activists interested in addressing Black America’s difficulties. Panelists embodied a wide range of expertise. Where expertise was absent on

important topics, experts were sought to provide pertinent insights—some became permanent Panel members. As already noted, the Panel convened monthly to hammer out agreement on definitions of starting-point terms, to determine fundamental underlying assumptions for the LTSP, to define and construct the LTSP document’s framework, and to prepare and review the LTSP document.

The Panel formed early agreement on a fundamental underlying assumption about Black America’s development space. Although the well-known and factual sentiment that Black America constitutes a “nation within a nation” was acknowledged, for a variety of reasons the Panel agreed to forego proposing to carve out a single territory in North America where a sizeable portion of the Black American population would aggregate under a separate governance system. Rather, the Panel decided to develop a plan for achieving self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and self-determination in existing, distributed Black American areas of influence (communities). (Self-determination means unrestricted exercise of the right to explore, choose, and operationalize a plan for conducting our lives.) It was believed that this approach facilitates smooth and progressive phased development that would appeal to, and not alienate, most Black Americans. Moreover, this phased *in situ* approach to independence is less likely to be disrupted by remaining racial and ethnic groups in the country that already enjoy the benefits of owning and controlling their areas of influence. The widespread distributed nature of this effort also poses a logistics problem for those interested in attacking us. Importantly, the Panel recognized that this LTSP is optimal for Black American areas of influence in large urban areas, but less so for Black Americans in smaller cities and towns. However, Black American efforts to achieve self-determination in large urban areas should influence favorably outcomes in smaller locales.

The Panel comprehended that the relevant framework required to improve outcomes for Black Americans in the short and long run is governance. Therefore, the Panel adopted the operational functions delineated in the *Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)* for developing the LTSP. (*COFOG* is a ten-part system that many countries use to classify their expenditures by function.) Combining two of *COFOG*’s ten functions, the Panel addressed the full scope of Black American life for nine functions: (1) General Public Service (GPS); (2) Defense and Public Order and Safety (DPOS); (3) Economic Affairs; (4) Environmental Protection; (5) Housing and Community Amenities (HCA); (6) Health and Wellness; (7) Recreation, Religion, and Culture (RRC); (8) Education; and (9) Social Protection.

In addition to determining the scope of the LTSP, it was critical to adopt a structure for addressing each *COFOG* function or sector. The Panel selected the Common Country Analysis (CCA) from the United Nations development framework as the structure for elaborating Black America’s problematic status for most aspects of life, present specific needs, and then to outline phased directives/actions that will transform and elevate Black America over the next 100 years.

As the final aspect of the LTSP framework, which is the pivot point for plan success, the Panel found it appropriate and relevant to identify suggested Responsible Parties as the operators/actors who will execute the plan. Responsible Parties are organizations, institutions, and individuals already operating within the nine *COFOG* functions/sectors to improve outcomes for, and to support, Black Americans. We suggest such Responsible Parties in each CCA.

After completing the design of the LTSP, the key remaining task was to identify phased objectives for each COFOG function/sector that will ensure systematic progress toward the overarching goal of achieving a superior position in all areas of Black American life.

### **LTSP Goals**

In identifying goals for the LTSP, the Panel sought to emphasize Black America's Afrocentric foundation and nature, and to structure goals that focus on achieving high levels of human well-being, as opposed to reaching materialistic targets. Operationally, the overarching goal for the plan is reached in a 100-year period as a result of successful achievement of overarching goals for each of the nine functions/sectors. Overarching goals are realized through objectives that are aligned over eight phases: (1) years 1-5; (2) years 6-10; (3) years 11-15; (4) years 16-20; (5) years 21-40; (6) years 41-60; (7) years 61-80; and (8) years 81-100.

The LTSP's overarching goal to be achieved by the 100-year mark is:

**Black Americans (Afrodescendants) will describe our quality-of-life as being #1 in the world with respect to our ability to fulfill our desires and experience the best possible well-being. We will identify ourselves as the happiest, healthiest, most educated, most physically satisfied, and safest people on Earth.**

The following are highlights of the efforts to be undertaken and overarching goals (outcomes) for the nine functions/sectors that will produce the just-identified LTSP overarching goal:

**General Public Service.**—Operationalizes a National Black Planning Council (NBPC), which will provide oversight for developing required administrative infrastructures for the remaining eight sectors and the successful integration and execution of the LTSP. This sector should cause Black Americans to enjoy superior governance within our areas of influence.

**Defense and Public Order and Safety.**—For external defense, this sector collaborates with other sectors to advance a “nonviolent” offense, but prepares progressively for potential incursions by opposing forces. Internally, the sector establishes self-provided security and fire protection services within Black areas of influence, while moving progressively to gain full control of police and fire protection services that are currently provided mainly by outsiders. This sector should cause Black Americans to experience the safest possible and most secure physical environment.

**Economic Affairs.**—Collaborates extensively with the Education and other sectors to develop the human, physical, financial, and cultural capital required to progressively produce goods, services, and innovations to fully meet demand in our areas of influence. The sector will spearhead campaigns to transform Black American minds increasingly toward “group economics” and all that that implies. It will seek to expand and grow entrepreneurship and the economy broadly in our areas of influence so that Black America experiences superior material satisfaction.

**Environmental Protection.**—This sector will raise awareness concerning environmental quality in Black American areas of influence, and increase our capacity to ensure environmental quality

so that Flint, Michigan and Jackson, Mississippi cases, for example, disappear. The work of this sector will cause Black Americans to enjoy life with superb environmental quality.

**Housing and Community Amenities.**—Collaborates extensively with the Education and Economic Affairs sectors to progressively develop financial, intellectual, and entrepreneurial requirements for supplying the range of required physical infrastructure (housing, educational, commercial, communal, and other amenities) in our areas of influence. Also collaborates with the Recreation, Religion, and Culture sector to execute strategies for gaining ownership/control of our areas of influence. This sector will cause Black Americans to enjoy elevated satisfaction with the provision of housing and other required amenities in our areas of influence.

**Health and Wellness.**—Transforms Black America’s health and wellness perspective so that we adopt, and become immersed in, a “prevent, fortify, and flourish” paradigm/culture. Also, transforms four key aspects the current healthcare delivery system: (1) The approach to treatment; (2) the logistics for healthcare provision; (3) the point of emphasis for healthcare delivery; and (4) the financing of healthcare. This sector will enable Black America to enjoy best in the world health and well-being in the form of life expectancy.

**Recreation, Religion, and Culture.**—For recreation and culture and from a Black American perspective, there is emphasis on guaranteeing fair and appropriate compensation (from a Black American perspective) for Black Americans’ exceptional skills and creative abilities, which can help underwrite important aspects of development in our areas of influence. For religion, it requires Black Americans to demand greater transparency from organizations/institutions and to bring a halt to “elite capture.” For all three subsectors, it calls for a return to Afrocentric principles. This sector will enable Black Americans to enjoy, and be the purveyors of, the world’s finest recreation, religion, and culture.

**Education.**—Resurrects and invents Afrocentric curriculums and educational systems that are promulgated by Black Americans to ensure that our areas of influence embody the required knowledges, skills, abilities, training, and mentalities to fulfill our needs. Implementation of the plan for this sector will cause Black Americans to supersede all other racial and ethnic groups in the world in educational performance.

**Social Protection.**—Collaborates with all other relevant sectors to provide high-quality social protection for a variety of needs. Emphasizes the installment of Afrocentric communal principles that will enable Black American areas of influence to efficiently provide for our social protection needs. It will cause all Black Americans to value all our people (irrespective of their conditions), engender a high sense of communalism, and ensure that all within the walls of our areas of influence benefit from the best possible social protection.

The following is a list of what the LTSP Panel believes will be Black America’s most important achievements over the next 100 years:

- Birth a renewal of our minds, which become increasingly Afrocentric with a return to a strong family and communal social system that reflects group economic principles.
- Become the primary educators and trainers of our own to meet our needs.

- Experience widespread adoption of healthy lifestyles and living.
- Observe a mushrooming and deepening of entrepreneurship that enables us to efficiently produce to meet and finance our and others' needs especially: Food; clothing; shelter; energy; transportation; education, information technology and communications; and entertainment.
- Come to fully own and control our areas of influence.
- Develop the capacity to protect our areas of influence.
- Leverage our unique historical legacy and developmental experiences to improve conditions in the world—especially for Black people of the world.

## **Conclusion**

Any significant undertaking deserves a plan of certain duration. However, contemplation of transforming and uplifting Black Americans from the bottom of the socioeconomic system to its very heights demands an elongated plan that is strategic. This 100-year LTSP is broad enough in scope and detailed enough in actions/directives to serve as sound guidance that will enable Black America's rise. The plan calls for us—not outsiders—to operationalize the plan with an attitude of “we go with what we got” and “by any means necessary.” This plan moves Black America from talk, to consideration of the plan, to a decision to implement (work) a long-term process that will fulfill our long-held desires and those of our ancestors. At the same time, to be successful, the massive interest of young Black Americans must be attracted to this LTSP.

The LTSP Panel does not anticipate blind acceptance of this plan; it should be scrutinized, modified, and revised so that it is perfectly fit for purpose. While great Black personalities and groups have developed plans before, to our knowledge, an LTSP of 100-years duration has not been prepared to date. Therefore, the LTSP Panel urges Black America to use this plan and seize the opportunity to begin in earnest our rise, to accelerate it, and to realize our destiny of liberty (freedom). If we do not act now, then the world of tomorrow may not even remember us as a footnote in history.