



## Concept note

The « **Culture of peace**» concept was first defined in Africa, during the International Congress on «Peace in the Minds of Men», organized by UNESCO in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, in 1989.

According to the definition adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, a Culture of Peace consists “**of values, attitudes and behaviors** that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavor to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society”<sup>1</sup>.

In Africa, the concept of a Culture of Peace is rooted in **the values, belief systems and forms of spirituality, local knowledge and technologies, traditions and forms of cultural and artistic expression** that contribute to the respect of human rights, cultural diversity, solidarity and the rejection of violence to build democratic societies.

The idea of launching the Biennale for a Culture of Peace draws its inspiration from the **Charter for African Cultural Renaissance**<sup>2</sup>, which advocates that culture is the most effective mean for enabling Africa to increase its share of worldwide scientific production and overcome the challenges of globalization.

Moreover, this Biennale is fully in line with the Action Plan for a Culture of Peace in Africa, which was adopted in Luanda (Angola) during the Pan-African Forum «Sources and resources for a Culture of Peace» jointly organized by UNESCO, the African Union and the Angolan Government in March 2013. The Forum allowed, on one hand the launch of a **continental and sustainable Movement for a Culture of Peace in Africa**, and on the other hand, help to raise awareness and mobilize campaigns at a national level under the African Union campaign “**Make Peace Happen**”.

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution 52/13 of 1998

<sup>2</sup> Charter of African Cultural Renaissance, African Union, 24 January 2006

Following the adoption of this Action Plan in March 2013, many initiatives have emerged at a continental and national levels in several African countries, including: the creation of the **Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa** in September 2013 in Addis Ababa; the creation of the **Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace (PAYNCOP)** in December 2014 in Libreville and the establishment of the project **Pan-African Women's Network for Culture of Peace** with the creation of the first section of this network in Gabon in 2017<sup>3</sup>. **Awareness raising campaigns for the public and youth** were launched, during the celebration of September 21, International Day of Peace, in Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Liberia, Mali, Burundi. In other African countries, **numerous projects and initiatives in the field of peace building and global citizenship** have been implemented (see Culture of peace Africa Brochure<sup>4</sup>).

Two years since the deadline for the AU Silencing the Guns Initiative, Africa is still far from achieving this aspiration and the continent stages many conflicts, some new some protracted, that cause devastation and the uprooting of people from their trusted environments.

It is in this context that in January 2015, the 24<sup>th</sup> session of **the African Union Assembly of Head of States and Government adopted** the Decision 558/XXIV requesting the African Union Commission to «take all the appropriate measures in consultation with UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Angola for the organization of the Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace, Biennale of Luanda».

During his official visit to France in May 2018, the President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, met with the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs Audrey Azoulay, and reaffirmed Angola's intention to host the **“Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace, Biennale of Luanda”**, in partnership with UNESCO and the African Union. In that regard, an Agreement was signed in December 2018, laying the way for holding the first edition of the Biennale in September 2019.

The Culture of Peace Biennale is a continent-wide event that will contribute directly to the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goal 16 and 17** (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions / Partnerships) of the **United Nations Agenda 2030**, and the **Aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063** and in particular the “Agenda for Peace” and “Silencing the Guns by 2020” Flagship Project.

The Biennale is also part of UNESCO's operational strategy for Priority Africa (2014-2021) which aims to provide “African responses to the transformations that affect African economies and societies.”

It will bring together representatives of governments, civil society, the arts, sciences and international organizations, academic institutions and international organizations.

The 2019 and first Biennale of Luanda **will be based on three axes:**

- a. **Partners Forum: Alliance for Africa** : a major opportunity to engage in strategic programmes for Africa through the scaling up of proven initiatives and projects for peace and sustainable development throughout the continent.
- b. **Forum of Ideas - Youth and Women Forums**, three platforms for reflection on the future of Africa focusing on disseminating good practices and solutions to the prevention, management and mitigation of conflicts;
- c. **Festival of Cultures** aimed at showcasing the cultural diversity of African countries and the African diaspora, demonstrating thereby the resilience of the African people in face of conflict and violence;

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<sup>3</sup> As part of these networks, numerous international conferences were held in Côte d'Ivoire (Yamoussoukro, 2014), in Angola (Soyo, 2015 and Luena, 2016), Benin (Cotonou, 2015) Gabon (Libreville, 2014 and 2017), Gambia (Banjul, 2016), Nigeria (Abuja, 2017) and Paris on the margins of the 39th General Conference of UNESCO in 2017.

<sup>4</sup> <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000261366>

## The Biennale of Luanda in few words ...

### An African encounter for peace:

- A platform for promoting cultural diversity and African unity
- A place conducive to international and intra-African cultural exchanges
- A special meeting that brings together - every two years - actors and partners of a Pan-African movement for the prevention of violence and conflict and the consolidation of peace

**Main objective:** to grow the **Pan-African Movement for a culture of peace and non-violence** through the establishment of partnerships involving:

- Governments
- Civil society
- Artistic and scientific community
- Private sector
- International organizations

**Format:** 5 days every two years in Luanda, capital of Angola, around 3 poles:

- Partners Forum: Alliance for Africa
- Forum of Ideas / Youth Forum / Women Forum
- Festival of cultures

**Edition 2019:** 18 - 22 September

## Partners Forum: Alliance for Africa



**Objective:** Mobilize around a common ambition: to ensure that the democratic construction of Africa is built on a sustainable humanist, social, cultural and economic basis.

- Based on the testimonies of partners, examples of projects, thematic forums and networking, this Forum wishes to engage partners in **initiatives for peace and sustainable development** for the African continent and its populations.
- The Partners Forum thus provides an **opportunity for partners to expand their networks** with governments, the public and private sectors, international organizations, foundations, development banks, etc.
- The **Partners' Alliance for the Culture of Peace in Africa** is a key modality of Resource Mobilization Strategy for Africa, showcasing best practices and proven solutions for the promotion of peace and sustainable development at local, national and international levels (see attached).



**Objective:** Mobilize funds and resources for the implementation of the Culture of Peace projects and initiatives in Africa and diaspora

**A quality label for initiatives and projects:** «Flagship programs» of UNESCO, African Union, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations that have already demonstrated impact in several African countries, in the following areas:

- Empowerment of women and youth through literacy and technical and vocational training in sustainable development, digital and culture
- Prevention of violent extremism and facilitation of dialogue through education for peace, citizenship, media and cultural heritage
- Diversification of African economies through the development of cultural and creative industries and the professions of the environment and biodiversity
- Conflict prevention around natural resources: freshwater, forest, fauna, underground, oceans, etc.
- Establishment of early warning systems and development of resilience to crises, conflicts and climate change
- Empowerment of the media and use of information and communication technologies to promote peace and non-violence

**The Partner's Alliance gathers African and non-African organizations committed to the culture of peace:**

- Public and private sector companies
- Foundations and philanthropic organizations
- Governments and bilateral cooperation
- Development Banks
- Civil society organizations
- Sports events and Cultural Festivals
- Public and private Media
- International organizations

Networks of **Civil Society Organizations** are already part of the Alliance such as:

- Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace
- Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace

Others Sport and Cultural organizations join the Alliance in the domains of cinema, fashion, performing arts, music, etc. such as:

- Pan-African Festival of Cinema and Television (FESPACO) – Burkina Faso
- Abidjan Market for Performing Arts (MASA) – Côte d'Ivoire
- International Festival of African Fashion (FIMA) – Niger
- Festival of Urban Music of Anoumabo (FEMUA) – Côte d'Ivoire
- Raggae Music Festival (ROTOM Sunsplash) – Espagne
- AFRICALIA – Creativity is Life (Belgium)
- Peace and Sport (Monaco)
- ...

## Forum of ideas - Youth and Women Forums



**The main theme:** Building and perpetuating peace in Africa: A multi-stakeholder movement

### **Thematic Focuses:**

- Refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa: Towards durable solutions to forced displacement (African Union theme of the year for 2019)
- Africa in the World: highlighting the linkages between Africa and its Diasporas
- Violence prevention and conflict resolution and mitigation through Culture and Education
- Conflict prevention around transboundary natural resources
- Promotion of a Culture of Peace: the role of media including social and digital media



**A privileged space for youth:** spaces for reflection and exchanges between young people from Africa and the diaspora

### **Thematic Focuses:**

- Youth, Peace and Security
- Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### **Objectives of the Forum of ideas and Youth forum**

- Celebrate Africa's cultural diversity and promote regional integration
- Take stock of the actions taken in Africa in the culture of peace
- Promote the exchange of good practices between actors and partners
- To develop a forward-looking approach to the future of Africa

### **A device for communication and dissemination of information:**

- Radio / TV studios for Thematic Forums
- Direct multi-sites / Webcast (universities and UNESCO offices in several countries)
- Partnership with the media (print, audiovisual and web)
- Media Room: Journalists / Bloggers
- Interviews with panelists and personalities
- Social Media Campaign
- Website of the Biennale in French, English and Portuguese

### **A special moment to launch:**

- Public Awareness Campaigns on the 21 September - World Day of Peace



**21 September, International Peace Day will be dedicated to the role African Women play for Peace: Influential African Women and Women's Organizations for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace**

**Thematic Focus:**

- Promotion of a Culture of Peace: the role of women organizations

**Specific Objectives:**

- Sharing best practices for the reduction of girls and women's vulnerability to violence
- Reflection on role of Women (organizations) in as agents of Peace in Africa
- Coordinate joint actions of existing Women's Networks for Peace in Africa: FEMWISE (African Union Commission), Culture of Peace Women Networks (UNESCO), Women Leaders Network (UN Women), ...

**Festival of cultures**



**Partners:** 14 African countries and Diaspora

**A main objective:** Creating a space for exchanges between artistic and cultural expressions that contribute to the promotion of African values of peace and non-violence:

- Cinema and photography
- Music
- Plastic and Visual Arts
- Performing Arts (theater, dance...)
- Fashion and Design
- Comics and Video games
- Poetry, Literature, Oral tradition (proverbs, tales, epics...)
- Heritage sites (culture and nature)
- Crafts and Heritage industries

**Format:** 14 Countries in the 6 regions of Africa invited to each edition of the Biennial of Luanda:

- 2 in North Africa: **Morocco and Egypt**
- 2 in West Africa: **Cabo Verde, Mali and Nigeria**
- 2 in East Africa: **Ethiopia, Rwanda and Kenya**
- 2 in Central Africa : **Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo**
- 2 in Southern Africa : **Namibia and South Africa**
- 2 of the Diaspora: **Brazil and Italy**