



UNESCO



## 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 fed off **the integration of 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 a **continental and sustainable Movement for a Culture of Peace in Africa**, and on the other hand, helped to raise awareness and mobilize campaigns at a national level under the African Union campaign “**Silencing the guns by 2020**”.

Following the adoption of this Action Plan in March 2013, many initiatives have emerged at the continental and national levels in several African countries, including: the creation of the **Network of**

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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

**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 from 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 that context that in January 2015, the 24<sup>th</sup> session of **the African Union Assembly 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 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 the “Silencing the guns by 2020” initiatives.

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 four axes**:

- a. **Forum of Ideas and Youth Forum**, two platforms for reflection on the future of Africa focusing of disseminating good practices and solutions to the prevention, management and mitigation of conflicts;
- b. **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;
- c. **Cultures and Sports Alliance for Peace**, featuring international cultural, music and sport events for peace advocacy;
- d. **Partners' Alliance for Culture of Peace in Africa**, which encourages the mobilization of partners to support the Biennale as well as the scaling up of proven interventions and projects for peace promotion throughout the continent.

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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 ...

### A Pan-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 4 poles:

- Forum of ideas / Youth forum
- Festival of cultures
- Cultures and Sports Alliance for Peace
- Partners' Alliance for Culture of Peace in Africa

**Edition 2019:** 18 - 22 September

### Forum of ideas and Youth forum



**A 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 women organizations
- 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

## Festival of cultures



**Partners:** 12 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:** 12 Countries in the 6 regions of Africa invited to each edition of the Biennial of Luanda:

- 2 in North Africa
- 2 in West Africa
- 2 in East Africa
- 2 in Central Africa
- 2 in Southern Africa
- 2 of the Diaspora (America & the Caribbean, East and West Europe, Asia & Middle East...)

## Cultures and Sports Alliance for Peace

### **Africa - Rest of the world**

*A historic football match between glories of world football*

Kick-off by a world football star.

**Objective:** Raising awareness of the public at large to peace and non-violence and raise funds for projects

**Opening day Biennale:** September 18, 2019

**Location:** Luanda Stadium (Angola)

### **World Day of Peace - 21/09/2019**

**Objective:** Mobilizing African women for a culture of peace - This day will be an opportunity to launch the **Pan-African Women's Network for a Culture of Peace**

In association with the 2 existing networks:

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

### **Cultures and Creations Alliance for Peace**

*Creativity and diverse cultural expressions inspire our action for peace and non-violence:*

- Cinema
- Fashion
- Gastronomy
- Performing Arts
- ...

**Potential Partners:**

Cartago Cinema Biennale – Tunis, Gnaoui and Fez Sacred Music Festivals – Fez/Essaouira, Bamako Biennale of African Photography, FESPACO (African Cinema Festival) – Ouagadougou, Biennale of African Contemporary Arts/ Museum of black civilizations – Dakar, FIMA(Fashion Festival) – Niamey, FEMUA (Festival of Urban Music of Anoumabo) – Abidjan, MASA (Performing arts) – Abidjan, Bouaké, Bassam, FESPAM (Music Festival) – Brazzaville, FEST’HORN (Music Festival) – Djibouti, FESTAD (Dance Festival) – Kigali, Harare Book Fair, DOCKANEMA(Documentary film) – Maputo, etc ...

**Objective :** Raising awareness and mobilize the public at large to peace and non-violence

### **Peace Live Aid - African Artists and Friends**

*A mega-concert for peace*

**Objective:** Raising awareness of the public at large to peace and non-violence and raise funds for projects in Africa

**Closing day of the Biennale:** September 22, 2019

**Location:** Luanda Stadium (Angola)

## Partners' and Media Alliance for the Culture of Peace in Africa



**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
- International organizations

The Alliance complements specific mobilization frameworks for **Civil Society Organizations**, 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
- Pan-African Women's Network for Culture of Peace



**Objective:** To mobilize traditional, social and digital media including journalists for the culture of peace in Africa

**A commitment from journalists and traditional and online media:**

- The signing of a charter for the treatment of information and the use of images that are never instigators of violence and hatred

**A mobilization of social and digital networks for peace and non-violence in Africa**

- Development of social media campaigns and youth media training projects (Media information literacy)

## Provisional programme 18-22 September 2019

<i>Day</i>	<i>morning</i>	<i>Afternoon/evening</i>
Wednesday 18/09	<p><b>Opening ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Event:</b> Partner's Alliance for the Culture of Peace in Africa</p>	<p><b>Festival of cultures</b> Focus: Central Africa</p> <p><b>Event:</b> Africa - Rest of the world a Gala football Match</p>
Thursday 19/09	<p><b>Forum of ideas</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> session :</i> Refugees and migrations <i>2<sup>nd</sup> session :</i> Global Africa</p>	<p><b>Youth Forum</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> session :</i> Youth, Peace and Security <b>Festival of cultures</b> Focus: North and West Africa <b>Event:</b> Focus on the Diaspora</p>
Friday 20/09	<p><b>Forum of ideas</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> session :</i> Violence prevention and conflicts resolution through education and culture <i>4<sup>th</sup> session :</i> Conflicts prevention around natural resources</p>	<p><b>Youth Forum</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> session :</i> Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation <b>Festival of cultures</b> Focus: East and Southern Africa <b>Event:</b> Focus on the Diaspora</p>
Saturday 21/09	<p><b>Celebration of the International Day of Peace</b></p> <p><b>Forum of ideas</b> <i>5<sup>th</sup> session :</i> Promotion of a Culture of Peace: the role of women organizations</p>	<p><b>Celebration of the International Day of Peace</b></p> <p><b>Event:</b> Focus on the contribution of women and youth to peace</p>
Sunday 22/09	<p><b>Forum of ideas</b> <i>6<sup>th</sup> session :</i> Promotion of a Culture of Peace: the role of the media and ICTs <b>Conclusions</b> <b>Event:</b> Media Alliance for the Culture of Peace in Africa</p>	<p><b>Closing ceremony</b> <b>Event:</b> Peace Live Aid Concert</p>