



## Déclaration de Yamoussoukro 2019

We, Kings and Traditional Leaders, Religious Leaders, Opinion Leaders, participating in the national symposium for a culture of peace and non-violence in Côte d'Ivoire, organized by the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research,

Gathered in Yamoussoukro on August 13 and 14, 2019 in the mythical Reconciliation Room at the Foundation's headquarters ;

**Considering** the Ivorian Constitution of November 2016 ;

**Considering** the predominant role of traditional Kings and Chiefs, religious leaders and opinion leaders in the prevention, resolution of conflicts and in raising people's awareness of the universal values of the culture of peace ;

**Considering** the missions devolved to the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for the search for peace ;

**Considering** the crises Côte d'Ivoire has experienced ;

**Considering** the recurrent community conflicts ;

**Considering** that, at the end of the post-electoral crisis, Côte d'Ivoire has embarked on the path towards democracy and the rule of law, which requires the constant commitment of all traditional Kings and Chiefs, religious leaders, opinion leaders for the consolidation and promotion of democracy, human rights, non-violence, civic responsibility, tolerance, solidarity and active citizen diversity ;

**Considering** the situation of concern among the population and the anguish caused by the presidential elections of 2020 ;

**Convinced** that dialogue, consultation, solidarity, tolerance and respect for differences constitute a source of salvation and a core of social cohesion around republican values ;

**Aware** that Côte d'Ivoire, once a haven of peace and the economic lung of ECOWAS Member States, remains a flagship country on the African and world stage thanks to its talented men and women who, in all fields of activity, illustrate the greatness and dignity of the Nation ;

**We commit to:**

- Promote the culture of peace and non-violence ;
- Work to relax the socio-political environment in Côte d'Ivoire in order to guarantee peaceful elections in 2020 ;
- Contribute to the development and dissemination of peace messages to the population ;
- Actively and effectively play the role of facilitator and mediator in various conflicts ;



- To provide a platform for collaboration, consultation and exchange on actions to consolidate peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

**And for these purposes,**

We call on the Ivorian political class to resume a sincere political dialogue on major issues of public interest and to transcend partisan navel-gazing and move beyond issues of personal interest;

Invite the State and relevant actors to involve traditional Kings and Chiefs, religious leaders and opinion leaders in the peace process ;

Agree to engage in the popularization of this Declaration and the proceedings of the Symposium among political parties, institutions of the Republic, international institutions and religious organizations, Civil Society Organizations for a permanent national dialogue between political actors and various living forces of the Nation for the protection of the Republic and the safeguarding of the values that constitute its foundation;

We reaffirm our commitment to the values of the culture of peace and the consolidation of the rule of law through full respect for the laws, regulations and institutions of the Republic.

**Done at Yamoussoukro, August 14, 2019**

**The Symposium of Traditional Kings and Chiefs, Religious Leaders, Opinion Leaders for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence.**