



COMMUNIQUE

of the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace - Biennale of Luanda

18-22 September 2019

Luanda, Republic of Angola, 22 September 2019

The Government of Angola, the African Union, and UNESCO organized, from 18 to 22 September 2019, the first Pan-African Biennale of Luanda for the Culture of Peace. Over 800 participants, representing 17 official country delegations, governments, civil society, private sector, the arts, sciences, academic and international institutions in Africa and its diaspora, and other regions in the world came to the capital over five days.

Acknowledging the efforts invested in organizing this event, the participants of the Biennale of Luanda would like to thank the organizers and their partners and congratulate them for the success of this Forum.

Noting the above, the participants of the Biennale of Luanda,

1. Agree the Pan African Forum for the promotion of the Culture of Peace in Africa, as a lever for peace and development centered on the human dimension and anchored in universal aspirations and standards for human rights promotion, should occur every two years;
2. Call upon the African Union and UNESCO to pursue actions envisaging the operationalization of the recommendations arising from this Forum.
3. Request the support of governments of African Member States and countries with African Diaspora to take action in pursuance of the Culture of Peace at national and local levels.
4. Encourage the regional economic communities, academic institutions and professional associations, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, philanthropists and influential personalities in the continent and abroad to join this movement, in order to leverage strength and resources, and form a multistakeholder coalition for the empowerment of African people for the positive transformation of African societies.
5. Acknowledge the leading role of His Excellency the President of Angola, Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, for hosting the event and the mobilization of heads of states in support of this movement, and request his further support for ensuring the continuity of the process, as well as further involvement of Heads of States.

Five main axes constituted the Biennale: the Partners' Forum - Alliance for Africa, the Forum of Ideas, the Youth Forum, the Women's Forum, and the Festival of Cultures. These axes created a platform for cultural diversity and African unity, a space for the creation of smart, sustainable and innovative partnerships, international and intra-African exchanges, for reflection on the future of Africa, aimed at the dissemination of good practices and solutions for crisis prevention and conflict resolution and alleviation.

PARTNERS FORUM

Aiming at mobilizing partnerships, this forum forms the partners Alliance that is key to leveraging resources for implementation of interventions throughout the continent and its diaspora with the goal of fostering peace.

The participants thank the partners, and recognize this mechanism and urge partners to engage and support the different initiatives.

FORUM OF IDEAS

Recognizing that this forum forms the platform for dialogue on best practices and proven solutions in the areas of Education, Culture, Sciences, Communication and Information and the African Union theme of the year, which focuses on sustainable solutions for displaced persons, migrants and refugees;

The participants thank the resource persons who shared their experiences and urge the different stakeholders to support the realization of the following actions:

Prevention of violence and conflict resolution through Culture and Education

1. Promote cross sectoral informal, formal and non-formal education content and approaches that respect cultural diversity, the values of peace and tolerance and provide spaces for dialogue and "living together", including specific needs of vulnerable people and minorities;
2. Noting that millions of primary school age children are out of school; and that 9 out of 10 do not have access to the minimum levels of literacy and numeracy; and that many girls still continue to drop out of school at a very young age, we call upon Governments and International organizations to provide and support access to 21st century technology as a means of enhancing teaching and learning as well as addressing the literacy and learning needs of populations that have been left behind by conventional educational programmes.
3. Noting that cultural diversity and valorization of African culture is key for promoting self-esteem and the notion of pan-Africanism, we urge countries to develop and implement inclusive cultural policies that ensure the preservation of cultural tangible and intangible heritage, to foster a diversified array of cultural expressions and access to cultural and artistic practices.
4. Continue to support and promote African artists and cultural events that, as part of their social responsibility, promote dialogue and a culture of peace especially among young people;
5. Promote endogenous cultural knowledge, traditions and forms of cultural and artistic expression that constitute existing conflict prevention and management mechanisms;
6. Build a technological and financial environment favorable to the emergence of African creative industries and an inclusive digital entrepreneurship reflecting the cultural and linguistic diversity of the continent;

Prevention of conflict over natural resources

1. Improve knowledge on the compatible and sustainable use and preservation of shared natural resources at country and transboundary levels and in particular of UNESCO World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves and geo parks, through the enhancement of traditional and indigenous knowledge;
2. Noting that several major conflicts in the continent are related to the misuse of transboundary ecosystems particularly in the Sahel, Great Lakes, Lake Chad and Congo Basin regions, we encourage States to further strengthen collaboration to ensure the sustainable management of these joint natural resources;
3. In this regard, we encourage partners from the private sector, development cooperation and civil societies to add on to States efforts to set up innovative and sustainable endogenous financing mechanisms for the management of the aforementioned natural resources in Africa;
4. Noting that Africa's geological and mineral richness are one of the key assets of Africa, we urge countries, AUC and the UN to develop national and regional mechanisms for the transparent management of extractive industries, including the development and enforcement of regulatory and operational consultation frameworks.

Water management and costal vulnerability

Noting that healthy oceans, rivers and lakes are key for a peaceful and prosperous Africa, we the participants recommend UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and countries support:

1. The establishment of interstate cooperation mechanisms to increase technical and scientific institutional expertise in water management and sanitation.
2. The promotion and adoption of holistic and science-based policies and interventions, encouraging the creation of multi sectoral structures, the enhancement of scientific research to inform knowledge and policy formation.
3. To develop programmes for the expansion of knowledge and sensitization of the population on costal vulnerability as a human security issue, in its economic, social and environmental dimension.
4. Expand knowledge and sensitization on Climate Change as a human security issue, in its various dimensions (economic, social, environmental) calling upon the participation of Governments, civil society, universities, teachers and students;

Theme of the year of the African Union: refugees, returnees, and displaced persons in Africa: towards sustainable solutions to forced displacement

With a view toward stepping up the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the African Union Main Roadmap on Practical Measures for Silencing Guns in Africa by 2020, in particular for refugees, returnees and displaced populations in Africa we urge Governments to:

1. Adopt comprehensive gender-sensitive policies, frameworks, and measures in refugee management at the local and national levels, addressing violence against woman as well as human trafficking in collaboration with source, transit and destination countries;

2. Increase national and public investment in the provision of shelter, adequate water and sanitation facilities, health services, quality education (including through ICTs) and childcare and other gender-sensitive services to urban and rural settlement areas for refugees and IDPs, complemented by long-term efforts to guarantee the right to housing, land and property;
3. Prioritize the ratification, adoption and implementation of key legal and policy frameworks, in particular the Kampala Convention and the Maputo Protocol, as well as establish an annual review mechanism to monitor and control compliance in order to improve the protection of women and children and eliminate harmful practices that exacerbate their vulnerability in situations of displacement;
4. Adopt effective processes, practices and structures for mitigation and management of the effects of climate change and reduction of the potential damage associated with climate-change-related displacement, including social protection systems that enhance the resilience of displaced women and children.

Free, independent and pluralistic media to foster peace and development in Africa

1. Noting with deep concern that according to UNESCO more than 86% of the Judicial Status of cases of enquiry into Journalists Killings in Africa are still unresolved (2006-2018), we call on all Governments, and international organizations to support capacity building activities for judicial officials (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) on freedom of expression and safety of journalists' standards to promote peace and rule of law;
2. Recognizing how citizens access to public data can reduce corruption and increase accountability; further recognizing that 20 countries in Africa, which have adopted legislation on Access to Information, we call upon all Governments in Africa to pass access to information (ATI) laws as a means to promoting freedom of expression and peace in Africa;
3. Keeping in mind the growing popularity of social media, and with it the dangers posed by misinformation and disinformation to a climate of peace in Africa, we further recommend to Governments, international organizations and civil society to invest in the empowerment of people to think critically about the information they receive through Media and Information Literacy (MIL) programmes.

The Baku Process: Promoting intercultural dialogue for human security, peace and sustainable development

The Baku Process is a global platform for the promotion of intercultural dialogue that takes place every two years in Azerbaijan. The organizers manifested the interest to ally themselves to the Biennale of Luanda to create synergies that will be beneficial to both initiatives.

WOMEN'S FORUM

1. Recognizing the need to build truly inclusive peaceful societies, and acknowledging that the fulfilment of women and girls human rights is systematically lagging behind or being violated, we call upon all States in Africa to intensify the development and implementation of inclusive and gender transformative policies that address the vulnerability of women and girls to violence as well as interventions for advocacy and education against cultural, social and political practices and norms that perpetuate vulnerability of women and girls to violence;

2. Acknowledging that education is key to inclusion and equity, we specifically call upon Governments to support women and girls programmes to promote their access to quality and inclusive education including the reduction of their vulnerability to gender-based violence.

Global Africa: Exploring the African Presence in the World

The participants recommend:

To UNESCO,

1. in conformity with its mandate, to pursue in supporting the recognition, appreciation and promotion of the contribution, at the technical, scientific, cultural and human levels, of the Afro-descendant people building a new society worldwide, expanding its educational programme based on the General History of Africa, of textbooks and other teaching materials, in particular through non-formal and informal education, higher education, but also through information to the general public.

To all African States concerned,

2. to promote actively the adoption and mainstreaming of the General History of Africa in their curricula and cross sector education system.

To the African Union and its subregional organizations,

3. to adopt relevant resolutions committing Member States to promote the links between Africans and Afro-descendants worldwide and the support of inter-continental collaboration for the promotion of the human rights of Afro-descendants.

To all the States, civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations, organizations and networks working to promote human rights,

4. to promote policies and interventions for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, protection of human rights of people of Afro-descendance and annual review mechanisms to monitor the enactment of such policies.

YOUTH FORUM

Organized over two sessions on "Youth, Peace and Security" and "Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation", the participants highlighted a set of recommendations included in the Youth Commitment for the Culture of Peace (in annex).

FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

Complementary to the intellectual forums, the Luanda Biennale gave the opportunity to display cultural manifestations and products from 15 countries, namely Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Cape Verde, Cuba, Egypt,

Italy, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Africa and South Korea, gathering in total more than 200 artists, musical groups from several parts of the world. The Festival recorded an average of 1400 people per day.

Besides cultural entertainments, the Festival of cultures provided an opportunity to celebrate African cultural diversity and from other regions, creating interactions between cultures, artists and the audience.

CLOSING / CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the participants recommend the organizers to establish a standing committee to monitor and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of this communique.

We would like to thank all the official sponsors who made this possible, namely ENI, Total, BNI Bank, Royal Air Maroc, and all other Gold Sponsors for their financial support and commitment that made this remarkable event possible.

We would also like to thank all the organizers, their staff, the interpreters, the media, the caterers, the moderators, panelists, technicians and drivers for their professionalism and commitment throughout the five days of this event.