

YAMOUSSOUKRO +25 DECLARATION

We, the participants to the Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the birth of the concept of Culture of Peace, “Peace in the Mind of Men and Women”, met in Yamoussoukro on the 22nd of September 2014,

Building upon the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the UNESCO Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Recalling the Declaration adopted at the International Congress on “Peace in the Minds of Men”, organized under the auspices of UNESCO in Yamoussoukro (Côte d’Ivoire) in 1989, which invited “*intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the scientific, educational and cultural communities of the world, and all individuals to:*

- *help to construct a new vision of peace by developing a culture of peace based on the universal values of respect for life, liberty, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human rights and equality between women and men;*
- *strengthen awareness of the common destiny of humanity so as to further the implementation of common policies ensuring justice in the relations between human beings and a harmonious partnership between humanity and nature;*
- *include peace and human rights components as a permanent feature in all education programmes;*
- *encourage concerted action at the international level to manage and protect the environment and to ensure that activities carried out under the authority or control of any one State neither impairs the quality of the environment nor interferes with the biosphere of other States”.*

Subscribing to the definition of Culture of Peace adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1997 as consisting of “*values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and partnership based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all*

human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavour 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”.

Recalling the “Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 and the outcomes of the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World” (2001-2010) the momentum of which continues through the “International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures” (2013-2022) led by UNESCO.

Recalling the outcomes of the International Forum for Reflection held in Abidjan in June 2012 on the theme “Culture of peace in West Africa, a necessity for economic development and social cohesion”;

Recalling also the “Action Plan for a Culture of Peace in Africa – Make Peace Happen” and the Resolution adopted during the Pan-African Forum "Sources and resources for a Culture of Peace" held in Luanda (Angola) in March 2013;

Noting with satisfaction that, during the last 25 years, the concept of culture of peace has inspired and guided governments, international organizations, civil society and scientific and educational institutions, in setting up prevention and resolution of conflicts and crises processes, at the local, national and international level;

Noting also with satisfaction the initiative of the Government of Angola to organize with UNESCO and the African Union a “Biennale of Culture of Peace in Africa” as a follow up of the Pan-African Forum "Sources and resources for a Culture of Peace";

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Noting:

That a quarter of a century after the Congress of Yamoussoukro in 1989, the permanence of armed conflicts – between and within states – continues to undermine the conditions of a peace leading to “*the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the people of the world*” (UNESCO Constitution, 1945);

That new threats to human security, namely transboundary threats, for which the international community appears not to be prepared, affect the construction of a culture of peace: environmental degradation, climate change, migrations and displacements of populations, illegal trafficking of all kinds (human beings, hard drogues, armaments,...), increase of international crime and terrorism, of territorial disputes and the spread of extremist movements – ethnic and religious in particular–, contestation of electoral processes, unequal distribution of wealth and of access to natural resources, epidemics and pandemics, violence against women, increase of vulnerability of youth and minorities;

And that the aspirations of peoples and individuals to fundamental freedoms, economic and social justice, healthy and resilient environment as well to quality education, remain insufficiently respected at the national and international levels;

We reaffirm the need to promote the culture of peace in every part of the world and adopt solemnly the **following Declaration:**

The culture of peace and sustainable development are intrinsically linked. The culture of peace therefore should be mainstreamed into development policy frameworks all over the world;

Peace, more than the end of armed conflicts, is the guarantee for sustainable and democratic societies based on the shared will of people, governments, local communities and on a holistic approach inspiring concerted actions at the local, national, regional and international levels in all dimensions: political, economic, environmental, cultural, social and educational;

All forms of social and economic exclusion, all forms of discriminations based on race, religion, sex, culture or socio-economic status which constitute expressions of a culture of war and violence, should be addressed and channelled towards positive and non-violent socio-economic transformations;

The promotion of fundamental freedoms and equality, particularly between men and women, as well as intergenerational solidarity shall be an integral part of national, regional and international policies;

Economic growth and the emergence of new opportunities in terms of wealth and development shall benefit populations and respect environmental and human equilibrium, in a spirit of “*common welfare*” (UNESCO Constitution, 1945);

Information and communication technologies are transforming the relations between peoples, communities and nations and shall therefore be mobilized for the culture of peace. It is indistinguishable from respect for freedom of expression, tolerance, and promotion of an improved mutual understanding among the peoples, civilizations and cultures of the world;

Cultivating and maintaining peace require everyone to cultivate a global citizenship consciousness based on respect for human rights and its corollary, the respect for national, cultural, ethnic and spiritual identities, the practice of intercultural and intergenerational dialogue, and the sincere search for rapprochement among cultures;

The culture of peace must be collectively shared as it draws from a variety of philosophical and spiritual traditions from all around the world and lays the foundation for a new humanism;

Therefore, **We**, the participants at the Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the birth of the concept of Culture of Peace, “Peace in the Mind of Men and Women”:

Commend UNESCO, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire and the Felix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research for the organization of this celebration and for giving a new impetus to the concept of culture of peace, essentially by facilitating the establishment and the work of the Network of foundations and research institutions for the promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa;

Invite States, governments, local communities and civil society organizations, development partners and all citizens to increase their efforts and their cooperation to establish a genuine culture of peace and non-violence, which constitute an indispensable basis for a sustainable development and the building of resilient and peaceful societies;

Commit to participate in the implementation of “International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures” (2013-2022) and the “Action Plan for a Culture of Peace in Africa – Make Peace Happen” adopted in Luanda on March 2013 and support its follow up in the framework of the Biennale for a Culture of Peace in Africa, as proposed by Government of Angola to UNESCO;

Encourage governmental and civil society stakeholders, international organizations and the private sector to develop similar action plans in the other regions of the world.