

Biennale of  
**Luanda**

Pan-African  
Forum for  
the Culture  
of Peace



# Final Report

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>AAUCA</b>	African-American University of Central Africa	<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States
<b>ACALAN</b>	African Academy of Language	<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>ACHPR</b>	African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights	<b>EEA</b>	Alliance of Angola
<b>ADS</b>	African Development Solution	<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank	<b>FaS</b>	Women Africa Solidarity
<b>AGAM</b>	Gabonese Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired	<b>FEMUA</b>	Anoumabo Urban Musica Festival in Africa
<b>AIDA</b>	Azerbaijani International Development Agency	<b>FIMA</b>	Fashion Festival in Africa
<b>AMISOM</b>	African Union Mission in Somalia	<b>FGM</b>	female genital mutilation
<b>APSA</b>	African Peace and Security Architecture	<b>FOCAC</b>	Forum Africa-China Cooperation Summit
<b>ATI</b>	access to information	<b>FODPZ</b>	Federation of Disabled Persons in Zimbabwe
<b>AU</b>	African Union	<b>FoI</b>	Forum of Ideas
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission	<b>FRIN</b>	Nigeria Forestry Research Institute
<b>AwiM</b>	African Women in Media	<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>AYAP</b>	African Youth Ambassadors for Peace	<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>AYC</b>	African Youth Charter	<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>BIOPALT</b>	Biosphere and Heritage of the Lac Chad	<b>GEM</b>	Global Education Monitoring
<b>BRs</b>	Biosphere Reserves	<b>GHA</b>	General History of Africa
<b>CapED</b>	Capacity Development for Education Programme	<b>ICGLR</b>	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
<b>CapEFA</b>	Capacity Development for Education for All	<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technologies
<b>CARRAS</b>	Centers for the Reception of Refugees and Asylum Seekers	<b>IDPs</b>	Internally displaced persons
<b>CC</b>	International Criminal Court	<b>IOC</b>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>CERDOTOLA</b>	Centre on African Traditions and Languages	<b>IPSS</b>	Institute for Peace and Security Studies
<b>CFIT</b>	UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust	<b>MAB</b>	Man and the Biosphere Programme
<b>CICA</b>	Christian Churches in Angola	<b>MARAC</b>	Central African Early Warning Mechanism
<b>CL</b>	Curious Learning	<b>MASA</b>	Abidjan Performing Arts Market
<b>CODAE</b>	Afro-Ecuadorian Development Cooperation	<b>MASFAMU</b>	Women's Rights and Gender Equality from the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Gender Promotion
<b>CSZ</b>	Community Solutions Zimbabwe	<b>MIL</b>	Media and Information Literacy
<b>DDR</b>	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Trinacru	<b>MINUSMA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo		

<b>MISK</b>	Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Foundation	<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>MNJTF</b>	Multinational Joint task Force	<b>UCCN</b>	UNESCO Creative Cities Network
<b>MONUSCO</b>	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>UIS</b>	UNESCO's Institute of Statistics
<b>NANSO</b>	Namibian National Students Organization	<b>UNCNCRPD</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan	<b>UNCS</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan	<b>UNCSN</b>	United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition
<b>NPRC</b>	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (Zimbabwe)	<b>UNDC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>OKACOM</b>	Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission	<b>UnIA</b>	Independent University of Angola
<b>PAYNCoP</b>	Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace	<b>UNOCA</b>	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
<b>PLANDEPA</b>	National Development Plan for Afro-Peruvian Population	<b>UNOY</b>	United Network of Young Peace Builders
<b>PNIA</b>	National Immigration and Asylum Policy of Morocco	<b>UNPRPD</b>	UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>PRESIBALT</b>	Programme for the Rehabilitation and Reinforcement of the Resilience of Socio-Ecologic Systems	<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>PRODEBALT</b>	Lake Chad Basin Sustainable Development Programme	<b>WANEP</b>	West Africa Network for Peace building
<b>PSD</b>	Peace and Security Department	<b>WFID</b>	World Forum on Intercultural Dialogues
<b>PWAs</b>	Persons with albinism	<b>YCBA-NPR</b>	Youth Capacity Building and Advocacy Initiative on National Peace and Reconciliation
<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with disabilities	<b>YILD</b>	Youth Initiative for Inclusive Dialogue
<b>RECs</b>	African Union, Regional Economic Communities	<b>Y4P</b>	Youth for Peace
<b>RIANA</b>	Rencontres Internationales des Arts Numériques d'Abidjan		
<b>RINR</b>	Regional Initiative against the illegal exploitation of Natural Resources		
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals		
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise		
<b>SMLA</b>	School meet the learner approach		
<b>SPSA</b>	State of Peace and Security in Africa		
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education		
<b>STI</b>	Science, Technology and Innovation		
<b>TPA</b>	Angolan Public Television		



## Foreword

Just one year from the end of the African Union *Silencing the Guns* Initiative and 30 years after the launch of the concept of the Culture of Peace in the International Congress in 1989 in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, the African continent has yet to realize this aspiration and continues to be the scene of many conflicts. Some of these hostilities are new but many others are protracted disputes that have spanned decades. Indeed some transcend nations, whilst others take place domestically, at local, regional or national levels. These conflicts continue to have devastating and lasting impacts on the lives of millions of citizens, violating their basic human rights and uprooting entire communities from their trusted environment.

Organized in alignment with the UNESCO Priority Africa 2014-2021 Strategy and the AU's Decision in support of this mechanism (24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of January 2015), the first edition of the event jointly organized by the Angolan Government, the AU Commission and UNESCO, represents a major step towards, creating a platform to discuss and exchange and to build peace in the minds of people.

This event was joined by participants from all over the world, including heads of states, members of governments and civil society organization, private sector, members from the artistic and scientific communities, academics and international organizations representatives including the UN. They came together for 5 days in Luanda, Angola in September 2019 to share ideas, experiences and knowledge to promote the Culture of Peace. The gathering enabled a rich exchange on how to proceed in the quest for peace and inclusive sustainable development in Africa. This first edition of the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace, the Luanda Biennale will remain a historic event in many regards. It has enabled Africans and their diaspora, particularly women, youth, strategic actors and entities from all over the world to rally together to show their commitment to the promotion of a Culture of Peace on the African continent and to build the Pan-African Movement for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence.

This report reflects this spirit of Luanda, one of rich debate, experience sharing, innovation and partnership, expressed through a wide range of sessions and challenging, frank and robust discussions. The Culture of Peace in Africa is much more than a concept; it is the future of the entire continent at stake, underscoring the urgent need to unite forces essential to its development. With this perspective in mind, it is important to mobilize around a common objective: to ensure that the construction of a democratic Africa is based on a sustainable, humanistic, social, cultural and inclusive basis.

The Culture of Peace Biennale has become a continent-wide event that contributes directly to the implementation of two goals from the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 16) on *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions* and on *Partnerships for Sustainable Development* (SDG 17). The initiative also reinforces the 7 Aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063, 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 affecting African economies and societies*. We invite you to go through the report to learn and take note of the rich and diverse contributions brought forward by the Pan-African Movement for the Culture of Peace in Africa.

### **Message from the Director General of UNESCO**

#### **Audrey Azoulay**

30 years after the concept of the ‘Culture of Peace’ was introduced at the 1989 International Congress of UNESCO, in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, the first Biennale of Luanda reminds us that using mechanisms to protect peace through security alone is not enough. To maintain sustainable peace, societies themselves have an essential role and individuals must adhere to the principles of freedom, justice, equality and solidarity between all human beings. At UNESCO, we believe that education, science, culture and communication play a significant role in the prevention of violence and for resolving conflicts. As we gathered in Luanda in September 2019, we were able to discuss ideas, share experiences and propose best practices for long lasting peace in Africa. This report brings us the testimonies of the wide variety of public and private partners, the academia, arts community, youth, women and media. We invite you to go through the report and discover the rich diversity with which governments, institutions and individuals are constructing peace in Africa.

### **Message from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission**

#### **Moussa Faki Mahamat**

The Luanda Biennale brought together intelligences from various horizons, to analyse how to promote the culture of peace on the African continent. The Forum was a great reminder that in Africa, the culture of peace is filled with all of the values, systems of thought, forms of spirituality, cultural and artistic expressions, transmission of knowledge that contribute to the respect of human rights, cultural diversity, solidarity and the rejection of violence. In this report, you will find exchanges that tackle important issues covering themes such as how to build and perpetuate peace in Africa, best practices for addressing refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons on the continent. You will also find a series of steps and frameworks utilised across the continent to prevent violence, resolution and mitigation of conflicts by culture and education. All of these themes were at the centre of the African Union’s African Architecture of Peace and Security, it is a delight to collaborate with UNESCO and the Government of Angola to put together this wonderful event. I am delighted to present this report to you for your perusal.

### **Message of the Minister of Culture of Angola**

#### **Maria da Piedade de Jesus**

The organization of the Biennale of Luanda – the Pan African Forum for the Culture of Peace, has turned Luanda, the capital of the Republic of Angola, the capital of peace in Africa. The first edition of the Biennale in 2019, was a joint initiative between the Angolan Government, the African Union and UNESCO, creating a space for stakeholders across Africa and the diaspora to meet and reflect on how to achieve peace and promote cultural diversity and unity on the continent. Know how, experiences, assets and ambitions were brought together in an effort to promote and build a culture of peace for the sustainable development of the continent.

The Angolan Government is committed and excited to organize the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda in 2021, as a privileged space for cultural exchange, for finding solutions and define strategies for the prevention of violence and conflicts for the establishment of lasting peace on the continent.

## Acknowledgments

On behalf of the Director General, first we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency João Lourenço, for his generous support as host of this event. We would also like to thank him for the dedication of the different government entities, in particular, the Ministry of Culture who for months have devoted people and assets to the organization of this event.

We would also like to thank His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, for the organization's partnership and crucial contribution to this event. We hope to continue with this privileged collaboration and further strengthen the excellent relationship between UNESCO and the African Union.

We would like to acknowledge the strong support we received from our member states in Africa and elsewhere whose strong participation and contribution clearly demonstrate their governments' resolve in taking forward the Culture of Peace agenda with UNESCO. We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the countries who sent delegation to the event: Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Likewise, we would like to express our gratitude to Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Cape Verde, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa and South Korea who made an additional effort by sending a cultural delegation to enrich the *Festival of Cultures*. The presence of the President of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, AU Champion for Culture, and the President of the Republic of Namibia His Excellency Hage Geingob, was a great honor that elevated the Biennale to greater heights.

A special word of thanks goes also to our special dignitaries Dr. Dennis Mukwege, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate of 2018; Didier Drogba, Vice-president of the Peace and Sport; A'Salfo and Alphadi, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors; as well as the Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates to UNESCO. With their presence, they have allied themselves with Angola, UNESCO and the African Union in this quest for peace on the continent.

We would also like to recognize the contribution of the one hundred and sixteen (116) panelists and moderators, some of whom are from the five regions in Africa, with many others from the African diaspora. In particular, we would like to recognize Dr. José Chala, Member of Parliament and Executive Secretary for Afro-Ecuadorian Development Cooperation of Ecuador, who with their testimonies showed the myriad manners in which the pursuit of peace can be put into practice.

Another special word of thanks to our youth and women from Africa who contributed to the Youth and Women's forums and who are tirelessly committed, engaged and dynamic as they seek better, more just and inclusive societies on the continent, especially as they operate in often-limited spaces with little to no acknowledgement from mainstream development entities.

In addition, we would also like to extend our appreciation to our old and new partners from national governments, the private sector, development cooperation agencies and civil society organizations. These partners have understood and promptly responded to the call to join in and support this movement on the continent. A special word of thanks goes also to the Biennale partners and sponsors including ENI, Royal Moroccan Airlines, Aceria of Angola, TAP Air Portugal and Ethiopian Airlines, who with their contributions made it possible for so many people from all over the continent and the diaspora to join us. We would also like to acknowledge the local partners (BNI, Total Angola, TAAG, Multievents, Unitel, Boavida Group, Noble Group, Niodior, Refriango, NCR, Kikovo, Arena Group, Credit Cooperative, Tegma-Su and Kinu Plateau) who supported the national efforts in getting the logistics together to accommodate the event in Luanda.

We would like to highlight and applaud the presence of representatives from civil society organizations, the artistic and scientific communities, academic institutions,

international organizations and the media, whose active involvement was instrumental in making it a decisive, historic and far-reaching event. As a result, we would like to share a special word of thanks to UNOCA, UNWOMEN, OIM, the UN Resident Coordinators of Angola and Mali, the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, UNDP, UNDC as well as the AfDB and the EU for their support and engagement in the first edition of the Biennale.

Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the support of UNESCO directors and colleagues from headquarters, institutes, regional and national offices, who were fully mobilized for this remarkable event. Their deep commitment and hard work was key to making the Luanda Biennale, the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace, a great success.

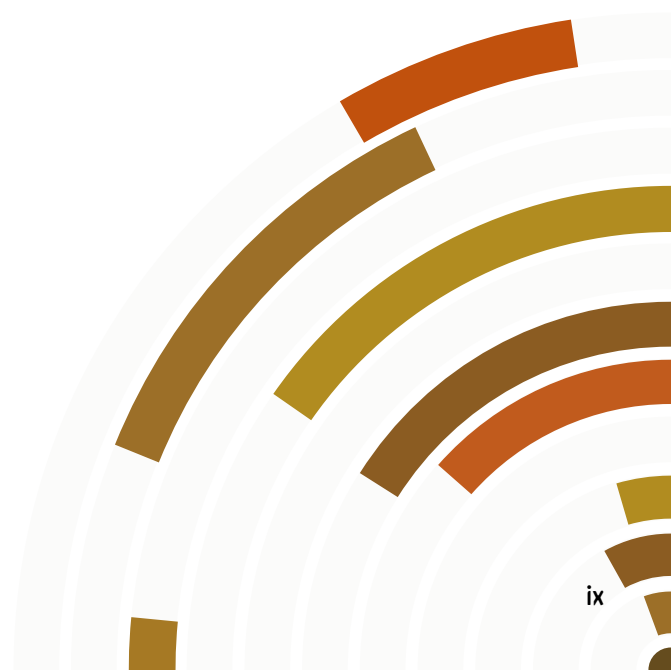
UNESCO also extends its gratitude to the Biennale Steering Committee and Task Force, members of the organization team of Angola and the Secretariat who, with the countless hours of work put into the preparation of the event and sessions, have turned the first edition of the Biennale into a reality.

Finally yet importantly, we would like to thank the people of Angola for the warm hospitality bestowed upon all the guests. For those five days in September when Angola hosted the Biennale, the city of Luanda did indeed become the peace capital of Africa.

We count on and encourage all present and future generations to carry a single shared vision to expand and sustain the Pan-African Movement for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence.

**Firmin Edouard Matoko,**

*Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Priority Africa and External Relations*







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## Executive Summary

The Luanda Biennale was the first edition of the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace, and it took place in Angola from 18 to 22 September 2019. The Biennale consisted of three central colloquiums:

1. Partners' Forum
2. Three Thematic Forums: a Forum of Ideas, a Youth Forum and a Women's Forum
3. Festival of Cultures

### Partners' Forum

The first UNESCO Partners' Forum in Africa highlighted the importance of a multi-stakeholder alliance for the improvement of Africa's future in support of specific initiatives to tackle the challenges of violence and underdevelopment in continent. The Forum provided a platform for dialogue and exchange between international organizations, public and private sector actors, NGOs, development banks, and government representatives. The colloquium discussed how women, youth, people in the arts and innovation are instrumental in the efforts to realize the objectives set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union's Agenda 2063 and UNESCO's Culture of Peace programme. UNESCO stakeholders reaffirmed their support to the Organization's two priorities - *Africa* and *Gender Equality*.

During the opening ceremony, UNESCO and Angola signed an unprecedented agreement of USD 50 million for the establishment of a doctoral training programme that will focus on coastal management in Central Africa. This agreement highlights the importance of preserving oceans and coastal areas for environmental sustainability and peace.

Other pledges were equally made by other partners: Equatorial Guinea pledged USD 5 million to support the establishment of the African-American University of Central Africa; the African Development Bank (AfDB) pledged to support UNESCO's natural resource management programme (The Afribiofund); and Phoenix TV from Hong Kong/China announced a partnership to in-

crease visibility on UNESCO's action through media dissemination.

The Partners' forum then continued with three panel discussions during which actors could share their views and reiterated their commitment to peace in Africa. Speakers included individuals from private and public sector companies, African and non-African Member States, bilateral cooperation agencies, development banks, philanthropic foundations, regional economic communities and international, cultural and sports organizations.

The first panel reflected mostly on the role of UN agencies, development banks and other international institutions. Panelists also discussed the importance of including the ideas, knowledge and contribution of Africa's local populations during the design and implementation of programmes. In addition, they plead for a stronger acknowledgment of the role of women and young people in conflict prevention and resolution. Beyond this, the panelists stressed the need to optimize the demographic dividend through relevant education, training and job creation for youth on the continent. They concluded by discussing how to enhance the resilience and social inclusion of African cities, as well as the manner in which creativity can be used as a strategic factor for sustainable development and peace-building.

The next panel brought together speakers from the private sector, charitable foundations and media. Panelists signaled the need to invest more in alternative energy sources both to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and to fight poverty. They called upon governments to invest and gather the benefits of digital technology and artificial intelligence to foster Africa's development. Representatives from the financial sector confirmed their interest in financing cultural and social projects that promote peace as part of their corporate social responsibilities. Speakers and member of the audience also stressed the opportunities available to use sports and media to promote peace and to reduce conflicts.

The final panel focused on the contribution of academic institutions, civil



society, youth organizations and networks, as well as cultural festivals to peace building. Emphasizing that the promotion of creativity, culture and art are strategic modalities for achieving sustainable and peaceful societies in Africa, artists and creators from the art, music and fashion industries gave testimonies to illustrate their contribution. They also discussed the role and potential of using cinema to promote a culture of peace and non-violence.

### Thematic Forums

The three thematic forums took place over five days. The first thematic forum was the *Forum of Ideas*, consisting of five plenary and six parallel sessions, devoted mainly to UNESCO's fields of competence, with the exception of one dedicated to the 2019 African Union theme of the year.

The second thematic forum was the *Youth Forum*, which brought together 77 young people from 40 countries, and 300 youth from Angola, to reflect on two areas - *Youth, Peace and Security* and *Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation*. Leading up to the two-day forum, a three-week online consultation took place, using social media and reaching over 3,500 youth. The results of this consultation were captured in the final declaration of the Youth Forum.

The third thematic forum was the *Women's Forum*, providing a platform to exchange on the vulnerability of girls and women to violence across Africa. Highlighting the successes of some exemplary women's networks, the forum also discussed how to promote women as agents for peace.

### Forum of ideas

The Forum of Ideas (FoI) was an opportunity for people from all five African regions and the diaspora, recognized by the African Union as the sixth region of Africa, to exchange experiences, best practices and innovative solutions for the promotion of a culture of peace. The FoI gathering attracted speakers and an audience from civil society, international organizations, academics, private sector and government representatives

from across Africa and other regions. The event focused on the successful interventions implemented by UNESCO, other UN agencies, the AUC and the host country, Angola.

The five thematic panels addressed the following dimensions of peace promotion:

1. Prevention of Violence and Conflict Resolution through Education and Culture
2. Prevention of Conflicts over Natural Resources
3. Leaving No-One Behind: Promoting the Integration of Refugees, Returnees, Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa (AU 2019 Theme)
4. Global Africa: Exploring the African Presence in the World
5. Free, Independent and Pluralistic Media to Foster Peace and Development in Africa

In addition to the main meetings, the event was complemented by parallel sessions that further explored some of the themes discussed during the plenary sessions.

The sessions brought together 47 experts, including UNESCO Directors and renowned international journalists from around the world, to moderate the event.

The first plenary session of the Forum of Ideas, "*Prevention of Violence and Conflict Resolution through Education and Culture*", brought forth experiences from Mali, Mozambique, Morocco, Madagascar and Angola. The testimonies highlighted how to harness creativity, tangible and intangible heritage preservation and education as motors to promote socio-economic inclusion. The shared examples covered a broad range of topics including, the rehabilitation of the Timbuktu mausoleums and preservation of historical manuscripts, family literacy promotion, vocational training in crafts linked to employment creation, the safeguarding of intangible heritage and technical vocational training of youths to rescue them from criminal practices.

The second plenary session of the forum revolved around the *Prevention of Conflicts over Natural Resources*. Bestowed with an immense natural wealth, people on the continent must work towards achieving peace because the future of Africans is linked intimately to the sustainable and equitable development of the continent. Centered on displaying best practices and regional experiences on conflict prevention linked to cross-boundary natural resources, the discussions covered issues, challenges and opportunities; many of which were related to the promotion of cross-border cooperation for the sustainable management of shared resources on the continent. The discussions also highlighted the importance of mobilizing local communities in the natural resources preservation efforts. Additionally, there were exchanges on successful mechanisms of natural resources management with particular emphasis on UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme, natural World Heritage Sites management and other remarkable initiatives that contribute to conflict prevention in the management of domestic and trans-boundary natural resources in Africa.

The third plenary session of the forum entitled "*Leaving no one behind: promoting the integration of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants in Africa*" reflected on the African Union's theme of 2019. Conflict and violence continue to be the primary cause of mass displacement on the African continent. In 2019, there were approximately 25 million refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum seekers. The session focused on discussing good examples of legal and regulatory frameworks used to support displaced populations in Africa, highlighting specific cases from Morocco, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola. Morocco displayed their impressive migrant policies that have led to the country's King securing the title of African Union Champion on Migration. Uganda reflected on its inclusive refugee management policy framework, which ensures that refugees in the country have the same rights as

Ugandan citizens. DRC shared their experience in the management of IDPs, refugees and returnees in the context of the Great Lakes and Central African Regions. The Angolan case reflected on the historical and contemporary perspectives on dealing with asylum seekers from the greater southern and central regions.

The fourth plenary session centered on the theme of "*Global Africa: Exploring the African Presence in the World*", focusing on the African diaspora across the world, the 6<sup>th</sup> region of the African Union. The new volumes of UNESCO's *General History of Africa*<sup>1</sup> reflect the events that have taken place on the continent since the end of apartheid in South Africa and the contributions of diasporas. In this session, panelists discussed the concept of *Global Africa*<sup>2</sup>, which describes the links between Africans on the continent and people of African descent in South, Central and North America, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, the Middle East and elsewhere.

The interventions shed light on African influences around the world and celebrated the socio-political, cultural and artistic contributions of people of African descent. It examined the legacy of slavery and colonialism as experienced by people of African descent, and explored the capacity of successive generations to resist and fight against racism, racial prejudice and other forms of discrimination. The session also highlighted some of the ways that the African diaspora participates in the development of the continent - and how their contributions are important to the Culture of Peace in Africa.

The theme of the fifth plenary session was "*Free, Independent and Pluralistic Media to Foster Peace and Development in Africa*". The panelists presented the following subjects: the work of the ECOWAS Court of Justice in ensuring the safety of journalists; the interventions of community media in Tanzania in countering social exclusion of persons

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<sup>1</sup> Volumes IX, X and XI

<sup>2</sup> To learn more about the Global Africa, please visit <https://en.unesco.org/general-history-africa>

with albinism, and eliminating the practice of female genital mutilation among the Maasai; and the challenges faced by the independent media in Angola.

Reiterating the irrefutable role played by the media in shaping societies today, the session agreed that a free, independent and pluralistic media is essential in the efforts to guarantee respect for all fundamental human rights and the promotion of justice and democracy as well as ensuring the active participation of citizens in public life in an environment of dialogue and peace.

Complementing the main events, partners organized parallel sessions, offering the opportunity to further explore some of the topics touched upon during the plenary sessions. Six panels were organized on the following subjects:

1. Addressing Literacy Challenges of Disadvantaged Children through Advanced Technology and Smart Partnerships
2. State of Peace and Security in Africa
3. Sustainable Financing of Biosphere Reserves in Africa: The AfriblioFund
4. Initiative for Institutional Capacity Building in Ocean Sciences and Coastal Vulnerability in Central Africa
5. Reflections on Current Policies for the Integration of People of African Descent and Contemporary Migrants
6. The Baku Process: Promoting Intercultural Dialogue for Human Security, Peace and Sustainable Development

The first parallel session focused on how digital technology can offer effective solutions in response to the learning needs of children, girls and young women. The panel reviewed two initiatives: UNESCO's "School Meet Learners Approach" project in Nigeria and the joint UNESCO and Curious Learning literacy initiative, based on one of the XPRIZE/ UNESCO/ WFP Early Learning projects in Tanzania.

The second session was devoted to the presentation of Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University's 2019 Annual Report on the State of Peace and Security in Africa.

The IPSS report has become the flagship annual report at the yearly *Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa*<sup>3</sup>, providing a synoptic analysis of pressing peace and security issues on the continent. The report will also become a permanent feature in future Biennales of Luanda on the Culture of Peace.

The third parallel session was dedicated to discussions on *Man and Biosphere Reserves (MABs) as "learning places for sustainable development"* at local, national, regional and global levels. Panelists also discussed the strategic partnership between UNESCO and the African Development Bank on the creation of the AFRIBIOFUND. The fund will help African countries with the management of the continent's biosphere reserves.

The fourth session was a workshop organized with the aim of strengthening ownership of an ongoing initiative between the Central African countries<sup>4</sup> and the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC). Consisting of two discussion panels, the participants reflected on the actions being taken to minimize the negative impact of climate change on the blue economy, the role of IOC-UNESCO in promoting ocean sciences and its contribution to the African Decade for the Seas and Oceans. There was also a presentation on the regional initiative on capacity building in ocean sciences and coastal vulnerability in Central Africa, as well an inventory of oceanographic research stations in Angola and environmental monitoring of oil production areas.

The fifth parallel session continued the discussions about the African diaspora and how this group accounts for a significant number of global Africans. The session provided a platform for an in-depth dialogue on how to approach the relationship between the African continent and people in the diaspora. It also explored ways to bridge the gap between theory and practice on the ties

<sup>3</sup> To learn more about the Tana Forum, please visit <https://tanaforum.org/>

<sup>4</sup> Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

that bind the concept of *Global Africa* and the realities encountered.

The final session focused on the *Baku Process*, a global platform established with the support of the Government of Azerbaijan, with UNESCO as a technical partner, to bring together countries, international and regional organizations and civil society to promote respect, understanding, dialogue and tolerance among cultures. Organizers of the Baku Process reached out to the Biennale of Luanda to strengthen the links between the two processes and to ensure engagement of African countries in this international forum for intercultural dialogue.

### Youth Forum

Running parallel to the Forum of Ideas was the Youth Forum, also hosted by the organizers of Biennale of Luanda. The event brought together 377 young people – with 300 of the youths coming from Angola with the other 77 youths representing 40 other African countries. The attendees reflected on and discussed issues related to Youth and the Culture of Peace. In preparation for the Youth Forum, event organizers created a platform to facilitate a 3-week long online consultation on the topics of the Biennale. The online platform received input from over 3,500 in 18 countries<sup>5</sup>, many of whom could not attend the Biennale. The Youth Forum in Angola centered around two themes: 1) Youth, Peace and Security, and 2) Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The first session on *Youth, Peace and Security* focused on the role that Africa's youths should have in shaping a lasting peace for the continent. The panelists, representatives of different youth organizations network from around the African continent, shared their views and experiences on initiatives to engage and involve young people and their organizations in promoting peace and security. The conversation highlighted the importance of this growing demographic

<sup>5</sup> Angola, Botswana, Cameroun, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, RDC, RCA, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

weight in the pursuit of peace and security – as has been reflected in recent UN and AU's normative instruments such as United Nations Security Council Resolutions<sup>6</sup> and the AU's African Youth Charter. The youth discussants questioned why, hitherto, these frameworks have been so poorly implemented by African countries. Attendees also discussed how young people and their organizations lack awareness and familiarity with these normative instruments. They sought to debunk a widely held misconception that these instruments only applied to countries in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict.

The second session on *Creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation* stressed that a major challenge for a sizeable portion of Africa's youth population is unemployment. The session acknowledged that although many successful and innovative enterprises set up by young people in Africa were borne out of an innate vocation for entrepreneurship, many of the entrepreneurs have done so out of necessity. The sessions further explored the challenges faced by self-starters, indicating that as well as financing, training and overall business support come first among the most important difficulties; many young economic and social entrepreneurs also encounter familial and societal pressures against a self-starter career path.

### Women's Forum

The Women's Forum launched on 21 September, the international day of peace, with a theme titled *Women and the Culture of Peace*. The forum was made up of two plenary sessions: the first panel focused on girls and women's vulnerability to violence with panelist who brought in experiences showcasing how girls and women's vulnerabilities

<sup>6</sup> Since 2015, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has passed two resolutions on youth. The UNSC passed resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250) in 2015, the first resolution on youth, peace and security. The resolution emphasizes the importance of youth as agents of change in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. In 2018, the UNSC passed resolution 2419, the second resolution on youth, calling for an increasing role for youth in negotiating, implementing peace agreements and conflict prevention.

were reduced through educational opportunities. There was a presentation on the UNESCO STEM case (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic), which successfully mobilized girls to enroll in science subjects through the (STEM) camps in Kenya. In Nigeria, there were a series of successful digital literacy programmes that improved literacy skills for girls and women in the Northeastern part of the country plagued by ongoing Boko Haram insurgencies. The panelist from Zimbabwe reported on the challenging plight of girls and women with disabilities and how with support from UNESCO, and policy review by the Zimbabwean government, the situation is slowly improving. Finally, there was a presentation on Angola's support for girls and women empowerment, through assistance provided to innovative public sector ideas and solutions designed to counter gender-based violence.

The second session focused on *Women's Networks for Peace in Africa*. The session emphasized that the struggle for freedom and equal rights in the African context was not exclusively a man's feat. Through an exploration of history, the forum learnt about key female African figures who played prominent roles in the liberation movement, against slavery and against colonialism, all while fighting for their own emancipation. The panelists also paid attention to the fact that African women activists and their organizations are increasingly forming national and transnational federating entities, many of whom need support and recognition of the broader African community. Before concluding with recommendations of how best to promote the various issues discussed on the agenda, the panelists emphasized the key role that women's organizations, and in particular, women in media can play in the empowerment of other women and in the defense and promotion of equal rights.





## Introduction

The first edition of the “*Biennale of Luanda - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace*”, jointly organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the African Union (AU) and the Government of the Republic of Angola, was held in Luanda, Angola, from 18 to 22 September 2019.

The Biennale of Luanda is in line with the Plan of Action on a Culture of Peace in Africa adopted in Luanda (Angola) at the 2013 Pan-African Forum “*Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace*”. It follows Decision 558/XXIV, adopted in 2015, at the 24th session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union, requesting that the African Union Commission works towards organizing the Biennale, in consultation with UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Angola. A Funds-in-Trust Agreement (US \$505,215) was signed in December 2018 between UNESCO and the Government of Angola for the implementation of the Biennale’s activities.

The overall objective of the Biennale of Luanda is to strengthen the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence through the establishment of a multi-stakeholder partnership between governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, the private sector and international organizations. This initiative reinforces the implementation of Goals 16 and 17 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the 7 Aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063, in particular: the “*Agenda for Peace*” and the flagship project “*Silencing the Guns by 2020*”. The Biennale also contributes to the implementation of UNESCO’s Operational Strategy for Priority Africa (2014-2021) aimed at providing African responses to the transformations affecting African economies and societies.

### General overview of participation in the Biennale

The first edition of the Biennale of Luanda was organized around three main axes:

1. Partners Forum – an Alliance for Africa
2. Thematic forums: Forum of Ideas, Youth and Women’s Forums
3. Festival of Cultures

The Biennale of Luanda was launched on 18 September 2019 with an official ceremony attended by three Heads of State, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Director-General of UNESCO and the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. It ended on 22 September with an official closing ceremony and a concert performed by well-known Angolan musicians and other international artists.

The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of His Excellency Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola; His Excellency Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali and African Union Champion for Culture, His Excellency Mr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and Chairperson for the Southern African Development Community, His Excellency Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission, Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Dr. Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The host country was also represented at the Biennale by Her Excellency Ms Carolina Cerqueira, Minister of State for Social Affairs, Her Excellency Ms Faustina Fernandes Inglês de Almeida Alves, Minister for Social Action, Family and Advancement of Women, His Excellency, Mr Manuel Domingos Augusto, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency Ms Maria da Piedade de Jesus, Minister of Culture and President of the Inter-ministerial Commission of the Biennale of Luanda, Her Excellency Ms Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Her Excellency Ms Maria Antonieta J.S. Baptista, Minister of Fisheries and the Sea, His Excellency Mr João Melo,

Minister of Communication, H. E. Ms Maria Candida Teixeira, Minister of Education and President of the Angolan National Commission for UNESCO, H. E. Mr Sérgio Luther Rescova, Governor of Luanda Province, H. E. Mr José Diekumpuna Sita N’Sadisi, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Angola to UNESCO and H. E. Mr Francisco Cruz, Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Angola to Ethiopia and Representative to the AUC and other members of the Government.

In addition to the Chairperson, the African Union Commission was represented by H. E. Ms Amira El Fadel, Commissioner for Social Affairs and H. E. Ms Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture. H. E. Ms Specioza Naigaga Wandira-Kazibwe, Former Vice-President of Uganda, attended in her capacity of co-President of FemWise-Africa<sup>7</sup>.

UNESCO was also represented by Mr Firmin Edouard Matoko, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations; Ms Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences and Mr Moez Chakchouk, Assistant Director-general for Communication and Information as well as by the Directors and Heads of Office of the UNESCO field network in Africa and the Executive Officers of Education, Culture, Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences sectors.

The Biennale also welcomed official delegations from the governments of Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Republic of Congo and Rwanda. We noted the presence of: H.E. Mr Fernando Elísio Freire de Andrade, Minister of State, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, representing the President of Cabo Verde, H.E. Mr Moumin Hassan Barreh, Minister of Muslim Affairs, Culture and Waqfs Property of Djibouti; H.E. Inas Abdel Dayem, Minister of Culture of Egypt; H.E. Ms Inas Abdel Dayem, Minister of Culture of Egypt, H.E. Ms Bezu-

<sup>7</sup> The Pan-African Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation is a mechanism of the African Union’s Peace and Security Architecture.



nesh Meseret, Minister of State, Minister of Culture of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr Clemente Engonga Nguema Onguene, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Sports, President of the National Commission for UNESCO of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Ms N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture of Mali, H.E. Mr Mohamed Sajid, Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Crafts and Social Economy of Morocco, H.E. Mr Martin Andjaba, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture of Namibia, H.E. Mr Augusto Santos Silva, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, H.E. M. Dieudonné Moyongo, Minister of Culture and Arts of the Republic of Congo and H.E. Esperance Nyirasafari, Minister of Culture of Rwanda.

Also in attendance were a number of ambassadors to UNESCO and to Angola, officials of the African Union, Directors and other officials from UNESCO HQs and the field structure, and other members of the Angolan government (Annex 5).

The Biennale also saw representation from other international organizations and United Nations agencies including from the: European Union (EU), African Development Bank (AfDB), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), UN Women, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDC) in Ethiopia, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Angola, United Nations Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (UNMISMA), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mali, United Nations University for Peace and the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region.

Many other representatives from the world of sport, music and the arts were also present with particular note to Didier Drogba, Vice-President of the Peace and Sport Association; A'Salfo, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and General Commissioner of the Anoumabo Urban Music Festival (Côte d'Ivoire) and Alphadi, UNESCO Artist for

Peace, President of the International Fashion Festival in Africa (Niger).

There was also a high turnout from the private sector with representatives from the Biennale's Official Partners, ENI, Banco BNI and Total Angola, the Official Carrier Royal Air Maroc, Phoenix TV Multimedia Group, Weidong Group and Africa Development Solutions Group. Carrier Sponsors: TAP Air Portugal, TAAG and Ethiopian Airlines; as well as Gold Category Sponsors (Gold category): Aceria de Angola, Multieventos, Unitel, Grupo Boavida, Noble Group, Niodior, Refriango, RCN, Kikovo, Grupo Arena, Cooperativa de credito, Tegma-Su and Planalto do Kinu.

Events at the Biennale were hosted across four sites in Luanda: the Talatona Convention Centre accommodated the opening ceremony; with the Antonio Agostinho Neto Memorial playing host to the Partners and Thematic Forums The Festival of Cultures took place at the Sao Miguel Fortaleza and the "Marginal de Luanda" for the Moroccan village display and closing concert.

Participation during the Biennale was recorded as follows:

- Opening Ceremony: Approximately 500 people in the main hall with 400 people watching a direct broadcast projected on screens at the Antonio Agostinho Neto Memorial.
- Partners' Forum and Thematic Forums: 116 panelists and moderators, 600 people per day from 62 countries, including forty-five African countries.
- Festival of Cultures: 200 artists featuring 16 countries (South Africa, Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Cabo Verde, South Korea, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, Mali, Morocco, Portugal and Rwanda) and 15,000 visitors.
- End concert: Over 50 artists from Angola, Egypt, Namibia and South Africa and 7000 spectators.

According to data from the Angolan emigration services, approximately **500 people** disembarked at Luanda airport as part of the Biennale between 16 and 23 September 2019.









# i. Opening Ceremony



### Inaugural Session

The opening event included an inaugural and welcoming ceremony, a high-level panel and the signing of an agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Angola. The ceremony was chaired by H.E. Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola with participation from H.E. Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali and H.E. Mr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia. H.E. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission and Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO were present to represent their intuitions as the co-organizers of the event. Dr. Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate participated as the special guest of the Biennale.

**H.E. Ms Maria da Piedade de Jesus,** Minister of Culture of the Republic of An-

gola, opened the floor by welcoming the distinguished guests, participants and delegations. Reiterating the importance of the event, she appealed to all Africans to unite to combine efforts in support of the promotion and construction of a culture of peace for the sustainable development of the continent. Specifically, she called upon the support of leaders, intellectuals, students and researchers, to increase their interactions in the quest for, and implementation of, better solutions for lasting peace in Africa.

**Dr. Denis Mukwege,** in his address, stressed that *“our culture and our African heritage are of great wealth but [are] often misunderstood and forgotten and therefore [are] not sufficiently exploited [to address] the current and future challenges of the continent”*, recalling the need to valorize pan-Africanism and draw from



African values and traditions. Referring to the 13<sup>th</sup> century Malian Charter of Kurukan Fuga (Mande of 1236) the first source of the Human Rights charter, he argued that the culture of peace in Africa must above all be a re-appropriation by Africans of their own cultural heritage. He also highlighted the important roles women took in historical African societies where they were active in democratic practices of collectivism, a contrast to present day society where women are often relegated to second-range positions. He expressed disappointment in the fact that girls on the continent are still excluded from education, and linked adherence to jihadism and increasing youth migration to Europe to the lack of opportunities to “live free from fear and need... [He exclaimed that this was] shaming the continent for not being able to take care of its own youth”. He then applauded UNESCO’s Operational Strategy for Priority Africa as an approach that will help to create endogenous responses to the continent’s existing challenges.

Dr. Mukwege expressed concern about the prevailing culture of corruption and impunity on the continent. He called upon African leaders to move towards a culture of transparency, accountability and reaffirmation of values of solidarity and goodwill, especially when addressing cross-border cases of violence as in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Concluding, he appealed to Head of States, the UN, the African Union and civil society to support the enactment of recommendations in the UN Commissioner for Human Rights Mapping Report<sup>8</sup> on the DRC. He also advocated for creating an international court of justice to pursue violations listed in the report, as a way forward towards consolidation of peace and stability in his country.

**H.E. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat** expressed that peace consolidation is at the center of the African Union’s mission and that in Africa “*the desire for peace is greater than anywhere else*”. He views the revival of violent extremism and reli-

<sup>8</sup> The mapping was conducted from October 2008 to May 2009 with the delivery of a 550-page report containing descriptions of 617 alleged violent incidents occurring in the DRC between March 1993 and June 2003.



H.E. Ms Maria da Piedade de Jesus, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Angola



Dr. Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

gious intolerance, the destruction of cultural heritage like Timbuktu, the violence inflicted by Boko Haram and Al Shabab in the Lake Chad Region and Horn of Africa as well as the rise of jihadism and xenophobia as a negation of the Culture of Peace as set out in the Charter of the African Renaissance and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. Congratulating the effectuation of the first edition of the Biennale - he stated that by “*bringing together intelligences from different horizons*” this





H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission

was an opportunity to assess the state of peace on the continent and to identify the means and available cultural resources that can bring Africa long lasting peace.

Mr Mahamat emphasized that the chosen themes for the Biennale are at the center of the African Peace and Security Infrastructure of his organization. He also called for the acknowledgement and support for the role of women in conflict resolution and peace promotion on the continent. As a means of preventing new threats to peace and security on the continent, the Chairperson of the AU Commission stressed the need to reinforce governance at continental as well as global level. Commending the presence and expertise of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, he concluded by thanking the President of Angola and the Director General of UNESCO for their partnership with the African Union Commission in putting together this initiative. He expressed his wish for Luanda to permanently become the center of culture of peace in Africa.

In her address, the Director General of UNESCO, **Ms Audrey Azoulay** commended the commitment of the President of the Republic of Angola for making Luanda the capital of peace. Not only because of the lessons learnt from the long and dreadful civil war but also by hosting the signature of the recent agreement between Rwanda and Uganda on 21

August. She also thanked The African Union Commission Chairperson for the partnership with UNESCO. Ms Azoulay referred to another benchmark moment for peace in Africa, highlighting the signing of the peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia, she took the opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali of Ethiopia for being awarded the 2019 UNESCO Félix Houphouët-Boigny Prize for peace-seeking.

She recalled to the audience that, thirty years after the birth of the concept of a 'Culture of Peace' in 1989, in Yamoussoukro (Ivory Coast), *«we have learned that resilience and sustainable peace protection can only be achieved by the societies themselves»*. Ms Azoulay continued by stating that *“mechanisms to protect peace through security alone have shown their limitations. These security mechanisms are necessary but never sufficient”*. Using the definition adopted during the Yamoussoukro *Peace on the minds of men* conference, which describes Culture of Peace as *“a behavior [...], a deep adhesion of being human with the principles of freedom, justice, equality and solidarity between all human beings”*; she explained that this is why the Luanda Biennale emphasizes the significant role of education and culture in the prevention of violence and for resolving conflicts. The Biennale also highlighted the need to look into natural resources management and bio-diversity conservation as well as the role of the media when designing programmes specifically aimed at promoting peace. Giving examples of UNESCO's intervention in Africa in those domains, she appealed for the need for more involvement of civil society and in particular youth, in peace endeavors. The Director General concluded by noting that the Biennale's ambition, through the creation of Partners Forum in Africa for Africa, is to also encourage the *“mobilization of the greatest number of public and private partners”* to invest in education, culture and science on the continent, so that the peace advancement efforts can be expanded.

In his exhortation, **H.E. Mr Hage Gottfried Geingob** referred to the pertinence of the backdrop of the high table:

“... the banner gives us a clear indication of why we are here today. It is showcasing young people who are the essence of Africa’s future; investing in them, providing them opportunities to learn, to work and to contribute to Africa’s development is key for the promotion of the Culture of Peace in Africa. The backdrop also refers to technology, underscoring the importance of investing in 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies in order to allow Africa to develop itself and become an independent and competitive world player. The banner further displays young women dressed in traditional attires, reminding us of the need to invest in and recognize the key role women play in Africa’s peace and development. There is a need to cherish, respect, value and preserve our rich, diverse and unique cultural heritage, all key elements for the preservation of peace. And finally, we see these young women and the older lady looking at each other which brings up the sense of community, solidarity, the collective that is very much part of us as Africans and allows us to live in harmony, young and older generations building together - prosperity and peace in Africa. Yes, this is what the Culture of Peace is about!”.



*Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO*



*H.E. Mr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia*



H.E. Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali

Champion of the African Union for Arts, Culture and Heritage, **H.E. Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta** began by commending “the fine example of resilience the people of Angola and its leaders have demonstrated by overcoming the handicaps resulting from the slave trade first, colonization second, and a long civil war last”. Thanking the three organizers of the event, he then stressed that the culture of peace will only prevail if one acknowledges that it is fundamentally about the relationship between peace, democracy and development. Moreover, it requires acknowledging the need for “human brotherhood” within and outside borders of countries, and that concomitantly peace must become a manifestation of behavior that favors negotiation and compromise as means of resolving differences and disputes.

Recognizing the cultural dimension of peace, he stated that the Ubuntu philosophy of African identity deriving from the notion of collectivity (“I am because we are”), further extended in the pan-African Project, “is the *raison d’être* of the African Union”. He later warned against the threats emanating from racial, religious and class prejudices, threats he described as the worst enemies for peace. He called for the celebration of the racial diversity of the African continent – a place where black, Arabic and white populations co-exist peacefully. On youth he stressed that this demographic are “the most precious assets of the continent, the best way to serve [the continent] is to prepare its youth politically, intellectually and morally to conquer the future”.

He concluded his address by expressing his “wish that the Biennale of Luanda [should become] the place where the destiny of Africa” is affirmed in the hands of her children, the place where there is determination to make natural, cultural and human resources the pillars of African construction that the African Union’s Agenda 2063 seeks to reaffirm.



During his speech, **H.E. Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço** welcomed all participants to the first edition of the Biennale for the Culture of Peace. He continued by congratulating the close collaboration between the Angolan Government, the African Union and UNESCO in putting together the event. Mr Lourenço explained that as a “*privileged space for the promotion of cultural diversity and African unity, the Biennale of Luanda offers a unique platform for governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, the private sector and international organizations to discuss and define strategies for the prevention of violence and conflict with a view to building lasting peace*”. Because of this inclusive dynamic, he welcomed the participation of young people from Angola, Africa and the diaspora as a guarantee of the emergence of a force, through which there will be exchanges of innovative ideas for solving the socio-economic problems that face Africa. He recalled that as part of the AU agenda to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, one of the organization’s objectives is to ‘Silence the guns by 2020’. To achieve this objective, he invited all to draw inspiration from the values of pan-Africanism and use the Biennale of Luanda as a key step towards deepening the knowledge of the different African realities; and affirm African identity on a cultural, political and artistic level, wishing all a fruitful exchange on the quest for progress and development on the continent.



*H.E. Mr João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola*

### High Level Panel

After the inaugural session, a high-level panel discussion moderated by Ms Georgia Calvin-Smith, a journalist from the international media house France 24 and Mr Amilcar Xavier, a journalist from the Angolan Public Television (TPA), the Heads of State, the African Union Commission Chairperson and UNESCO's Director-General exchanged their views on the Culture of Peace.

Questioned on his motivation to host the event, **H.E. Mr João Lourenço** opened the high level panel by explaining that due to Angola's geopolitical position and the country's experience of securing peace after 26 years consecutive years of war, it was a natural fit for Angola to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of Africa's Forum for the Culture of Peace and convey messages on the importance of building and maintaining peace. Mr Lourenço continued by expressing that whilst he was pleased with the sustained peace in Angola since 2002, he reiterated the need to invest in this kind of intercultural dialogues as nations could learn much from each other's experiences. Citing the African Union's ongoing work on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Angolan President added that peace is fundamental for the success of AfCFTA, because the agreement implies free movement of persons and goods; both of which are not possible when countries face armed conflict.

When asked about Mali's own recent experiences and in particular the attacks on Timbuktu, a World Heritage Site, **H.E. Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta** stated that by targeting the city, the assailants attacked the very center not only of the nation but "*one of the cities that is known to all men of culture in the world and which has been a center for the dissemination of Islamic culture*". He continued by commending the work undertaken to safeguard the priceless manuscripts of Timbuktu, which are not only theological works, but invaluable artifacts of science, biology, medicine and natural science. He reaffirmed the seriousness of the attack by explaining that the International Criminal Court (ICC), in The Hague, considered the attack as a crime against humanity and

sentenced the main person responsible for the destruction and the ransacking of Timbuktu's monuments; this was the first time the ICC focused solely on cultural destruction as a war crime. Mr Keïta praised the work carried out by UNESCO on the restoration of Timbuktu, and the actions taken by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the government of Mali to address terrorist threats.

He expressed caution reiterating that the fight against terrorism is unfortunately still not concluded. The President reaffirmed Mali's commitment to the efforts of the G5 Sahel with Chad, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger in combatting terrorism. He stressed that more needed to be done to improve educational provisions on the continent because educational attainment is an effective long-term solution in the dual-effort to counteract terrorism and promote sustainable development.

**H.E. Mr Hage Geingob** spoke about some of the challenges faced in the quest for sustainable peace in Africa and he reemphasized the need to revisit the governance architecture on the continent. He invited 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of African leaders to build on the legacies of 1<sup>st</sup> wave leaders, who campaigned to liberate the continent and the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave leaders who operated with cold war challenges. Mr Geingob asserted that 3<sup>rd</sup> wave leaders could address the needs and aspirations of citizens by engaging in processes, systems and institutional reforms Referring to his own country's current status – President Geingob claimed that "*even though Namibia succeeded in achieving peace, there are still many challenges to address*". He stressed that unless we address issues around housing, basics needs and unemployment, especially for young people, the efforts to achieve peace will be compromised. Referring to racial tensions, he stated that despite the country's apartheid legacy, in Namibia white and black people are working together at all levels of society, defying racial divides which were used to sow hatred. Referencing his career at the UN

Institute in Lusaka, where he worked on projects to build leadership capacities, he stressed that *“yes, we have peace but what is worrying is inequality, which we have to address... otherwise peace will not last, and young people are impatient”*. The president concluded by offering his assessment on the continent, he explained that even though there was still a long way to go, he believes that Africa is making progress towards the 2063 goal of the *Africa we want*.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), **Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat**, spoke about the role of the AUC in promoting peace and democracy in Africa. He explained that it is not a lack of peace-building and conflict prevention instruments that has led to conflicts on the continent, but instead it is that *“today, most of the conflicts affecting the African continent do not concern conflicts between states, they are [usually] internal problems within states, [for example] the extreme terrorism threat affecting the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin and the Horn of Africa”*. He continued by commenting on the recent *Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism* conference organized by ECOWAS<sup>9</sup> in Ouagadougou, he expressed that this was an example of the type of actions with which the AU is currently engaged. Mr Mahamat pointed out that African countries are investing considerably in coordinated cross-border security actions, giving particular mention to some examples including the Multinational Joint task Force (MNJTF) in the Lake Chad region, the G5 Sahel Joint Force in the Sahel region and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). He continued by stressing that the fight against terrorism needs financing from the United Nations Security Council.

The AUC Chairperson proceeded by urging countries to adopt legal and political instruments for conflict resolution and encouraged leaders to apply principles of good governance at economic, judicial and political levels. He stressed that internal conflicts stemming from

pre- and post-electoral tensions should be solved in a peaceful manner. Mr Mahamat explained that the main strategy for eradicating security threats on the continent is through development of countries. He advised member states to invest in quality education for all – taking the opportunity to express his appreciation for the long-standing cooperation between the AUC and UNESCO in the promotion of culture, education and science. He continued by referring to the fundamental partnership between the AU and UNESCO in the pursuit of the well-being of the African people. He highlighted the importance of UNESCO’s *General History of Africa*, a project launched in 1964 to challenge the ignorance around Africa’s history – a work Mr Mahamat described as one of the most important works carried out for the continent<sup>10</sup>. He pointed out the links between peace and development and prosperity, stating that *“without peace nothing can be done, which is why for us the culture of peace is just as important as the culture of producing food”*. He added that, for peace, trust between the leadership and the population is essential and as such the role of civil society cannot be underestimated. Concluding, he asserted that *“to boost this trust, it is necessary for the population, namely youth and women, to be more engaged in the management of issues”*.

<sup>9</sup> One billion dollars was pledged by the ECOWAS to fight against violent extremism.

<sup>10</sup> <https://en.unesco.org/general-history-africa>

**Ms Audrey Azoulay**, UNESCO's Director-General spoke about the link between the concept culture and the culture of peace. She pointed out that culture, for its diversity and multi-millennial history, is a resource known for its resilience and capacity for recuperation after traumas – she encouraged the utilization of these qualities. The Director-General cited the examples of Timbuktu in Mali and Mosul in Iraq, where resurrections have taken place after great levels of destruction. Referring to the Biennale as a demonstration of UNESCO's essence, she stated that the organization tries to nourish this capacity for reconstruction, prevention of violent extremism and for peace promotion through culture, information and communication, education and sciences. She also stressed that to achieve long lasting peace and development on the continent, there is a need to pursue gender equality, the empowerment of

women and youth as well as the promotion of digital revolution.

On UNESCO's support to Angola, Ms Azoulay praised the longstanding cooperation and the recent renewal of this collaboration, made possible thanks to a significant investment by the President of Angola to support UNESCO's mandate. She stated that President Lourenço's 2018 visit to UNESCO's HQ in Paris was an excellent opportunity to identify priority areas of collaboration between Angola and UNESCO. The first area of cooperation between UNESCO and African countries, including Angola, was to work on the cultural sector to identify new eligible sites in Africa to be included on the World Heritage list. The second area focuses on higher education, leading the Director-General to commend Angola's commitment to invest in the training of doctoral students. She added that UNESCO is also supporting Angola through teacher training and digital learning.





### Collaboration Agreement Signature

The Partners Forum commenced with a signing ceremony between the Government of the Republic of Angola and UNESCO to mark a US \$50 million agreement. The fund will support investments in the sciences and in young people; it will be used to develop smart partnerships to work towards achieving peace and development on the continent. The educational arrangement will consist of a national doctoral training programme in the sciences, technology and innovation for 165 young Angolan doctoral students, between 2020 and 2027. Director-General, Ms Audrey Azoulay, signed the agreement on behalf of UNESCO and the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Angola, Ms Maria do Rosário Bragança Sambo, on behalf of the Angolan Government.

The morning session concluded with young children presenting the symbolic *peace flower* to everyone on the high table.



*The Director-General of UNESCO and the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Angola signing the collaboration agreement*









## ii. Partners' Forum

The first edition of the Luanda Biennale launched the **Partners' Alliance for the Culture of Peace in Africa** through the organization of a Partners Forum. Understanding that peace and sustainable development is the ambition and responsibility of all, this multi-stakeholders gathering of governments, private sector enterprises, civil society organizations, international organizations including UN agencies, and people from the media came together for 2 days to testify, inform, exchange and share their views, experiences on resilience building during crises and conflicts in African communities. They also spoke about their responsibilities and contributions to the prevention and or remediation of challenges to sustainable

and inclusive development on the continent. The Forum was conceived as a strategy to mobilize strategic and innovative partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 UN Development Agenda<sup>11</sup>, the 2063 AU vision<sup>12</sup> and UNESCO's Africa Priority Programme and strategies<sup>13</sup> through this Pan-African Movement for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence.

The Partners Forum was carried out through three distinct sessions:

1. Pledges of Support by Partners
2. Three Exchange Panels
3. Partners' Meetings between UNESCO Field Offices, Sectors and Partners

<sup>11</sup> Culture of Peace promotion contributes to the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>), but in particular to SDG 16 for Peace and Justice and effective institutions and SDG 17 on mobilizing partnerships for the successful sustainable development.

<sup>12</sup> The Seven Aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063 are as follows:  
<https://au.int/en/agenda2063/aspirations>

- A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development;
- An integrated, politically united Africa based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism;
- An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law;
- A peaceful and secure Africa;
- An Africa with a strong cultural identity, values and ethics;
- An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of its youth and women; and
- An Africa that is a strong, influential global player and partner.

<sup>13</sup> UNESCO's Priority Africa six Flagship programmes are:

- Promoting a culture of peace and nonviolence;
- Strengthening education systems for sustainable development in Africa: improving equity, quality and relevance;
- Harnessing STI and knowledge for the sustainable socio-economic development of Africa;
- Fostering science for the sustainable management of Africa's natural resources and disaster risk reduction;
- Harnessing the power of culture for sustainable development and peace in a context of regional integration; and
- Promoting an environment conducive to freedom of expression and media development.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000224489>







**ii.1**  
**Pledges by**  
**UNESCO**  
**partners**

This session was split into two segments: The first took place at the Conference Center at Talatona, during the Opening Ceremony, witnessed by the three Heads of State and the AUC Chairperson as described in the Opening Ceremony section.

In the afternoon, the Partners Forum resumed at the Agostinho Neto Mausoleum, starting with opening remarks from UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations, Mr Firmin Edouard Matoko, and the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Gabon to UNESCO and Chairperson of the Africa Group at UNESCO, Ms Rachel Annick Ogoula Akiko.

In his address, Mr Matoko started by welcoming all participants and emphasized how the gathering represented a true platform of partners as it brought together representatives of governments, civil society, the arts, sciences and international organizations. He continued by stating that “the Biennale of Luanda is 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”. Commending all participants for their attendance, Mr Matoko noted that it was very encouraging to have such a great number of UNESCO allies at the Partner’s Forum, because it would ensure a richer exchange on how to promote cultural diversity as well as on how to prevent violence and conflict in Africa.

Ms Ogoula Akiko started her speech by thanking, on behalf of the Africa Group of UNESCO, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Angola for hosting the Partners’ Forum in Luanda, the Government and people of Angola for the warm welcome, and all the partners that attended the Biennale, for their commitment to Africa and its development. She praised the actions taken in the framework of the African Union’s *One Million by 202* initiative<sup>14</sup>, aiming to

*Mr Firmin Edouard Matoko,  
Assistant Director-General,  
Sector for Priority Africa and  
External Relations, UNESCO*

<sup>14</sup> In April 2019, AUC Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat launched the “1 million by 2021 Initiative”, which seeks to build on the progress being made



catalyze actions for youth development in Africa, providing one million young Africans opportunities in the areas of Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Engagement as well as the *Make Peace Happen Campaign*<sup>15</sup>.

Recalling that “*the idea of a culture of peace was first formulated on an international scale at the International Congress on Peace in the Minds of Men in 1989 in Yamoussoukro*”, she reminded her audience that thirty years after the adoption of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Peace in the Minds of Men, the Biennale of Luanda represents the opportunity “*to implement both common and innovative actions and to build together a lasting peace on the continent*”.

The second part of the pledges session continued with allocutions from three UNESCO partners who manifested their commitment and highlighted the organization’s impact as a strategic partner: The Republic of Equatorial Guinea announced an additional funding pledge of US \$5 million to support UNESCO’s construction of the African-American University of Central Africa (AAUCA); The African Development Bank (AfDB) reaffirmed its commitment with a focus on sustainable natural resource management; on 3 September 2019 Phoenix TV<sup>16</sup> (Hong Kong/China) announced the renewal of the partnership with UNESCO, ensuring that it shares the organization’s work around the world on its platforms.

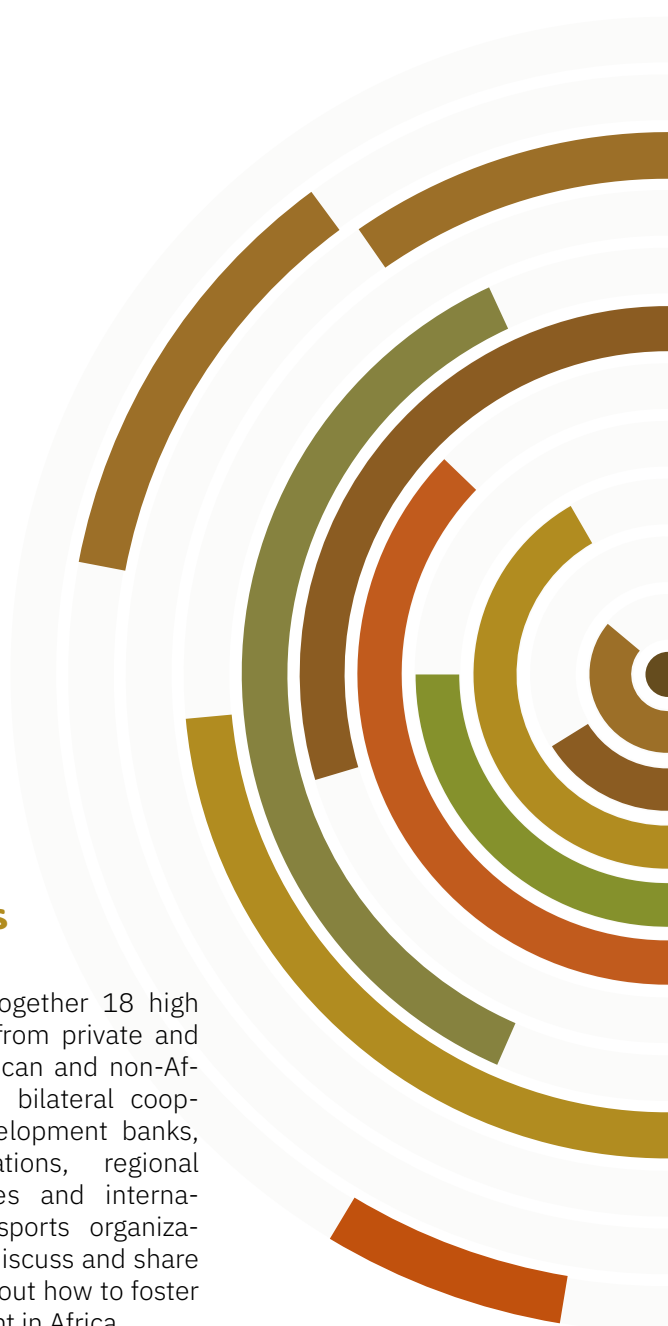
in Africa - improving capacities through education and skills development; creating, as well as establishing conducive environments for opportunities in employment and entrepreneurship for young people; and ensuring that they are meaningfully engaged in the development agenda of the continent. <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20190422/1-million-2021-african-union-commission-chairperson-rallies-support-new-youth>

<sup>15</sup> The Make Peace Happen Campaign was launched by the AU in 2010 and every year it encourages all Africans and people of African descent, united in diversity, young and old, men and women and from all walks of life, to join in solidarity as we observe and celebrate this international Peace Day of non-violence and cease-fire. <http://www.peaceau.org/en/page/78-make-peace-happen>

<sup>16</sup> Phoenix Television is a television network of 6 channels that offers channels with Mandarin and Cantonese-language content that serve the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong along with other markets providing news, information, and entertainment programmes.

## ii.2 Partners Exchange Panels

The panels brought together 18 high level representatives from private and public companies, African and non-African member states, bilateral cooperation agencies, development banks, philanthropic foundations, regional economic communities and international, cultural and sports organizations; for two days to discuss and share ideas with UNESCO about how to foster peace and development in Africa.



## ii.2.1 The Role of United Nations Organizations, International Organizations and Development Banks

Moderated by Mrs Audrey Pulvar, Journalist, Founder and CEO of African Pattern, this panel was joined by:

1. H.E. **Mr Tomas Ulicny**, Ambassador, Head of the European Delegation to Angola;
2. H.E. **Mr Yang Shen**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the People's Republic of China to UNESCO;
3. H.E. **Mr Ibrahim Albalawi**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO;
4. Dr. **Stéphanie Gottwald**, Learning XPRIZE judge and Professor of Linguistics and Literacy at Tufts and co-founder of Curious Learning, University, United States of America;
5. Mr **Dominique Roland**, Director of the Arts Centre, Enghien les Bains.

Ambassador **Thomas Ulicny** started his address commending the longstanding good relationship between the EU and UNESCO, also stressing the importance of a joint action and a solid cooperation with other international organizations in order to effectively implement the sustainable development goals.

Ambassador Ulicny highlighted the similarities between UNESCO and the EU as organizations that promote human rights and fundamental freedoms as cornerstones of stability and development, both being equally committed to more effective multilateral cooperation and to inclusive development rooted on quality education for all and the respect for cultural diversity. Referring to education, he explained that “with a total investment of about €5.3 billion (of which €3.4 billion was earmarked for bilateral support and €1.9 billion for global and regional initiatives), the EU is presently the largest international donor for education”. In this respect, he commended the efforts made by UNESCO in this domain, particularly through the GEM Report<sup>17</sup>, the International Task Force on Teachers and the support provided on policy design in EU partner countries. He also praised the implementation of the joint

Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Training project that was started in Malawi in 2016. The project aims to help participants to acquire the skills necessary to respond to the labor market's need. He mentioned that the EU is reviewing how to increase support for UNESCO's programmes in their new programming period.

In the domain of culture, **Mr Ulicny** spoke mostly about the EU's commitment to work with UNESCO to support the rehabilitation of African cultural heritage, citing the ongoing joint action in Mali. He also stressed the significant connection between the preservation of the cultural heritage and the “empowerment of local communities as ‘owners’ of local heritage”. He emphasized that this would help with promoting sustainable tourism. In conclusion, the Ambassador referred to the ‘Culture for the Future’ a two-day colloquium, organised in June 2019, which aimed to facilitate an exchange between the cultural and creative sectors, international institutions, and policy-makers, on the role of culture as a vector for peace.

In his address, **Mr Yang Shen**, reiterated his country's commitment to support UNESCO's strategy for implementing the inter-sectoral programme, Priority Africa. In particular, he highlighted the significant accomplishments realized in boosting national capacities in teacher education systems in 10 African countries, through the China-UNESCO Fund-in-Trust (CFIT) project. He informed that the approval to fund a third phase of the CFIT project was announced during the 2018 Forum Africa-China Cooperation Summit (FOCAC) in Beijing. The third phase will focus on supporting the creation of a technical and innovative workforce for the development of African countries.

Ambassador Shen also mentioned China's commitment to work on advancing gender equality in education, especially through the Girls' and Women's Education Prize<sup>18</sup>, and the UNESCO-Haihang Girls' and Women's education Fund-in-

<sup>17</sup> The Global Education Monitoring Report is hosted and published by UNESCO and tracks worldwide annual progress towards UN global education targets.

<sup>18</sup> Awarded every year to two laureates, the Prize is presented to recipients to recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of female education.



Trust. He advised that China has also been supporting UNESCO quality assurance in higher education interventions in several African countries through the UNESCO-Shenzhen Fund-in-Trust. With regards to fostering public-private partnerships, he mentioned the UNESCO-Weidong Group Fund-in-Trust, which enables UNESCO to provide support to member states so that they can leverage ICT's for the achievement of the Education goals by 2030. Concerning the support to Culture, he referred to the voluntary contribution made by his country to the UNESCO World Heritage Center. He concluded his intervention by reiterating China's continuous support for the implementation of African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN SDG 4 Education 2030.

Ambassador **Ibrahim Albalawi**, commended the recently initiated partnership project between the representatives of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the members of the UNESCO Africa Group. He also highlighted the ongoing interactions between Saudi Arabia and African countries. He praised the current work undertaken by the "MiSK" Foundation<sup>19</sup> and the "King Salman Center for Humanitarian Aid and Relief", in cooperation with UNESCO. He continued expressing his interest in strengthening the partnership with African countries in all of UNESCO fields of competences, especially in the preservation of cultural heritage and the promotion of peace and dialogue.

Mr Albalawi also spoke about the "Saudi Vision 2030", implemented by the country's "National Transformation Plan", which aims to, promote social and economic inclusion, reform the teaching system, as well as the development of the field of culture.

**Dr. Stephanie Gottwald's** presentation revolved around the work of the nonprofit organization, Curious Learning (CL). The



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organization is developing a partnership with UNESCO to fast track literacy acquisition by out-of-school children and young people with poor learning achievements in Africa. On the intervention, she stated that CL works to "curate, localize, optimize and distribute smartphone technology based literacy solutions, designed to work for children regardless of their proximity to schools". She explained that there is a growing body of evidence illustrating that children can learn to read from mobile apps; the most recent one, the XPRIZE Learning Challenge<sup>20</sup>, carried out with UNESCO and WFP in Tanzania, is an example of this innovative approach. Curious Learning is building on this through a smartphone based learning ecosystem. The goal is to empower programmers, developers and content creators so that they can collectively provide open-source learning apps that provide a path to literacy, with offerings in over 50 languages.

*Curious Learning XPRIZE's test was made possible through the "Village Mamas", women in the villages where the test Curious Learning's tablets were sent, to ensure its smooth operation.*

<sup>19</sup> The UNESCO-Misk internship programme offers young Saudi university graduates and young qualified professionals the opportunity to join UNESCO at the early stage of their professional career and learn how to play a part in bringing peace through international cooperation in education, culture and science.

<sup>20</sup> The \$15 million Global Learning XPRIZE challenged teams from around the world to develop open-source, scalable software that empowers children to teach themselves basic reading, writing and arithmetic within 15 months. <https://www.xprize.org/prizes/global-learning/articles/xprize-and-unesco>

The broad objective is to reach 170 million children<sup>21</sup> by 2025 with apps that empower them to learn to read. Dr. Gottwald finished by describing the nature of the smart partnership – she explained that CL is “working with telecommunications providers, hardware manufacturers, multilateral institutions, governments, schools and parents to bring localized apps to children in regions where countries have the highest rates of illiteracy. CL’s approach is amplified by a partnership with Google, ensuring world class technology support”.

**Mr Dominique Roland** reiterated the significant role played by culture in the promotion of peace through programmes such as, for example, UNESCO’s Creative Cities. He stressed that “we should turn these cities into experimental territory for innovative uses”, mentioning the *Rencontres Internationales des Arts Numeriques d’Abidjan*<sup>22</sup> (RIANA 2019) in Abidjan, initiated in 2017, as an example of developing a dynamic local digital ecosystem in Africa. He also stated “that creative cities are at the heart of solving today’s issues as we work towards inventing a new social model”, stressing thereby the importance of citizens’ participation in this process. He commended the fusion of cultural diversity represented by the significant mix between Creative Cities<sup>23</sup> in Europe and in Africa and emphasized the relevance of having a north-south balance in UNESCO’s Creative Cities networks, which he felt represents a true richness of the African continent.

### Plenary Discussion

All panelists reiterated that Africa remains a priority for their respective orga-

nizations, reaffirming in that regard their institutions’ commitment to support Africa with the implementation of the SDGs. In doing so, several speakers referred to the need to consider African endogenous cultures because it is essential to manage a genuine transformation towards a culture of peace. Some of the speakers also agreed that it is important to promote and valorize endogenous populations in Africa as many African countries make efforts to promote and recognize the internal cultural diversity. This recognition is an essential step towards the construction and consolidation of social peace.

Some also referred to the essential role of women in conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. They urged African governments to take gender related peace and security concerns into account, and to strive for the inclusion of women in peace processes in order to achieve long lasting harmony.

Several of the speakers reiterated their continued support for African governments seeking to leverage the demographic potential of the continent’s young population, through provision of education and training that would improve employment creation opportunities as a means to enhance sustainable peace on the continent.

Panelists also referred to the need to support resilience and social inclusion of African cities. They acknowledged that the contributions currently being made by UNESCO’s network of Creative Cities and the organization’s focus on identifying creativity, are important strategic factors for sustainable urban development.

Concluding, the panel proposed the following recommendation:

The **United Nations Organizations, development banks and other multilateral organizations**, should continue to promote inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development initiatives that also champion the Culture of Peace in their work.

<sup>21</sup> Of the 170 million, the goal is to reach 100 million African children

<sup>22</sup> Meeting of Visual and Digital Arts of Abidjan

<sup>23</sup> The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004. The aim of the Network is to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The 246 cities which currently make up this network work together towards a common objective: placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.







## ii.2.2 The role of Private sector, Foundations and the Media

This panel was moderated by Mrs Audrey Pulvar and joined by:

1. **Mr Guido Brusco**, ENI Executive Vice President for the Sub-Saharan region;
2. **Mr Danrui Wang**, President of Weidong Group;
3. **Mr Samba Bathily**, Founder of the Africa Development Solutions Group;
4. **Mr Didier Drogba**, Vice-President of the Peace and Sport;
5. **Mr Olivier Juny**, Chief Executive Officer of Total Angola;
6. **Mr Rafael Cavalcante Marques**, TV GLOBO
7. **Ms Eva Cortez**, on behalf of the Executive Director of Banco BNI, Angola.

In his address, **Mr Guido Brusco**, drew attention to the links between low energy production and poverty in several African countries. He also underlined that economic growth does not occur at the same pace as the demographic growth in Africa. He followed by stating that public and private collaboration is one of the key strategies to address this disparity as well as the challenge of limited infrastructures, because these issues are two of the most important drivers of development. On his company's policies he explained that "ENI, since its very beginning, [has been dedicated to letting its host countries become autonomous from an energy standpoint". ENI believes that through the improvement of access to energy, countries can also contribute to the culture of peace. Mr Brusco mentioned that on September 2018, ENI signed an important agreement with UNDP to improve the energy mix in Africa through renewable projects.

*Football in Konso, Ethiopia.*

*In several african countries football has a vital role in creating unity out of division, joy from sadness and promoting a message of integration and peace*



**Mr Olivier Juny**, confirmed that as a result of the Paris Agreement in 2015, Total has taken a number of actions directed at mitigating the decarbonization of fossil fuels. Reiterating his company's commitment to promote use of a cleaner energy and to diversify its energy portfolio, he expressed that the company is engaged in reducing gas flaring<sup>24</sup>. He elaborated by indicating that in Angola, between 2018 and 2019, the company was able to reduce flaring by 20%, among other measures being taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He also explained that Total in Angola supports projects targeting youth and cultural heritage as part of their corporate social responsibility programme.

**Didier Drogba**, cited the example of Ivory Coast where football was successful in bringing together all Ivoirians after the war, irrespective of their political affiliation or loyalties during the civil war years. The national football team proved that all Ivoirians could co-exist and play together with a common aim. He explained that the message he and his teammates passed on national TV, pleading with rival groups to agree to a ceasefire and to work toward peace, had a direct impact on the end of the civil conflict. "At that moment" he recalled, "I realized the importance of sport". With 60% of the entire continent aged below 25, "Africa needs to look at the young and to promote a message of peace". He also mentioned the launch of the Peace and Sport Campaign in Colombia, which brought together young people around a sporting passion, allowing them to forget about differences and to build dialogue, getting out of the tensions from their daily lives.

**Mr Bathily** highlighted how important it is to "invest in renewable energies as well as to adopt a different approach, by making public-private partnerships with

<sup>24</sup> Gas flaring refers to the combustion of associated gas generated during various processes including oil and gas recovery, CBM production, petrochemical process and landfill gas extraction. According to the World Bank, billions of cubic meters of natural gas is flared annually at oil production sites around the globe. Flaring gas wastes a valuable energy resource that could be used to support economic growth and progress. It also contributes to climate change by releasing millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere.



governments possible so that more people can be reached". According to him, innovation has a key role in the peace process, as it is a major instrument that can be used to create more job opportunities. He explained that the stability of Africa also depends on innovation, especially in rural areas where people still do not have access to basic services and infrastructures; often resulting to their participation in recurrent criminality and conflicts. Before concluding, Mr Bathily analyzed the importance of investing in creativity and culture as a means of guaranteeing significant economic growth. He finalized by announcing that through African Development Solution he has invested 20 million euros in the Mindel Floating Music project<sup>25</sup>, a musical platform aiming to gather artists, to realize and promote Africans films – in an effort to recreate a sort of Hollywood in Africa.

**Mr Duanrui's** presentation focused on the areas that Weidong Group supports, including health, wellness, new technologies and real estate. He indicated that the company has been investing in information technology for Internet-based learning for the past 12 years, and has been working to train teachers and to develop education in China. With regards to the partnership with UNESCO, he un-

*Image of MFST™ IV's ongoing project - A Floating Music Hub - located in Mindelo bay in the island of São Vicente of Cape Verde*

<sup>25</sup> Mindel Floating Music is a floating installation for music, entertainment and promotion of the exchange between local and international artists. It will be installed in the Bay of Mindelo in Cape Verde servicing not only the country but also other West African countries. It is expected to be able to receive 200,000 tourists annually and will be ready in 2020.





From the left, Mr Didier Drogba, Mr Rafael Marques, Mr Samba Bathily and Ms Audrey Pulvar

derlined the role played by the Weidong Group in tackling African countries' demand for education. He referred in particular to the pilot projects in education and digitalization being undertaken in Congo and Ivory Coast.

Addressing the Partner's Forum on behalf of Banco BNI<sup>26</sup>, **Ms Cortez** stressed the importance given by her bank, one of the most significant financial institutions in Angola's economic area, to culture, education and sport. She expressed that BNI has been supporting culture in Angola for a long time, demonstrated by the bank's image association and the support given to the first anniversary of M'Banza-Kongo's inclusion in the list of World Cultural Heritage. She reiterated BNI's commitment to UNESCO's values and its support to UNESCO's activities to promote Angola's social and economic development.

<sup>26</sup> Banco de Negócios Internacional

**Mr Rafael Marques**, elaborated on the important long-standing partnership between UNESCO and Globo TV, citing the example of *Criança Esperança*, a Globo TV initiative in partnership with UNESCO, launched in 2004. As one of the most visible and recognized social programmes in Brazil, the *Criança Esperança* Programme represents a powerful communication tool to raise important issues concerning the social agenda in the country. The programme promotes social inclusion of vulnerable groups, develops initiatives that inspire youth public policies, motivates young people to attend basic education and technical and vocational training, promotes youth participation and engagement, sports, leisure activities, and digital inclusion. It also supports projects aimed at improving the quality of life of children, adolescents and young people. Due to TV Globo's large coverage (98% of the Brazilian territory), the programme contrib-

utes to the implementation of the SDGs, in particular what is referred to as “*leave no one behind*”, promoting a future of justice and equality.

### Plenary Session

Summarizing the discussions, several panelists referred to Africa’s wealth in natural resources, but also to the underdeveloped infrastructure network of the continent. The need of energy for economic development is driving major oil groups in Africa to diversify their energy production activities to include renewable energy as they work toward a response to global warming. Aware of the need for diversification and a shift towards sustainable energy sources, many players are investing more in solar energy, thus exploiting the opportunity of the sunniest continent in the world. By providing access to basic services, rural electrification is expected to reduce the rural exodus and social divide, and create jobs, especially for young people, and in the process, securing peace.

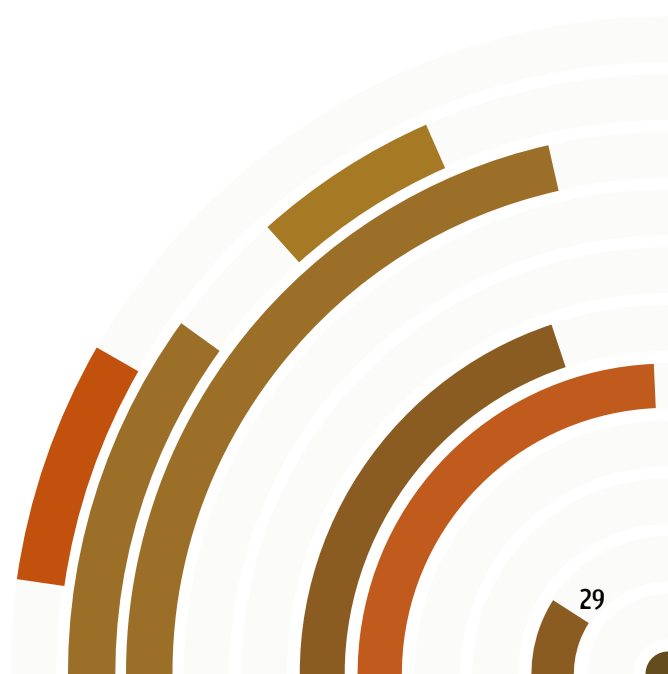
In addition, new technologies such as digital technology and artificial intelligence, now offer essential opportunities for Africa’s development. It is also increasing youths’ demands from their governments. Hence investing in technological growth through education and training is another fundamental path for a culture of peace.

The discussants noted that corporate social responsibilities in the sector involve banks, for example, supporting sustainable development by financing cultural and social projects that promote peace.

Sport on the other end, is an excellent vehicle for promoting the culture of peace, being suitable to convey messages on peaceful co-existence in particular with the current conflicts related to the increasing migration flows and crime. Media have a strong impact particularly on young people and as such, a huge responsibility to change attitudes and codes of conduct. Changing towards a culture of peace on the continent requires the combined efforts of governments, public authorities, the private sector and civil society.

Concluding, this panel proposed the following recommendation:

The **private sector** is urged to expand its collaboration with the public sector, thereby strengthening public-private partnerships and reinforcing the collaboration with UNESCO, to facilitate the implementation of innovative and comprehensive programmes for the promotion of the Culture of Peace.



## ii.2.3 Networks of civil society organizations and Cultural Festivals

This panel was moderated by Mrs Audrey Pulvar and attended by:

1. **H. E. Mr Anar KARIMOV**, Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO;
2. **Mr Yacouba Konaté**, Director-General of the Abidjan Performing Arts Market (MASA);
3. **Mr Ardiouma Soma**, General Delegate of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO);
4. **Mr Seidnaly Sidhamed**, known as *Alphadi*, UNESCO Artist for Peace - President of the International Fashion Festival in Africa (FIMA);
5. **Mr Salif Traore**, known as *A'Salfo*, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador - Commissioner-General of the Anoumabo Urban Music Festival (FEMUA);
6. **Mr Frédéric Jacquemin**, Chief Executive Officer AFRICALIA ;
7. **Mr Jean Noël Loucou**, Permanent Secretary of the Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace;
8. **Mr Ekene Johnpaul Ikwelle**, President of the Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace.

In his address, Ambassador **Anar Karimov** shared with the audience Azerbaijan's three main areas of action in Africa: humanitarian aid, assistance for sustainable development and capacity building. He stated that "Azerbaijan is making continuous efforts to eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable economic growth and global prosperity, particularly in African countries. In recent years, his country has provided considerable humanitarian assistance as well as development interventions and projects through the Azerbaijani International Development Agency (AIDA). He also informed that the Framework Agreement signed between Azerbaijan and UNESCO in 2013, will be continued in the future.

He reiterated that his country strongly supports the creation of synergies between the Baku Process<sup>27</sup> and the Bien-

nale of Luanda to promote intercultural dialogue and the culture of peace. In this regards, he stressed that Baku Process represents a unique opportunity to bring in young people and youth organizations from Africa and private partners to focus on the needs of the continent.

**Mr Yacouba Konate**, discussed the experience of the Abidjan Performing Arts Market (MASA), a cultural platform supporting creativity, facilitating the movement of artists within Africa and beyond, and providing them with an opportunity to promote their work internationally. Using the term *bonus for peace* to describe MASA, he explained that the organization was formed in March 1993, when Kinshasa was supposed to host the event, but due to the social-political situation of the country, the event was transferred to Abidjan. Mr Konate reemphasized that art and artists play a significant role in society, stressing that "their potential for empathy can be mobilized for peace as much as it has often been mobilized for less virtuous causes". He continued by mentioning the case of Côte d'Ivoire, where many artists played a leading part as vectors or amplifiers of political violence during the civil conflict. He finally asserted that artists have "the honor to help everyone to transfigure the aggressiveness intrinsic in human beings and redirect it into productive works that will allow men to better understand themselves, to better know and respect each other, and even sometimes to 're-enchant' the world".

to promote intercultural dialogue in 2008. It comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage living on different continents, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect. <https://bakuprocess.az/baku-process/about-process/>

<sup>27</sup> The Baku Process was launched Mr Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008 during a ministerial conference with a view





**Mr A'Salfo** claimed that the Anoumabo Urban Musica Festival in Africa (FEMUA)<sup>28</sup> created by the Magic System group in 2008 as a social and cultural event, is an example of the promotion of sustainable peace through cultural events in Africa. He expressed that “this festival represents an excellent platform to provide the necessary tools for the personal and professional development of young people and to promote advocacy for development and sustainable peace”. He continued by explaining that the festival has been playing an important part in the prevention of recruitment of young people by terrorist and violent extremist groups. Highlighting the 2011 edition of FEMUA, organized in the aftermath of the post-election crisis of Ivory Coast, he argued that the event enabled the entire world to see the country’s rec-

onciliation around culture. He finally asserted that today FEMUA also represents a strong signal of the country’s return to the cultural scene and it is supported by the Government of Ivory Coast, some United Nations agencies as well as several private and civil society partners.

**Mr Jacquemin** addressed the Partners’ Forum in his position as Managing Director of Africalia, a Belgian cultural cooperation agency active since 2001, supporting and valorizing African cultural actors. He explained that “the partnerships forged with cultural structures on the African continent, gave him the opportunity to become aware of the fundamental role of culture and artists in achieving lasting peace”. In particular, he stressed that the concept of a ‘culture for peace’, is actually “the work of artists and cultural operators in and with their communities against daily barbarism”. He commended the testimonies of Alphadi, Yacouba Konate and Ardiouma Soma. He also praised the work carried out by other less known cultural actors, such as the young filmmakers in the urban slum of Nairobi, the rappers, the actors and the filmmakers in Burkina Faso, as well as the photographers in DR Congo and Burundi.

*Celebration of the international Day of Peace in Bujumbura, Burundi, September 2017*

<sup>28</sup> FEMUA was created in 2008 by Mr TRAORE Salif said A'salfo the lead vocalist of the MAGIC SYSTEM group and General Commissioner of the festival. The event takes place every year in April in the commune of Marcori in the Anoumabo district, the same place the group was formed. The festival was conceived to allow the most deprived populations who often do not have the means to afford a concert ticket, to realize their dreams of attending an event with the world’s biggest stars, right on their doorsteps. To learn more about the concert, visit <https://www.cotedivoiretourisme.ci/index.php/evenements-a-voir/308-femua>

As President of the Pan-African Youth Network for culture of peace (PAYNCoP), **Mr Ikwelle** stated that “... the promotion of a culture of Africa has gone beyond academic qualifications and backgrounds, it has become a way of life.” He stressed the significant cooperation with UNESCO, which has been fundamental in overcoming the difficulties met while implementing a culture of peace through the resilience of youth. He mentioned the “Peace in Different Languages campaign”, the “Early Warning system development”, that began in Central Africa, the “Youth-Make-Peace-Happen campaign” in Sierra Leone and Nigeria, as significant examples of the work conducted by PAYNCoP supporting the implementation of a space for youth in hard-to-reach areas and situations. He reiterated PAYNCoP’s commitment to continue supporting UNESCO in the implementation of a global youth community of practice for vertical and horizontal co-creation with youth and between youth, and expressed his hope to see “a more concrete support for the PAYNCoP and other youth-led groups to promote a culture of peace in Africa”.

**Mr Jean Noel Loucou**, explained that the Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace, was launched in 2013 in Addis-Ababa<sup>29</sup>. The organization has five objectives:

1. to coordinate the respective actions of the members of the network in order to ensure a clear vision of common practices and a pooling of resources and means of action;
2. to increase the visibility of organizations and their activities among citizens and national and international institutions;

3. to contribute to the implementation of the 2013 Culture of Peace Luanda Plan of Action through the development and implementation of joint programs;
4. to work toward the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 and UNESCO’s Intersectoral Program for a Culture of Peace and;
5. to expand the network to African and non-African organizations pursuing the same objectives.

He proceeded by reporting on recent important results, including the scientific meetings organized in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018; the commemoration of 25 years since the idea of a culture of peace was conceived on the theme of ‘Peace in the minds of men and women’; the international Conference on Culture of Peace organized under the auspices of the Foundation Eduardo dos Santos (FESA) and UNESCO; International Conference on the theme ‘Prevention of Violence and Promotion of the Culture of Peace in the Election Period in Africa’, which took place in Luana (Angola); the UNESCO Chair for the Culture of Peace to the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny on the theme ‘the endogenous mechanisms of conflict prevention resolution in Africa’. He also mentioned some important research projects on the endogenous methods of prevention and resolution of conflict in Africa, such as the studies carried out within the framework of the community of practice initiated by the UNESCO Chairs at the University of Florence and at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny. He concluded by commending some initiatives including the International symposium that launched the ‘African Initiative for Education on Peace and Development through Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue’ and the creation of a school for the Culture of Peace in Yamoussoukro under the aegis of UNESCO, the AU and the Government of Ivory Coast.

<sup>29</sup> The Network was created with the objective of “creating a Continental and Sustainable Peace Movement capable of mobilizing African states, private sector, African artists and leaders, international organizations and regional development actors, as well as NGOs and grassroots associations” (point 4.1 of the Luanda Action Plan adopted at the Forum on “Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace” March 2013). It is currently composed of forty-four (44) African and non-African organizations. <http://www.reseapaix.org/en/presentation-of-the-network/>

## Plenary Session

Summarizing this panel, speakers recognized that creativity is at the heart of Africa and arts are the most vibrant forms of its expression. Whether in music, fashion or painting, the arts is a powerful form of dialogue, which can be used to deliver strong messages to a broad population, but especially to young people who more easily identify themselves with artists and brands. Artists, therefore, have an obligation to convey messages of peace, unity and justice. Some African artists are already spreading messages in their countries by calling for national reconciliation or promoting sustainable development, some are fighting against global warming. In the process, these artists are contributing to the construction and consolidation of a culture of peace and non-violence.

As a constituent of the arts, cinema can also be a powerful amplifier of peace and stability. There is an important cinematographic heritage in Africa with a wide range of production in several countries. Africa's development and stability will therefore require the constant development of cultural and artistic industries. Creativity in this field is, moreover, a formidable source for a growing economy, because behind the arts there is also economic development through job creation.

Africa's creativity is now recognized worldwide as art curators are increasingly promoting the history of African art. The process is showcasing that the ancestral know-how of African art has long influenced the world. The appropriation by young people of their culture and traditions for the promotion and development of cultural and artistic industries can thus be an effective solution against economic fueled emigration. The increasing youth population is an opportunity for Africa, but only if young people are well prepared. For this, it is important to improve citizenship education, the fostering of a culture of exchange and dialogue between young people in the continent.

Concluding, this panel proposed the following recommendation:

**African governments** are urged to enable political and legal ecosystems favorable to the promotion and development of cultural and social entrepreneurship of young people, young women, and indigenous peoples. Governments on the continent must also recognize that the contributions of artists are significantly important. Artist can play at least two important pillars in the drive for peace:

1. Works by artists contribute to the valorization of African art and culture and,
2. Artists' role in society as role models to the youth can be leveraged to support and encourage a culture of peace.



### **ii.3 Partners' Exchanges with UNESCO**

To enable exchanges between Heads and Directors of field offices, their teams and UNESCO's new and long-term partners, two Partners' Exchange Sessions were planned to facilitate this discussion. To participate in these exchanges, an online registration system was set up. One hundred and seventy-two (172) people expressed interest in meeting with the field offices. To prepare for the exchanges, sixty (60) project files from the different regions were prepared by the field offices:

- North Africa Region: 14 project sheets
- East Africa Region: 9 project sheets
- West Africa Region: 17 project sheets
- Central Africa: 6 project sheets
- Southern Africa Region: 8 project sheets
- Multi-region: 6 project sheets

Unfortunately, due to time constraints, only a few exchanges took place. However, the project sheets<sup>30</sup> were shared with interested partners and form a good basis for discussions with partners at national, regional and global level.

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<sup>30</sup> For access to these projects, please connect to:  
<https://bit.ly/2xAit0y>





*Women from Giza Governorate in Egypt receiving training as part of UNESCO's project on Technology-Enabled Literacy for Marginalized Girls and Women.*







### iii. Thematic Forums

The Thematic part of the biennale consisted of three distinct forums. The Forum of Ideas focused on UNESCO's domains of competence and the African Union theme of 2019.

The Youth Forum brought together youth representatives from the entire continent focusing on two subjects: the first concerning youth, peace and security issues; and the second focusing on employability dealing with creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The third forum was dedicated to reviewing women's role and their relationship with peace and violence in two separate sessions: The first session explored the issue of vulnerability of girls and women to all types of violence; and the second revolved around women's networks for peace and development.



### **iii.1 FORUM OF IDEAS**

The Forum of Ideas was a platform to reflect on the future of Africa, and it focused on the sharing of experiences, best practices and innovative solutions. The Forum of Ideas was mainly dedicated to the theme of 'Building and perpetuating peace in Africa: A multi-stakeholder movement'. The Forum of Ideas rolled out during 5 days at the Agostinho Neto Mausoleum, through five plenary sessions and six parallel sessions, addressing various dimensions of the Culture of Peace agenda. The forum focused on best practices and proven solutions in the area of education and culture, natural resources management, migration and refugees support, the role of media in conflict prevention and promotion of good governance and democracy and the celebration of Africa's presence in the world.





### iii.1.1 Prevention of Violence and Conflict Resolution through Education and Culture

**Moderator: Mr George Papagiannis**, Chief of the Media Relations Section - UNESCO

#### Panelists

1. **Ms Mbaranga Gasarabwe**, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)
2. **Ms Safira Mahanjane**, Director of the Literacy Department of the Ministry of Education and Human Development, Mozambique
3. **Mr Hassan Choueikh**, Director Professional and Vocation training, Ministry of Tourism, Air transport and Social Economy, Kingdom of Morocco
4. **Mr Antonio Tsilefa**, Chair Coordination Committee of Regional Group of Technical and Vocational Training Institutions, Madagascar
5. **Prof. Filipe Zau**, Dean of the Independent University (UnIA), Angola

#### Introduction

The session began with a brief video<sup>31</sup> presentation highlighting the linkages between conflict prevention, resolution, education and culture followed by an introduction of the session by the moderator, Mr George Papagiannis. The moderator started by pointing out that increasingly, the nature of conflicts and violent upheavals on the African continent emerge within states, whereby traditional and ethnic differences are instrumentalized by warring parties to sow divisions.

He indicated that conflicts are often multidimensional and rooted in ignorance, social exclusion and disputes over scarce resources, and young people are usually the most vulnerable and most susceptible to being affected by violence. He called attention to the importance of culture in counteracting violence. Across the continent, African cultures harbor values of peace and mechanisms for conflict prevention and reconciliation.

<sup>31</sup> To watch the video please follow the link: <https://bit.ly/2PbXSFx>

*Building tolerance and peace starts at school and UNESCO's efforts are aimed at ensuring access to education for all in Africa*



On the other hand, initiatives promoting the cultural and creative industries, while contributing to preserving and promoting cultural heritage have shown ample evidence in their ability to generate wealth and employment, and as such bring about sustainable solutions to conflict prevention emanating from poverty and economic disempowerment. He expressed that this justifies a reflection on the fundamental role education and culture, two key domains of UNESCO, play in countering exclusion, conflicts and violence.

Mr Papagiannis proceeded with a short introduction of the panelists requesting each to share their expertise and experience on how education and cultural interventions in their countries have contributed to solving conflicts, or better even, contributed to preventing them, and in the process helped secure peace in Africa.

### Presentations and main discussions

**Ms Mbaranga Gasarabwe** gave a presentation that focused on Mali, a country marked by poverty, high youth unemployment, political upheaval and military and civil conflict<sup>32</sup>. Since 2013, the United Nations have assisted the country in the management of the crisis by establishing MINUSMA<sup>33</sup>. Parallel to

<sup>32</sup> The most recent violence outbursts in Mali date from January 2012, but the country has had a history of national and inter-community violence since the post-colonial state-building process in 1963. Population diversity has been used as a divide-and-rule instrument, first by French colonists and then by post-colonial politicians, in order to assert their authority in the north, but also by the Tuareg noble class. Regional interference also played a part in aggravating the disagreements between Malian communities (CRU Report, March 2015). The increased security threats in the Sahel (human and drugs trafficking, hostage taking, terrorist attacks) compounded by the recurring food and nutritional crises caused by climate change, environmental degradation, drought, floods, poorly functioning markets, low agricultural productivity and poverty have only worsened the situation. (Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Sahel region. <https://undocs.org/S/2013/354>)

<sup>33</sup> The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was established by Security Council resolution in April 2013 to support the political processes in the country. MINUSMA is also carrying out a number of other security-related tasks in the country. The Mission mandate has evolved over the years with its primary mandate now to support the implementation of



the Security Mission, the UN system in the country acts as a coordinating body for essential aid to address the multiple and complex challenges of the Sahel region. The diversity of expertise and skills grouped under the UN banner, and the ability to apply the expertise of each agency provides a unique opportunity for comprehensive and targeted responses. UNESCO is one of such agencies and the organization's mission to contribute to peace-building, poverty eradication, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information - makes it particularly fit to support Mali in the strive for peace, security and development.

One of the key areas for action concerns adaptation and revision of public policies directed at the youth, particularly towards vocational training and non-formal education in order to promote human rights, the culture of peace and the empowerment of young people. Of particular note in this context is the joint project for "Youth for National Peace and Reconciliation", funded by the Peace Building Fund and implemented by UNESCO, UNICEF and IOM<sup>34</sup>. This inter-agency ef-

the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali by the Government, the Plateforme and Coordination armed groups, and other relevant stakeholders. UNSC/13867, June 2019

<sup>34</sup> UNESCO. "Youth, as actors for National Peace and Reconciliation in Mali". Available at: <https://bit.ly/37JWrVJ>

*Non-formal education covers programmes aiming at developing human capabilities, improving social cohesion and creating responsible future citizens. It contributes to adult and youth literacy and education for out-of-school children, as well as programmes on life skills, work skills, and social or cultural development*



fort aims at reinforcing the commitment of youth and women as actors of peace to strengthen social harmony, communal dialogue, living together and the development of the youth potential.

Another concrete example of initiatives that contribute to the culture of peace is the joint project on “empowerment of adolescent girls and young women through education in Mali”<sup>35</sup>. This project, funded by the Government of Korea, through UNESCO, is built around a multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach based on the expertise and comparative advantage of three UN agencies, UNESCO, UNFPA<sup>36</sup> and UN Women. Transforming the energy of young people into a positive force means transmitting values through culture and cultural expressions. Thus, structures such as the *peace hut* - dedicated to women, where traditional crafts are developed and sold - and small centers and homes for traditional dance, music and art have been set up. The importance of safeguarding heritage to re-appropriate an identity, the promotion of art, music and crafts was in that regard stressed in order to achieve a culture of peace.

Another fine example in the area of cultural preservation is the work carried

out for the restoration of the mausoleums of Timbuktu<sup>37</sup>. The preservation of ancient manuscripts and rehabilitation of 14 mausoleums destroyed by armed groups in 2012 began in March 2014 and concluded in July 2015. UNESCO’s work to protect and rehabilitate heritage in Mali and to preserve cultural diversity and human rights, in close cooperation with the UN peacekeeping forces MINUSMA and the international community, can be seen as a lasting foundation for peace, not only for Mali but also for the entire world.

**Ms Safira Mahanjane** shared her knowledge of the Family Literacy programme implemented from 2015 to 2017 in Mozambique with the support of UNESCO and the Malala Fund<sup>38</sup>. The project was particularly relevant for Mozambique, where the adult illiteracy rates in 2017 was 39% (49.4% among women), and only 3.5% of children under five years of age have access to early childhood education. The objective of the project was to improve literacy rates, basic mathematics and language skills for children and adults, as well as to improve the income-generating potential of participants and to promote gender equality in rural and near-urban areas in three districts in Nampula a north province and Maputo a southern province in Mozambique.

The project used the *family literacy learning approach* promoted by UNESCO’s In-

<sup>35</sup> UNESCO Bamako Field Office. “Autonomisation des adolescentes et des jeunes femmes par l’éducation au Mali”. Available at: <https://fr.unesco.org/fieldoffice/bamako/koica-mali>

<sup>36</sup> United Nations Fund for Population Activities

<sup>37</sup> The Timbuktu mausoleums have long been places of pilgrimage for the people of Mali and neighbouring countries. They were widely believed to protect the city from danger. The oldest of these edifices were built in the 13th century. Sixteen of them are inscribed on the World Heritage List and 14 were destroyed in 2012, representing a tragic loss for local communities. Due to this, the government of Mali in 2013 turned to outside partners, including UNESCO, for assistance.

<sup>38</sup> Founded in 2012 by student and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai, Malala Fund invests in education programmes to help girls go to school and reach their full potential. UNESCO has been implementing programmes from this fund to expand girls’ access to quality and gender-responsive education and ensure safe learning environments, especially in countries affected by conflict and disaster. Major contributors to the fund are the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (10 million USD), the CJ Group and other supporters. In Africa, the UNESCO programme has so far benefitted countries like Egypt, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania.

The reconstruction of the Timbuktu mausoleum nears completion, 30 June 2015



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stitute of Life Long Learning. This is an intergenerational method that ensures that family members are involved in one another's learning, creating an environment of mutual support and aspiration, encouraging reading, writing, and promoting a culture of cooperation among family members. In this approach, inherent cultural traditions were taken into account in order to design adequate models for putting this methodology of learning into practice. The family learning model adopted in Mozambique had distinct components targeting adults and children in two settings: 1) joint learning sessions at the school and 2) within the family environment at home.

Furthermore, the gender-equality promotion aspect of the Family Literacy approach required breaking barriers and deep-rooted social, cultural and historical traditional gender norms of rural Mozambican communities. This was, and continues to be a particular challenge, which is not exclusive to Mozambican society in the African context. The participation of men in the family household education, in particular with women and young girls was a significant challenge.

Despite these challenges, the programme was able to break the intergenerational cycle of low education and was able to support teachers and parents in preventing school failure and dropouts. It impacted more than 1,500 targeted beneficiaries, whereby 195 caregivers (78% female) and 150 children (59% female) benefited from family learning sessions, 460 of the enrolled 555 learners (82% female) acquired literacy and numeracy skills and 192 participants (90% female) developed their entrepreneurial and business skills. In addition, the project was also successful in shifting long-standing societal norms when it comes to the importance of participatory childhood education, and resulted in increased awareness in health, the damage of early marriage, sanitation, nutrition, family relationships, and girls and women's rights.

In conclusion, the project resulted in an overall improvement of literacy skills, improved health and wellbeing of children



as well as awareness of girls' and women's rights; it also improved governmental capacities to apply this innovative method. As a result, the *Family Learning Programme* has now become one of the government's programmes, integrated into the country's national education plan, ensuring its continuous and sustainable impact for years to come. This transformative approach that works across generations, and institutions, proved to be able to break down barriers between home, school, and community through formal, non-formal, and informal education; as well as improving cross-generational dialogue and cooperation.

**Hassan Choueikh** shared the experience of the Kingdom of Morocco on countering youth radicalization, by developing a multidimensional and multidisciplinary strategy for youth employment focused on cultural and the creative industries. From this perspective, vocational training in artisanal craft trades and capacity building for key actors in this sector have proven to be an effective way of integrating young people into the labour market.

In Morocco, traditional arts and crafts represent a considerable portion of the labour force, employing approximately 20% of the work force (2,3 million people) and therefore contributes significantly to the national tourism sector and the economy (up to 8.6% of the GDP). As a result, the Ministry of Tourism, Air Transport, Craft and Social Economy, for-

*Family literacy and learning are promoted by UNESCO as a holistic approach that contributes to ensuring inclusive and quality education and promote lifelong learning for all*



Malagasy children learning at school in Madagascar

mulated an integrated national policy to safeguard traditional handicrafts based on a participatory approach. The policy aimed at transmitting skills and “know-how” related to traditional arts and crafts to future generations, while emphasizing its human dimension and instilling the values of tolerance and peace. The economic empowerment of young people and women through the improvement of their productivity and income, allowed for the creation of alternative livelihoods in rural areas, mitigating thereby the rural exodus, and improving living conditions of rural families.

This programme was further enhanced by the support of UNESCO, through the elaboration of a National Strategy for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, linked to arts and crafts professions that are at risk of disappearing. It also linked to the development and implementation of a National System of *Living Human Treasures*<sup>39</sup> which aims to establish a mechanisms for the preser-

<sup>39</sup> The UNESCO Living Human Treasures programme was set up in 1993 and discontinued when the 2003 Convention entered into force, aimed at encouraging Member States to grant official recognition to talented tradition bearers and practitioners, thus contributing to the transmission of their knowledge and skills to the younger generations. States selected such persons on the basis of their accomplishments and of their willingness to convey their knowledge and skills to others. The selection was also based on the value of the traditions and expressions concerned as a testimony of the human creative genius, their roots in cultural and social traditions, their representative character for a given community, as well as their risk of disappearance.

vation of skills and the know-how of traditional artisanal trades, by means of a national inventory. In addition, there was a series of capacity-building sessions organized for local and regional actors, including young people, to enable them to apply for international assistance through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. The funding will help them significantly in improving their lives and will also provide them hope for a better future. This programme has been key in enabling the professional integration of young people, contributing to a climate of tolerance, dialogue and respect amongst citizens. By harnessing the power of creative industries, the Moroccan government has succeeded in creating a vector for inclusive and qualified skill training for young and rural people. At the same time, the country has been able to preserve and promote cultural heritage whilst contributing successfully to the national tourism policy. This approach represents a sustainable solution for social justice and economic empowerment of youth.

**Mr Antonio Tsilefa** explained how a multi UN Agencies project (FAO, UNCDF, UNFP, and UNESCO) funded by the Peacebuilding fund “*Supporting Endogenous Mechanisms for Community Dialogue and Improving the Economic Conditions of Vulnerable Populations*” was instrumental in improving social cohesion and peace adherence through community dialogue, but also to integrate vulnerable youth populations into the socio-economic dynamics. Madagascar has a population of nearly 25 million inhabitants with a predominantly rural (80%) and young population. Conflicts persist in several parts of the country, particularly in southern Madagascar, which also explain the low development and education indicators in these regions when compared to the national average. The two main sources of tension and conflict are the marginalization of communities, especially young people and women, and growing insecurity linked to the phenomenon of zebu theft. Zebus, or large humped cattle, are a sign of economic wealth in a country where over 80% of the population live with less than USD 2 per day.

The *theft of zebus*, an ancestral tradition -a way for young men to prove their virility



before marriage -has evolved from a customary rite of passage to a criminal and lucrative enterprise, which has become increasingly violent and deadly. In order to combat this problem in southern Madagascar, economically vulnerable young people are being trained in trades that enable them to find employment and learn to live together harmoniously.

The 18-month project, and in particular the UNESCO component, provides young people with technical and life-long skills that will permit self-employment and job creation while contributing to the reduction of insecurity. The programme consists of:

- Education for Peace: Delivered at schools, peace clubs and out-of-school young peers peace educators;
- Literacy Programmes: This is delivered through texts where basic discussions of literacy have been contextualized to include values and themes of peace;
- Technical and Vocational Training: The training focuses on trade areas with significant potential and is tailored to include vulnerable young people, who may otherwise be mobilized in acts of violence.
- Although the programmes are still ongoing, results of an evaluation from the

CapED programme<sup>40</sup> on which this current intervention is based<sup>41</sup>, showed that 80% of trained youths had their income increased and 80% of employers confirmed that the young people they have employed have shown the expected levels of competency in their specialty areas. The results also show that construction companies are most-

<sup>40</sup> The CapED programme was created in 2003 as the Capacity Development for Education for All (CapEFA) Programme and was modified in 2016 to better align with the SDG4-Education 2030 agenda. Through CapED, UNESCO provides targeted assistance and reinforces national capacities to undertake evidence-based national education reforms. CapED's focus is on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and those countries considered furthest away from achieving the SDG4 targets with particular emphasis on fragile countries in emergency situations or recovering from conflict or disasters, as these countries often face additional obstacles in achieving desired education outcomes in their transition to peace and stability (UNESCO). To read the report, please visit the following link: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education/caped/country-examples>

<sup>41</sup> In Madagascar, CapED focuses on the integration of rural out-of-school youth into the world of work through the strengthening of selected TVET institutions and the identification of local economic growth drivers to better design the TVET offer. This led to an additional 1,500 graduates (35% female) in 2016, bringing the total number to 2,500 since training started in 2014 with a mix of foundational, vocational and entrepreneurial skills.

*Children in primary school in Tanzania*



ly recruiting young people who had enrolled on the programme.

Although there has not yet been an evaluation on the peace values side, managers of the training centers are unanimous that they have seen behavioral changes amongst young participants. They noted that socialization has improved between the youths with many of them shunning violence.

The UNESCO approach is now part of the National Employment and Vocational Training Policy of Madagascar.

**Professor Filipe Zau** focused on the type of qualities required to be a good teacher and a relevant educator in the contemporary age. He expressed that Angola, like many countries across the world face many challenges in an environment of increasingly complex social tensions. He emphasized that challenges such as unemployment, violence, substance addiction, racism and xenophobia were worsened by swift technological and economic changes brought about by globalization. He indicated that education is an important tool to be utilized to address these changes and challenges. He advocated for more intercultural education, because the process would better instill and promote a culture of peace.

How do we empower today's teachers for the required role to educate the next generation of Africans? What necessary tools are available to educators to help them instill the values of solidarity and tolerance through intercultural dialogue?

He argued that teacher training must evolve in response to the rapid transformations in our societies by bridging the gap between theory and practice and, with educational support, the primacy of peace, human rights, democratic rule of law and social justice. Professor Zua reiterated that there is no education without universal values. School curricula should therefore not neglect the universal context. On the other hand, the importance of African endogenous knowledge and values, in particular - African languages should also be taught to students. Good teachers should know and transmit traditional African values, which include history, music, games and

languages, without losing sight of progress and modernity. The transmission of African languages, in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, is fundamental to the dialogue with the speakers of these languages, who are, par excellence, the traditional authorities.

### Plenary Discussion

The exchanges between the panelists and the audience highlighted key issues to take into consideration. The conversation covered a number of topics including: traditional gender roles in the African context; the inescapable role that youth play in the future of their respective societies; and the importance of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and education in fomenting a durable peace and sustainable development.

The attendees also emphasized the importance of education and culture<sup>42</sup> in the fight against violence. The gathering also acknowledged that in the context of ongoing deep social, political and economic transformations, the challenges Africa faces in education, employment, health, and governance are most acutely felt by Africa's youth<sup>43</sup>. A holistic and inclusive approach to education is essential to transform the current youth demographic challenge into a demographic dividend. For this to happen, youth would need to be provided with the means to shape their own future as well as the future of the continent.

The exchanges covered culture, an area that saw many people in the audience agree that Africa's cultural diversity is one of the continent's main assets. They encouraged people on the continent and in diaspora to make sure that cultural diversity is a central part of the dialogue on social transformations and sustainable peacebuilding. They also made clear that the needs of future generations would be better served by using multifaceted strategies, and multi-sectoral approach-

<sup>42</sup> Culture encompasses a broad range of cultural activities including, for example, music, sports, languages, traditional artisanal practices but also norms, values and beliefs

<sup>43</sup> "Background: Africa Youth Month 2019". African Union. Available at: <https://bit.ly/32b4oC5>

es that can harnesses the cultural wealth of the continent.

The recognition of women's role beyond the family sphere, in the public sphere and at the continental level is promoted by: developing and sharing knowledge and skills; establishing women's networks; raising awareness of their human rights and; promoting their participation in society. The promotion of girls and women as successful role models has a positive impact on women. In this democratization process, it is key that the family, including men, create the enabling environment for the empowerment of girls and women.

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. We call upon UNESCO **and other international organizations** to continue supporting countries in the promotion of inter- and cross-sectoral informal, formal and non-formal education content, and in the approaches that respect cultural diversity, the values of peace and tolerance and provide space 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 nearly 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. We also ask that governments and international organizations work on 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. We encourage **countries** to 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. We call upon the **African Union and Governments** to increasingly adopt and promote endogenous cultural knowledge, traditions and forms of cultural and artistic expression that have been effectively used for the prevention and management of conflict;
6. We appeal to the **private sector and international entities** to support countries, AU and UNESCO efforts in building a technological and financial environment favorable to the emergence of African creative industries and inclusive digital entrepreneurship reflective of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the continent.



### iii.1.2 Conflict Prevention Over Natural Resources

**Moderator: Mr Jean-Pierre Ilboudou**, Head of UNESCO's Kinshasa Office and Representative to the Democratic Republic of Congo and interim Head of the UNESCO Brazzaville Office

#### Panelists

1. **H.E. Ms Josefa Lionel Correia Sacko**, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission;
2. **Mr Ousmane Dore**, Director General of the Regional Office for Central Africa of the African Development Bank Group;
3. **Mr Adama Tondosama**, Director-General of the Ivorian Parks and Reserves Office, Ivory Coast;
4. **Prof. Amadou Boureima**, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey, Niger;
5. **Ms Theresa Pirkl**, Head of the Political Department of the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region;
6. **Mr Vladimir Russo**, Executive Director of the Kisama Foundation, Angola.

#### Introduction

The session commenced with a short video illustrating global issues related to conflicts over natural resources in Africa<sup>44</sup>, followed by a short introduction by the moderator, Mr **Jean Pierre Ilboudo**. In his remarks, he explained that according to a 2009 study by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)<sup>45</sup>, since 1990, at least 18 violent conflicts were caused by natural resources, and at least 40% of all conflicts since the end of the Second World War were also fought over the same reason. He continued by indicating that the proliferation of natural resources related conflicts are also linked with two other major developments: the increased global population pressure and the impacts of climate change. The ever-increasing demand for raw materials and land, the scarcity of certain resources, the deterioration of the environment and the increase of international commodity prices, are all elements that fuel conflicts over African natural resources.

After the short preamble, the moderator proceeded with a short introduction of the panelists by requesting that each speaker share their expertise and experience on the matter, and to reflect, in their views, natural resource led conflicts can be solved, or perhaps avoided in the pursuit for peace in Africa.

<sup>44</sup> The video can be found by clicking the following link: <https://bit.ly/37LfxAU>

<sup>45</sup> UNEP. "From conflict to peacebuilding: The role of natural resources and the environment". Executive Summary. United Nations Environment Programme. February 2009. Available: [https://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/pcdmb\\_policy\\_01.pdf](https://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/pcdmb_policy_01.pdf) Accessed 1 November 2019.

### Presentations and main discussions

**Ms Josefa Sacko** spoke about the natural links between sustainable and equitable natural resource utilization, peace, regional integration and stability - as they mutually reinforce each other. She explained that on one hand, a peaceful environment is paramount to guarantee and safeguard countries' natural resources from piracy, looting, illegal exploitation and misappropriation. On the other hand, mismanagement and mishandling of a nation's natural resources for the benefit of only a few people would always lead to disharmony and social friction.

She elaborated further stating that Africa is endowed with significant reserves and diversity of natural resources ranging from fertile land, natural minerals, water, forests, wildlife and biodiversity, fisheries and other maritime assets. These resources have a great potential to be harnessed by African governments to promote economic and social development on the continent. Paradoxically, however, Africa has never been able to leverage its natural resource wealth to spur the much-needed economic development. Unfortunately, in many cases across the continent, the utilization of natural resources has, for a long time become synonymous with instability, wars and chronic underdevelopment.

She then claimed that the creation of borders between countries has not taken into account the links between communities, which has therefore been an additional and recurrent source of conflicts.

Natural resources such as water and forests have become catalysts for promoting regional and sub-regional collaboration on the continent in a similar way to the overall economic integration as aspired to by the African Union. There are about nineteen water and lake basin organizations on the continent. These include, among others the Senegal, Volta, Niger, Lake Chad, Nile, Lake Turkana, Congo, Zambezi, Okavango, Limpopo and the Orange River. Participatory management of natural resources can be a catalyst for peacebuilding in regions, in countries and communities affected by



conflict. Natural resources are the last line of defense for communities in conflict areas, given that in conflicts zones, communities can often only use the natural resources at their immediate disposal to survive.

Natural resources are drivers to reduce poverty and promote peace, and the AU is working with other partners to prevent illegal use of natural resources. The organization is also involved in the creation of a Centre for Mining and Development in order to implement strategies for sustainable exploration and exploitation of oil across the continent. Cooperation is also in progress with African Development Bank (AfDB) for the creation of the Centre for the sustainable use of the soil resources.

**Prof. Amadou Boureima**, shared his experience of the UNESCO-MAB/UNEP-GEF<sup>46</sup> Regional Project for the capacity building for scientific and technical capacities in savannah biosphere reserves in West Africa. The results presented relate in particular to the transboundary biosphere reserve in three countries (Benin, Burkina Faso

*Orange River, Auqables Falls National Park, Northern Cape, South Africa*

<sup>46</sup> UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme / UNEP Global Environment Facility



*Fisherman on Lake Chad - The Lake Chad is an important source of fresh water that provides livelihood services to more than 45 million people. However, climate changes, dynamic shifts in the earth's crust, and evaporation interacted to reduce the lake's surface area.*

and Niger). The dynamic context of biosphere reserves in the Sahelian-Sudanes region implies the need to modify the conservation system to take into account the local, national and regional context, including the level of poverty of local communities, their practices, decentralization aspects and application of international standards and regulations in conservation of biodiversity.

This project made it possible to have:

1. an improved understanding of interactions between local communities and the ecosystems, which serves to identify and promote sustainable use of biodiversity while strengthening stakeholder capacity in the management of biosphere reserves;
2. a better perception of the role of biosphere reserves;
3. a space for dialogue, consultation and exchange among local stakeholders, managers, and the scientific community;
4. collective construction (or co-construction) of indicators and collective learning for the prevention of conflicts around natural resources.

**Mr Ousmane Dore** emphasized the fact that most conflicts are around natural resources because they play an important role in economic growth. Poor management of those resources can also contribute to conflicts. The demographic growth in Africa is also a key element in particular when linked to access to natural resources. To curb these challenges, he explained that the African Development Bank (AfDB), as the economic arm of the AU, uses an eco-systemic approach that goes beyond the political area in the development of regional projects like for example, the Grand Dam *Inga* project<sup>47</sup>.

With more than USD 100 million, the institution is supporting important activities across the continent including PRODEBALT<sup>48</sup>, PRESIBALT<sup>49</sup> and BIOPALT<sup>50</sup>. The BIOPALT is an exemplary project where a fund was created by the AfDB to tackle conflicts around natural resources.

<sup>47</sup> The Grand Inga Dam is a proposed hydroelectric dam on the Congo River at Inga Falls. If completed, it would be the largest hydroelectric power generating facility in the world.

<sup>48</sup> Programme de Développement Durable du Lac Tchad

<sup>49</sup> Programme for the Rehabilitation and Reinforcement of the Resilience of Socio-Ecologic Systems

<sup>50</sup> BIOPALT Biosphere and Heritage of the Lake Chad - [https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/biopalt\\_info-graphic-en\\_digital.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/biopalt_info-graphic-en_digital.pdf)



The project, implemented by UNESCO and key partners, aims to strengthen the capacity of the five countries sharing the Lake Chad Basin<sup>51</sup>, a common ecosystem that, due to decade's long pressures, is experiencing extraordinary conflicts. Through an integrated approach, a transboundary coordination structure was created: the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). The LCBC developed an approach for safeguarding and sustainably manage the hydrological, biological and cultural resources. Mr Doré concluded by highlighting UNESCO's unique expertise in biosphere reserves and world heritage sites, which – which in his view was instrumental in the successful approach -, enabled the strengthening of the resilience of local communities facing climate change, the restoration of degraded ecosystems and the promotion of green economy-based income-generating activities.

**Mr Adama Tondosama** spoke about Ivory Coast's work with UNESCO to remove *Comoé National Park*<sup>52</sup> from the List of endangered World Heritage Sites (UNESCO), a status conferred to the park in 2003, due to the political-military crisis of 2002. He referred to three specific strategies used that have greatly contributed to the success of their intervention:

1. The efforts to raise awareness in riverside communities through local radio stations located on the periphery of the park;
2. The multi-stakeholder commitment, particularly of researchers in updating the wildlife data;
3. The promotion of income-generating activities that benefit communities and the efforts to encourage

<sup>51</sup> Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon

<sup>52</sup> Comoé National Park, situated in the north-east of Côte d'Ivoire, (1,15million ha) is one of the largest protected areas in West Africa. The park is characterized by its great plant diversity and its status as one of the rare zones in West Africa that has maintained its ecological integrity. The property was inscribed on the list of the World Heritage in Danger in 2003 because of the potential impact of civil unrest, decrease in the populations of large mammals due to increased and uncontrolled poaching, and the lack of efficient management mechanisms (UNESCO WHC)

local communities to get involved in the management of natural resources in their regions through local management committees.

He also shared information on the main outcomes of the first regional meeting on “Transboundary Cooperation for Effective Management of World Heritage Sites in Africa” held in February 2019 - 100 kilometers from the *Mont Nimba* Integral Nature Reserve, the first transboundary property inscribed on the World Heritage List in Africa.

He concluded his talk by presenting three important elements that in his view would improve the management of natural resources:

1. The development of integrated programs related to the aspirations of communities and their endogenous knowledge;
2. The creation and operationalization of agreements between nations and the subsequent implementation of the agreement, ensuring that they improve the living conditions of communities;
3. The importance of promoting innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for natural resources preservation, through mobilization of domestic resources.

**Ms Theresa Pirkl** provided an assessment of the persistent challenges<sup>53</sup> at the Great lakes Region and an overview of the initiatives taken to transform natural resources into vehicles of shared prosperity. In her assessment, she referred to the illicit exploitation and trade of natural resources that continue to deprive the Great Lakes region of its wealth. She added that associated illegal economies and their linkages to armed groups and criminal activity perpetuate insecurity and instability.

On the role of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), through its Regional Initiative against the

<sup>53</sup> Some of the challenges she referred to include: poverty, armed conflict, impacts of extractive mining enterprises, lack of cooperation among countries, political instability, lack of the implementation of various laws, Illicit trade in natural resources.



Victoria Nile out of Lake Victoria, North of Jinja, Uganda

illegal exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR), Ms Pirkel explained that the ICGRL is leading efforts to establish an effective system for certifying the origin of the most affected natural resources. However, challenges persist, such as issues related to political will and commitment, given the fact that a wide network of state and non-state actors benefit from the current situation of instability. She spoke about the initiative launched by the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes in April 2019 in Paris, aimed at initiating a political dialogue between the concerned countries (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda). The initiative focuses on asserting how to work together to mobilize the necessary political commitment and agree on joint actions to enhance economic cooperation on the natural resource sector at regional level. She also elaborated on the efforts being undertaken by the Office of the Special Envoy to strengthen judicial cooperation within the region, and the pursuit of crimes related to natural resources.

**Mr Vladimir Russo** gave a presentation on issues relating to the management of the *Cubango-Okavango River Basin*<sup>54</sup> as a

<sup>54</sup> The Cubango-Okavango River Basin is the fourth-longest river system in southern Africa, running for 1,600 km. It is the only perennial river in Africa that flows eastward without reaching the ocean. It begins in Angola, where it is known by the Portuguese name Rio Cubango, passing through Namibia (under the name Kavango) and discharging to a delta, the Okavango in Botswana. It is one of the last near

shared resource between 3 countries. In his view, proper management is a key challenge for the region, for both upstream and downstream countries. He explained that a lack of good management might generate conflicts between nations, peoples, and at local level, between communities on both sides of the borders. In the context of the *Cubango-Okavango River Basin*, resource sharing is not only about water resources but also about the preservation of biodiversity, socio-economic resources and the peaceful cohabitation of the populations who directly depend on these resources. His intervention focused on Angola's challenges in managing this region vis-à-vis its socio-economic development. He referred to the different significant conflicts the region has experienced in the past, including the 40 years long civil war in Angola. Mr Russo explained that these upheavals have severely hampered the development of a regional strategy for the integrated management of the river basin. Thanks to peace in the region, the transboundary cooperation between Angola, Namibia and Botswana can finally take place. The regular consultations developed in this framework resulted in the preservation and conservation of the unique flora and fauna of the river and delta regions. However, new challenges have recently reemerged, for example – there has been an increase in poaching, the illegal ivory trade, overexploitation of natural resources and Illegal logging trade; these issues represent the main problems for the region. As a result, persistent issues such as lack of communication among local stakeholders are at present the main source of tensions. He proposed as key, the involvement of the

pristine aquatic ecosystems on the African continent, and on Earth. Renowned for its plant and animal life, it supports a tourist industry that is the second largest source of income for Botswana. For its management, the countries agreed in 1994 to create the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), with the mission of developing the river basin for the benefit of all its citizens without unacceptably degrading the nature of this iconic river.

OKACOM. "Fact Sheet for the Cubango-Okavango". Okacom.org. Available: <https://bit.ly/2HIHWa6> Accessed 8 November 2019.

The Cubango-Okavango River Basin was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in June 2014 (the 1000th site inscribed in the list). UNESCO. "World Heritage List: Okavango Delta". Unesco.org. Available: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/> Accessed 12 November 2019

local communities and the mobilization of funds for community-based natural resources management as the sustainable alternative to prevent conflicts linked to natural resources.

### Plenary Discussion

The session continued with Q&A discussions with the audience around the themes presented by the panelists. The audience spoke about the causes and types of natural resource based conflicts in Africa. They also covered the endogenous and institutional mechanisms recommended to prevent conflicts on the continent; many agreed that this requires further research and knowledge production, which is to be integrated into various conflict prevention interventions. They also emphasized the need for innovative financing mechanisms to support a sustainable management of natural resources on the continent. One plan that was proposed was to mobilize domestic, innovative resources at national and/or regional level to support the continent's economic growth. Suggestions were also made to make use of innova-

tive models, like for example, promoting the blue economy<sup>55</sup> by valuing the contribution of natural resources to the national economy through the revision of conditions, including debt cancellation and the forging of strategic partnerships with the private sector.

The discussions also drew attention to the issue of cross-border transhumance<sup>56</sup> and other conflicts related to the use of natural resources in Africa, as well as other security crises that affects the entire region. It is important to note that AU has responded by proposing to sign a partnership with UNESCO for better management of cross-border transhumance in Africa.

<sup>55</sup> The Blue Economy is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ocean ecosystem health. World Bank. "What is the Blue Economy?" WorldBank.org. 6 June 2017. Available: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2017/06/06/blue-economy> Accessed 12 November 2019

<sup>56</sup> The action or practice of moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle, typically to lowlands in winter and highlands in summer (Oxford dictionary).



Okavango Delta, Botswana



The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. Acknowledging the good practices of UNESCO World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves and geo parks management, including through the enhancement of traditional and indigenous knowledge, we call on **governments** to promote good practices for the preservation, compatible and sustainable use of shared natural resources at country and transboundary levels;
2. Since several major conflicts on 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. Partners from the **private sector, development corporation agencies and civil society** are encouraged to support countries' efforts to set up innovative and sustainable endogenous financing mechanisms for the management of Africa's natural resources;
4. Africa's geological and mineral richness are some of the key assets of the continent. We therefore 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.



*Virunga National Park has been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and its mountain gorillas are classified as rare and globally threatened species*

**iii.1.3**  
**Leaving no one behind: promoting the integration of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants in Africa**

**Moderator: Ms Marema Toure Thiam**, Chief, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO Dakar Office.

**Panelists**

1. **Mr Ahmed Skim**, Director of Migration Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad and Migration Affairs, Morocco;
2. **H.E. Ms Rebecca Otengo**, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of the African Union Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, Uganda;
3. **H.E. Mr Jean Leon Ngandu-Ilunga**, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Ethiopia, African Union and UNECA, DRC;
4. **Ms Santa Ernesto**, National Director for Family Policy of the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Gender Promotion, Angola.

**Introduction**

The session began with a short video illustrating global issues related to refugees, returnees, internally displaced populations and migrants in Africa<sup>57</sup>, followed by a short introduction by the moderator, Ms Marema Touré Thiam.

Providing an overview of the context, she explained that there are currently around 68 million people forcibly displaced worldwide and more than a third of these people are in Africa. This includes 6.3 million refugees and asylum-seekers, and 14.5 million displaced persons<sup>58</sup>.

As a result, the African Union has chosen “Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa” as the theme of the year for 2019. The AU’s decision to choose this theme has encouraged African leaders to recognize the need for comprehensive and inclusive responses to major migration challenges. Leaders are also faced with addressing the dynamics and challenges of these migrations trends on the continent and abroad.

Ms Thiam further argued that the high scale of the displacement crisis is compounded by the risks of trafficking, human rights violations, lack of adequate humanitarian assistance, sexual and gender-based violence, detention of asylum-seekers, deportation, xenophobia and overall discrimination of refugees. She informed that the session would focus on best practices of countries identified by the African Union as good examples. So that the good policy agenda and practice from these could inspire other countries to improve their policies in support of refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants.

<sup>57</sup> The video can be found by clicking the following link: <https://bit.ly/2HHHFUC>

<sup>58</sup> African Union’s concept note on the Theme of the Year: ‘Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa’. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Session. 07 - 08 February 2019. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Available: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/67990>





### Presentations and main discussions

**Mr Ahmed Skim**, shared the Kingdom of Morocco's experience in migration governance and he explained that migration has become a lever for development and a vehicle for solidarity in his country.

Since 2012, the Moroccan government has devoted considerable resources to developing and enacting a comprehensive national strategy, with a multidimensional and inter-sectoral set of public policies to address the needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the country. This comprehensive policy led to Morocco's nomination as the African Union Champion on Migration, and His Majesty King Mohammed VI was named "Leader of the African Union on the Question of Migration".

Adopted in September 2013, the National Immigration and Asylum Policy of Morocco (PNIA as it is known in the French acronym) is an initiative of the King, following the publication of a report by the National Council for Human Rights

on the worrying situation of migrants in Moroccan territory.

Based on the promotion of human rights, the PNIA encompasses the following vision and strategy:

- Coherence with sectorial policies of the country aiming at facilitating the integration of migrants in the country;
- Implement the regulatory and conventional framework governing the situation of migrants and asylum seekers, aligned with global trends and policies;
- Humanistic in nature and founded on the principles of solidarity and responsibility to guarantee the human rights of migrants in Morocco.

The operational programme of the PNIA is centered on these pillars and implemented in coherence with sectorial policies aimed at integrating migrants and asylum seekers. With this in mind, services in the domains of education, culture, youth and sports, health and medical services, social and humanitari-

*To face the effects of migration, unesco works with partners in the public and private sector as well as with civil societies, to foster an inclusive environment in its areas of competences for those who had to leave for political, economic or climatic issues*

an assistance, vocational and professional training and employment are provided.

For the execution of the PNIA, a three tier governmental structure was established:

- The Interministerial Commission: composed by relevant ministers and their staff responsible for issues concerning migration;
- The Steering Committee: Composed of ministers concerned with the delivery of migration support services;
- The Programmatic or Sectorial Committees: Responsible for the mainstreaming of the national strategy in the respective sectorial policies.

Considerable progress has been made since the adoption of PNIA. The comprehensive integration meant opening up basic services to all migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. In the domains of education and culture, schools in Morocco, either public or private, are since open to migrant children like any other Moroccan child. Young migrants also share

the same access to cultural and sports establishments. Vocational and professional training centers, and the traditional arts and crafts associations, are also open to migrants and asylum seekers, complemented by appropriate work visa facilitation. With regards to health and medical services, the Moroccan Ministry of Health guarantees migrants access to health clinics and hospitals. For housing provisions, the law has been modified to allow migrants to benefit from the same conditions as Moroccans citizens.

Beyond the provisions made to grant new migrants access to basic services, significant efforts were made to normalize the status of those in irregular conditions in the country. With the view of implementing the Refugee Statute, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a Refugee Office. By 2017, approximately 50000 migrants had their irregular administrative situation regularized.

The success of this policy was possible due to the establishment of adequate

*The environmental degradation, the dependence on agriculture and the rise of poverty, along with the terrorist threat, made migration through the sahel region imperative for thousands of Africans*



© EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

institutional, budgetary and administrative frameworks, the cornerstone to the effective enactment of this inclusive and responsible public policy towards migrants and asylum seekers.

**Ambassador Jean Leon Ngandu-Ilunga** stated that when reacting to the issue of refugees, internally displaced persons and migration flows, the challenges faced by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country that has suffered through repeated humanitarian crises, are intimately linked to its history and geography. The DRC shares an extensive and porous border with 9 different countries, hence the eruption of conflicts and violent upheavals in DRC's territorial vicinity, often spillover into the country. Since the early 1960s until the present day, the DRC has witnessed large and recurrent influx of refugees.

In the aftermath of the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, DRC received over 1 million refugees, some of whom were armed. Soon after welcoming the new displaced people from its neighbor – a series of successive military confrontations and violent outbreaks followed. The residual effects of these conflicts continue to inflict untold suffering on millions of civilians, particularly in the eastern part of the DRC – resulting in thousands of Congolese deaths. The atrocities committed against the civilian population, and the impunity that some warlords and militia leaders seem to enjoy, make it difficult to promote a culture of peace.

Initiatives to promote dialogue, reconciliation and the restoration of social cohesion between communities and with neighboring countries are fundamental steps towards durable solutions for displaced persons.

In the domestic dimension, the majority of refugees, estimated at 538,511 in 2019, come from neighboring countries from East and Central Africa. Forced displacement due to residual violent conflicts caused by armed groups and militias continues. There are currently nearly 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the DRC, particularly in the two provinces of the Kivu region, namely Tanganyika and Kasai.

Another important category within the global framework of the AUC theme of year is that of former combatants, who are key to the sustainability of peace in Africa. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of former combatants is a critical step towards sustainable peace and post-conflict reconciliation.

In the specific context of the DRC, and taking into account the history of the conflicts and the multiplicity of armed militias, fortunately more and more people are choosing to undergo the DDR programmes, which is of crucial importance.

However, it is imperative to efficaciously manage the DDR programme for members of armed militias – currently inadequate funding is a major challenge to the peacebuilding efforts. The reintegration of demobilized people into civilian life requires urgent attention to their economic needs, which if not attended to can lead to further frustration and risks undermining the peace process.

Priority given by the members of the international community to humanitarian crisis are not always consistent across the different regions in the world. Post conflict reconstruction efforts received several billions to support the former Yugoslavian countries. The same enthusiasm and commitment is not observed with African countries, the DRC being one example.

With regards to activities in favor of IDPs and refugees, the following best practices that contribute to the promotion of the culture of peace and peaceful coexistence should in his view be highlighted:

- The inclusion of the basic socio-economic needs of Congolese host communities in programmes for refugees, IDPs, returnees and demobilized militias contributes to facilitating peaceful coexistence and a culture of peace.
- The government's provision of land for agriculture and livestock cultivation where refugees, displaced persons and host communities live and work together for a common well-being and prosperity.
- Joint committees composed of local communities, refugees and IDPs



are set up to ensure a fair arbitration of conflicts.

- Inclusive sports and education programmes in cooperation with UNHCR create harmony between young nationals, refugees and displaced persons and families.

DDR and post-conflict reconstruction efforts are only a part of the solution. The illegal exploitation of minerals and other abundant natural resources that fuel conflicts are another significant issue that must be tackled. In the context of the DRC and the region, the challenges are considerable given the complexity of the conflicts, their internal and external implications aggravated by the exploitation of blood minerals; and by the very long duration of recurrent insecurity for nearly 25 years, is of note.

In light of the UN Secretary General's first official visit to the DRC, it is important to note the progress and challenges of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Spanning over two decades, MONUSCO is the largest UN Peacekeeping operation, however despite the continued presence, conflicts persist. Given the nature of the conflict, in particular - the aspects of asymmetrical warfare seen on the ground, MONUSCO must change its methods of intervention in order to put an end to the protracted conflicts.

A review of MONUSCO's modus operandi and its partnership with the Congolese Armed Forces, to confront armed groups and militias is crucial to put an end to the tragic humanitarian situation in Eastern DRC. An uncompromising examination of the root causes and internal and external responsibilities of these tragedies is necessary, not to place blame, but to build on a solid foundation for reconciliation.

Recent innovative initiatives taken by the new President of the DRC to promote the culture and effectiveness of peace and reconciliation in the country and the Great Lakes region include:

#### *At the internal level*

- Release of all political prisoners, the return of all political exiles, and offer an amnesty.
- Permanent and peaceful dialogue with the outgoing President and political groups to ensure national cohesion and peaceful transition of government.
- Opening up of political and media spaces, and public liberties.

#### *At the external level*

Continue the ongoing dialogue and consultation mechanism with the Heads of State and Government of countries of the Great Lakes Region, to restore trust building measures and foster a climate of peace and cooperation.

**Ambassador Rebecca Otengo** proceeded with her presentation on the Ugandan experience by explaining that her country, as a Member State of the AU, chairs the Committee responsible for the theme of the year, named "Refugees, returnees and IDPs, towards sustainable solutions". For the purpose of her presentation, she clarified that the focus of the presentation was on Uganda as a case study and not in the capacity of chair of this AU Committee.

Uganda's policy towards Refugees and IDPs is based on a humanistic approach. Every human being is entitled to human rights, regardless of origin and status. For Ugandans, "we were all refugees", and were supported by our neighbors at one point – hence there is a strong sentiment of Pan-Africanism tied to the treatment of refugees in Uganda.

Historically, Uganda has been a host country for refugees, dating as far back as 1924 well before its independence, when it received refugees from neighboring Rwanda. After the II World War, throughout the 1940s, 8000 Polish refugees were taken to Uganda while the country was under the British protectorate. In the early 1960s, Rwandan refugees were again hosted in Uganda as a result of ethnic clashes. Also during the same decade, after the assassination of Pan-Africanist president, Patrice Lumumba of the DRC, Uganda received refugees from that country. Many of the



*A member of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC), at the Kanyabayonga base of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). June 2014, Kanyabayonga, Democratic Republic of Congo.*

new arrivals from DRC have since lived in Uganda for generations to the point that they are now part of indigenous clans and are considered part of the same kin of the host communities. As of July 2019, Uganda is the second largest refugee hosting country in the world, with over 1,313,802 refugees.

Uganda approaches this sensitive issue in a progressive manner, first by following legal frameworks, the country has also adopted the following plans of action:

- Uganda is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 protocol, and is committed to protecting persons fleeing from individual persecution.
- Uganda is a signatory to the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention, which grants refugees fleeing from conflict refugee status en masse.
- Commitments to international obligations as well as respect for human rights treaties are reaffirmed by the Bill of Rights of Uganda's 1995 Constitution.
- Refugee management is a Central Government function under the Constitution of Uganda: the Sixth Schedule, Article 189, (5).
- The Refugee Act of 2006 and the regulations of 2010 is the governing Legal Framework for refugee management in Uganda.

- Uganda draws from the AU Agenda 2063 – the Africa we want, as well as the UN Agenda 2030 – leaving no one behind.

In the policy sphere, Uganda incorporates the issue of refugees in a comprehensive manner. There is a full ministry under the office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Refugees and Disaster Preparedness, responsible for policies directed at the treatment of refugees.

Uganda utilizes a unique model, which includes the integration of refugees among the host communities and provides opportunities to become productive members of Ugandan society. Each refugee family is granted land on which to settle and cultivate. This is also in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, of the UN Agenda 2030, that calls for zero hunger.

With this inclusive policy, refugees are empowered to become economically self-reliant while granting them many of the same privileges that nationals enjoy. Refugees also have access to basic public services such as education, health, and access to notary services to obtain identity and other legal documents. This is in line with the SDGs 4 and 3, which respectively call for universal access to quality education and good health and well-being for all. Children of refugees



*It is important to share and highlight the best practices and responses of African countries that are excelling in the management of refugee crises on the continent – South Sudanese refugees in Bidi Bidi settlement in northwestern Uganda, November 2016*



*Settling refugees in camps in host countries where they are fed and cared for, is only the first step in the support of the displaced populations.*

go to the same schools as the children of Ugandan citizens; they share the same public medical services, and are guaranteed their freedom of movement.

Among the many challenges of hosting refugees, the ongoing threat of the spread of communicable diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases and epidemics like Ebola are issues of concern. Authorities provide adequate health and screening services, however, many refugees, due to fear of discrimination and of potential expulsion from the host country refrain from consulting medical services. Uganda however is willing to treat these refugees among their own citizens.

Furthermore, there is need for developing partnerships to actively support refugee

security and protection while they are in host countries, especially where refugees are from a militant background. Human trafficking is a grave and recurrent phenomenon in refugee communities, and perpetrators of these heinous activities often hide amongst refugees.

Refugees, by the nature of their circumstances, are very entrepreneurial, more so than their Ugandan hosts. As such, this contributes to increasing unemployment in the host regions as refugees compete with nationals for employment opportunities.

Uganda invests an estimated \$342,000,000 annually in the protection, management and social integration of refugees. Due to the continuous instability in some countries, the trend of refugee influx is not being mitigated, therefore the number of refugees is increasing steadily. This requires the persistent dedication of Uganda's economic resources, which continues to put a strain on social services and access to land as a result of the increasing population.

**Ms Santa Ernesto**, in her presentation about the situation of refugees and their state of vulnerability, affirmed that Angola is a country that respects the inherent human rights of all, independent of one's origin. Historically, the Angolan government has always kept its borders open to refugees, welcoming "brothers and sisters" from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, due to the ethnic conflicts in the Kasai region (DRC)<sup>59</sup>.

The Angolan executive powers and its partners work for the promotion of the rights of these citizens in its national territory. These rights are also extended to people with higher risk of vulnerability, especially, women, the elderly, children, people with disabilities, ex-combatants and refugees. The legal framework to attend to the promotion of

<sup>59</sup> The Kasai Province is one of the 26 provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, allegedly poorest and deeply affected by a conflict in 2016, originally between a chief and the government that has escalated after his death, when his followers recruited thousands into a militia. By 2017, the conflict was stabilized but recurrent bouts of violence are still occurring (Unicef, May 2018).



the rights of these persons has been in force since 2017.

The legislation in the country – specifically Law no. 10/15, of 17 June – on the Right to Asylum and the Status of Refugees, guarantees any foreign citizen or stateless person in case of persecution for political reasons<sup>60</sup> the right to asylum in the Republic of Angola. This legal framework is in line with international normative instruments such as the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, and its 1967 New York Conference Protocol, and the Organization of the African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of 1969.

A best practice of note from Angola regarding this theme is the creation of Centers for the Reception of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (also known as *CARRAS* from the original acronym in Portuguese). In short, the approach focuses on the perspective of assistance to refugees coming from the DRC, in the North-eastern Province of Lunda Norte, and is a working partnership between the Government of Angola, UNHCR and other agencies. An example is the municipality of Lóvuá, where reception centers designed to receive 30,000 refugees were set up with the possibility of expansion - up to 50,000.

These centers attend to basic needs of refugees and asylum seekers, with measures ranging from child protection, access to education, water, productive inclusion with the distribution of agricultural inputs and supplies, provision of food support, energy, water and sanitation, housing improvement, and guaranteeing security. Furthermore, the legal framework in place and the efforts and provisions to care for refugees and persons in vulnerable situations due to displacement in Angola, also provide adequate conditions for the safe and dignified return to their home country.

<sup>60</sup> Some of the reasons include serious threat or persecution as a result of their activity in favor of democracy, national independence, peace between peoples, freedom and human rights.

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. We call upon the **African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African countries, transit countries and countries of destination** to adopt comprehensive gender-sensitive policies, frameworks, and measures in refugee management at local, national and regional levels, addressing violence against woman as well as human trafficking;
2. We appeal to **international organizations and countries** to increase national and public investment in the provision of shelter, adequate water and sanitation facilities, health services, quality education (including through ICTs), childcare and other gender-sensitive services for refugees and IDPs, complemented by long-term efforts to guarantee the right to housing, land and property;
3. We urge **countries** to prioritize the ratification, adoption and implementation of key legal and policy frameworks, in particular the Kampala Convention and the Maputo Protocol, and in collaboration with the **AUC** to 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. We call upon the **AUC and countries** to adopt effective mechanisms, practices and structures for mitigation and management of climate change effects 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.

**iii.1.4**  
**Global Africa:**  
**Exploring**  
**African Presence**  
**in the World**

**Moderator: Ms Zeinab Badawi**, BBC Journalist and producer of the GHA series

**Panelists**

1. **Mr Augustin Holl**, President of the International Scientific Committee for the new volumes of the *General History of Africa*;
2. **Mr José Chala Cruz**, Executive Secretary for Afro-Ecuadorian Development Cooperation (CODAE), Ecuador;
3. **Mr Abdi Kusow**, Professor, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University, USA;
4. **Mr Jason Theede**, Senior Specialist on Labor Mobility and Human Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM);
5. **Mr Ziva Domingos**, National Director of Museums and Angola's representative on the World Heritage Committee.

**Introduction**

The session started with a short video illustrating global issues related to the presence of Africa in the world<sup>61</sup>, followed by a short introduction by the moderator **Ms Zeinab Badawi**.

Recalling her own heritage, she reminded the panelists and audience that for Africans and afro descendants, knowing their history means celebrating their shared past – a process that better prepares them for their future. African presence across the world, in its varied cultural, social and historical facets, stretches from the Middle East across the Indian Ocean, to Europe and traverses the Atlantic to the Americas.

To promote this, UNESCO launched the *General History of Africa* (GHA) in 1964, to educate young people in Africa and its diaspora about their past and shared identities. This programme offers another vision of history, free from national

*Angolans in carnival attire during the Opening of the Biennale, on 18 September 2019.*

<sup>61</sup> To view the video, please visit the website using the following link: <https://bit.ly/38J1arL>



© UNESCO / Luis Abad



narratives and identity claims. More importantly, it tells the history of Africa and its people, through an African lens.

The new volumes of the *General History of Africa* introduces the concept of *Global Africa* in order to propose an innovative reinterpretation of the connections between Africa and its diasporas.

Moreover, 2019 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on the Culture of Peace. Where the common African values, attitudes and behaviors were reiterated to enable the continent and its people to develop in a peaceful, sustainable and inclusive manner.

Against this backdrop, the moderator invited the panelist to shed more light on the link between Africans born on the African continent and those in the diaspora, to discuss what these connections actually mean and the potential for synergies. Ms Badawi encouraged the panelists to capture these discussions within the Culture of Peace framework.

### Presentations and main discussions

**Mr José Chala Cruz** explained that the presence of Afro descendants in Latin America is significant, with close to 200 million people, representing 30% of the region's population. However, despite the sizeable representation of Afro descendants in the region, the historical and cultural interpretations of the countries in Latin America are usually informed by an eurocentric vision. The African presence in the Americas is often reduced to a demographic figure, but should not merely be interpreted in the context of slavery, but rather it should be explained through the profound societal contributions Afro descendants have made to the region.

Mr Chala Cruz offered two overarching perspectives through which Afro descendants are recognized: on the one hand, the community is perceived from the optic of capitalism and the primitive accumulation of capital in the form of slavery. On the other hand, the understanding is formed through the prism based on a civilizational perspective, which takes into the account African diaspora as representative of ancient African civilizations.



It is important to recognize that African influences in the Americas - in its artistic, cultural and spiritual aspects, is often underestimated and misrepresented – with very little effort made to take into account the traditional and technical knowledge of the group. The African diaspora, in Latin America in particular, has contributed to the region and to the global cultural landscape with its profound spiritual imprint in the forms of religious syncretism, ancestral and mythological folklore and ritual practices. The ties that bind the Americas with Africa, sharing a common colonial past linked to the African presence, have preserved and maintained African traditions that are considered more conservative than those found in Africa today.

Regarding the transatlantic slave trade and how it shaped the afro-Ecuadorian identity, and by extension the rest of South America, Mr Chala Cruz expressed that it is fundamental to understand that the collective memory of societies as a whole, and not only that of the African diasporas, has deep roots in Africa. Most afro-Ecuadorians are descendants of Angola and the Congo, which evidenced by the surnames they have - indicates their ancestral home. He further emphasized that the peoples continue to fight for their rights and for their identities as afro-descendants, and stressed the need for the recognition of the African origins by Ecuadorian society in their national constitution.

*Afro-American cultures and traditions are at the core of several initiatives such as those led by Colombia's Cantadora Network, a network of singers using traditional Afro-Colombian music to preserve their culture and promote peace.*



The African diaspora in the Americas, resulting from the legacy of slavery, has been a complex interwoven part of the history and culture of the western hemisphere. The traditional cultural expressions that survived the transatlantic slave trade were a means to withstand the dehumanization of slavery. The challenge today is to effectively connect the diasporas and their perspectives and formed identities, with that of Africa itself. In this regard, there persists a large gap between the African diaspora in Latin America with their ancestral home, although the gap in that relationship is not exclusive to this region. There is a living memory predicated on vibrant cultural ties between the peoples of Africa and the Americas, hence the question is bridging the continents to reunite these peoples.

**Professor Abdi Kusow's** interest is to understand the multiplicity of the diaspora, historically understood as socially and geographically displaced bodies. The diversity of African diaspora, in all its forms and expressions, came to be widely identified, merely, as "black" due in part to the lasting impressions of 19<sup>th</sup> century western explorers. Today, the African Diaspora is completely different, composed of a multitude of identities, across the world and in Africa itself. There is, however, an increasing consensus that the African diaspora should be understood as a framework for articulating the degree of continuity, discontinuity, communalities and differences informed by the spatial and temporal dimensions between and within African diaspora communities.

Nevertheless, even though the African diaspora are of disparate origins with diverse lived existence, the ties that bind them together are predicated on common experiences. Experiences based on history, race, social, cultural and religious aspects, and of course, the shared experience of slavery and colonialism. In this regard, this experience of discrimination, and of arbitrarily imposed social and political systems of treatment as second-class citizens, has generated a general historical experience faced by Africans and the afro-descendants that has

withstood the test of time. Accordingly, in the case of Africans within the African continent, the colonial and post-colonial experience, even though fundamentally different from that of the transatlantic slave trade and colonial experience in the Americas, has a degree of similarity.

It is important to emphasize that a common identity is not simply derived from the notion of the skin color. In light of the significant number of Africans who compose the contemporary diaspora, whose identities (nationally, culturally or ethnically) are distinct from the historical diaspora, the question is whether the common link of experience of a global Africa is sufficient to anchor a common identity when accounting for historical and contemporary diaspora.

The diaspora in different parts of the world occupy different social, cultural and economic spaces, and their respective experience determine how they understand their identity. The relationships between the multiplicity of African diaspora and their ancestral homeland, both around the world and on the continent, are not always harmonious. There is often animosity as it concerns access to and competition for resources, education and jobs, with different groups struggling with each other and interpreting each other in a negative light. It is therefore necessary to try to overcome the divisions amongst the diaspora.

As to what extent culture can mold these common experiences, as a sort of Pan-African initiative, it is imperative to move from the idea of the undifferentiated Africa and the undifferentiated African diaspora. The diaspora populations in other corners of the world have a single understanding of Africa itself, alienated from the variety of cultures, languages, and economic realities on the continent. Conversely, Africans also need to understand the diaspora in its multiple formed identities and cultures.

**Mr Jason Theede** spoke about how to leverage diaspora capitals for development. In alignment with SDG 17 on Partnerships of the UN Agenda 2030, if we can have diaspora engagement whilst pushing the developmental agenda, the



*African traditional dancers at the Peace Day Celebrations in Darfur, Sudan 2010*





*Traditional dances during the celebration of the International Day of Peace in Bujumbura, Burundi 2017*

collaboration between this group, recognized by the AU as the 6<sup>th</sup> region of Africa, and people on the continent will ultimately transform Africa into a more peaceful region. The African diaspora has been fostering a development role long before the international community took notice. The resources of these communities that flow across borders are immensely varied and range from skills, knowledge and ideas to cultural capital, finance and trade links. The objective now is to learn how to tap into this capital of the diaspora in a manner conducive to the development of the African continent.

The year 2019 marked the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the transatlantic slave trade. The government of Ghana has acknowledged the importance of this anniversary by establishing the *Year of Return* to enable the diaspora to come and learn

about their roots, and to be able to return to gain citizenship in the country.

In 2018, global remittances reached a record high of nearly USD 700 billion, which is significantly more than foreign direct investment. Of this massive amount, Africa represents approximately 10%, bearing between USD 60 to 70 billion. The majority of this remittance is received in 5 countries, including Nigeria, Morocco, Egypt and Ghana. An issue of paramount importance that needs to be addressed in this context is the high cost of remittance transfer. In South Africa for instance, associated costs of these transactions can amount to 15%, which poses a significant obstacle to harnessing the potential of diaspora contribution to the development of the country. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working not only to maximize



the remittances but also to engage the diaspora, given that the majority of migration trends are intra-continental or inter-regional.

Drawing on its long-standing experience, IOM has formulated a comprehensive strategic approach centered on the “3Es for action”: to **Enable, Engage** and **Empower** transnational communities as agents for development. Each area will involve a range of interventions by governments and other stakeholders, through policy advice and programming. However, to truly reap the dividends of this approach, it is of utmost importance to create a relationship based on mutual respect, open communication and the establishment of trust between all stakeholders.

**Dr. Ziva Domingos** assessed the concept of Global Africa, and recommended that the conversation should start with a series of intercultural dialogues, firstly, between the diverse peoples, communities and cultures across the continent. He added that after we have established the first condition, then we can examine how to increase the intercultural dialogue between Africa as a whole, and the African diasporas as well as other peoples across the world.

Dr. Domingos expressed how Global Africa invokes questions related to the position of Africa in regard to globalization, which in turn raises issues of equality, opportunity, human rights, and social justice among others. He argued that the conversation around Global Africa requires an in-depth understanding of the historical memory of continent, touching on the plight of slavery and struggles for independence. When it comes to the transatlantic slave trade, he recounted that the largest forced exodus in human history happened in the context of the slave trade, and that the greatest portion of Africans who crossed to the Americas came from Angola. The number of people captured or sold during the slave trade is estimated at 12 million Africans. The majority of this contingent came from central Africa, of which nearly half departed from the port of Luanda, in Angola.

African institutions have an important role to play in the consolidation of the Pan-African efforts to preserve and promote the continent’s cultural heritage. However, both issues are being addressed separately. The example of the history of the slave trade routes, offers both a global and unique African perspective on the topic, an accumulation of varied and distinct views of individual countries, regions, and diaspora across the world and on the continent. There is a need to design programmes and to combine efforts of institutions such as UNESCO and African Union, to build a common platform for the diaspora to exchange experiences and to ensure that there are connections between them and the continent.

**Professor Augustine Holl** discussed the important work undertaken in the framework of the *General History of Africa* (GHA), which was published by UNESCO. As a concept, ‘Global Africa’ removes the fences between continental Africans and people of African descent worldwide. It has been difficult to understand peoples of African descent anywhere in the world without referring to Africa, and equally impossible to make sense of the contemporary fate of Africa without references to multiple and diverse diaspora waves.

In the present state of research, the continent is the cradle of humanity. A first expansion took place between 2.5 and 1.8 million years ago. A second one took place after the emergence of *Homo sapiens* in Africa some 300, 000 years ago. What we technically call the diaspora is the introduction of a new population in an area already populated. If we look at human history through a long-term perspective, the greatest uprooting of Africans took place via overlapping enslavement systems: both Eastern and Western bound. It began in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century with the expansion of Islam when Africans were sold and transported across the Indian Ocean to different countries in Asia. After that, in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, European explorers circumnavigated Africa and started shipping Africans across the Middle Passage to the Caribbean, South and North America. Africans are always on the move – in and out of the continent

- and today we have a mix of technical diaspora and contemporary Africans in different parts of the world.

From the perspectives of GHA, what is history telling us on the tensions between people of common identity and history? In the initial diaspora experience, Africans were victims of the processes. There was first resistance, then resilience and finally, creation of new identities as emancipated and free agents. The representational example is the Haiti Revolution that culminated in its independence in 1804, that resulted in the creation of new identities. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, we have the example of Pan Africanism, which united people in the plight for freedom and independence in a global movement for the decolonization and empowerment of Africa.

The concept of Global Africa as demonstrated in the new GHA volumes IX-XI, takes into account this *long-term* perspective to make sense of the place of Africans and people of African descent in contemporary age.

### Plenary Discussion

The session concluded with exchanges between the panel members and the audience on issues related to the depiction of African diaspora, their relationship with the African continent, as well as reparations for slavery. Members of the audience were diligent in recognizing that history and heritage are not static, and are prone to influences that shape and mold new identities. Therefore communities in both historic and contemporary diaspora can rescue their customs and cultures by forging close ties to the continent. It was also pointed out that in some parts of the world, diaspora represent their ethnic origin and not Africa itself, this is an important development that requires better understanding.

A documentary on the GHA will be completed and provided free of charge to broadcasters, universities and other institutions to reach the greater public. The intent of GHA is not merely to tell the story of Africa and its diaspora through Africans eyes.

Emphasizing that education is key to instilling the set of values of tolerance in citizens on the continent, so that people can better understand the significance and benefits of diversity, solidarity and living as well as working together in harmony, the session agreed that UNESCO should play the role of stimulating such learning processes, especially focusing on African youths.

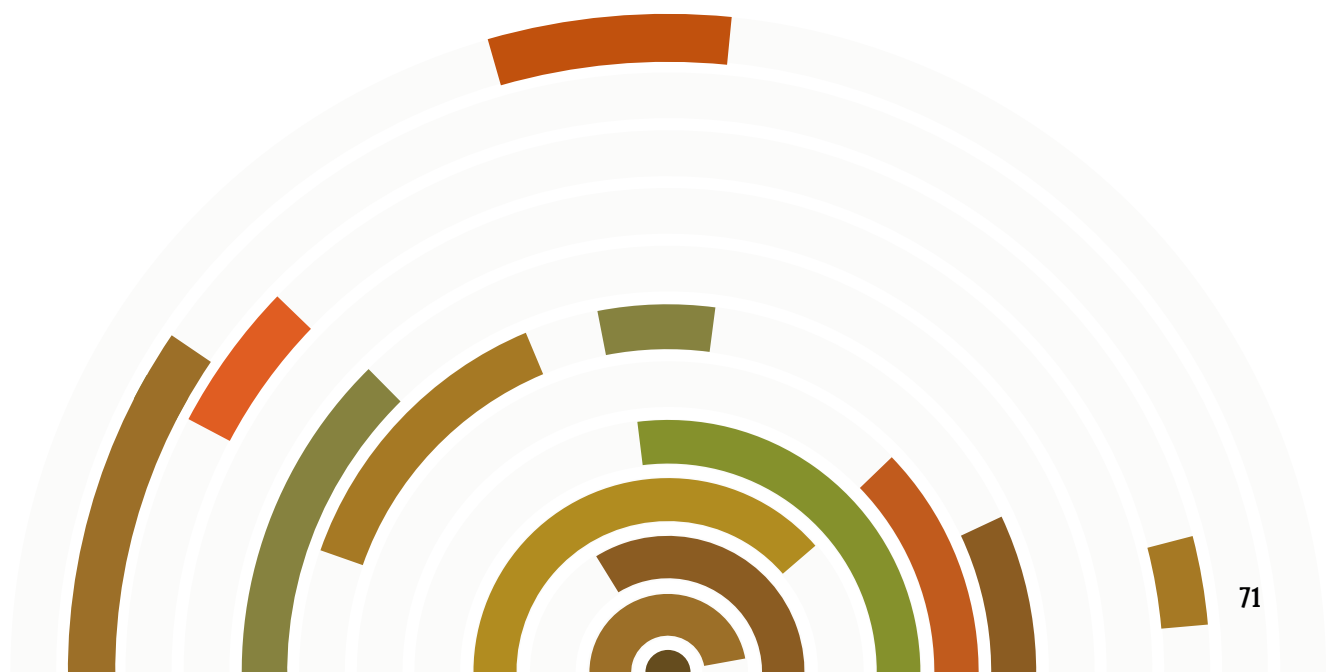
Acknowledging the AU's recognition of the diaspora as the 6<sup>th</sup> region, it was noted that during the Cold War, much of Pan-Africanism was strongly driven by African diasporas outside the continent - thus reaffirming the notion that being African is more than just living on the continent, and that the spirit of Pan-Africanism is still very much alive.

On the issue of afro-descendants, the participants agreed that there was a need to develop public policies to address social, political and economic exclusion of afro-communities in Latin-America. They asked for support from UNESCO to continue undertaking research that explores afro influences around the world. They also asked UNESCO and the AU to mobilize the media as an instrument to counteract prejudices, and as a medium to disseminate the plights of afro-descendants and of the African people.

Discussants recommended that countries and AU should work together on developing lasting, mutually beneficial interactions between diaspora and their countries of origin – as a way of strengthening the relationship. Organizations such as UNESCO play a fundamental role in uniting Africans through culture, arts, shared values and other expressions – in short: promoting a culture of peace.

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. To UNESCO - pursue the recognition, appreciation and promotion of the technical, scientific, cultural and human level contributions of Afro-descendant people building a new society worldwide. UNESCO should also expand 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, and through information to the general public;
2. **African countries** should actively promote the adoption and mainstreaming of the General History of Africa in their curricula and cross sector education system.
3. **African Union** and the **regional organizations** should adopt relevant resolutions committing member states to promote the links between Africans and Afro-descendants worldwide. AU and regional organizations should also support inter-continental collaboration for the promotion of the human rights of Afro-descendants.
4. All **states, civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations, organizations and networks** working to promote human rights should promote policies and interventions that eliminate racism and racial discrimination. They should pursue steps that protect human rights of people of Afro-descendants and review mechanisms enacted to monitor such policies annually.





### iii.1.5 Free, Independent and Pluralistic Media for Peace and Development in Africa

**Moderator: Ms Georja Calvin-Smith**,  
journalist at France 24

#### Panelists

1. **Mr Al Amin Yusuph**, Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO Office in Harare;
2. **Mr Jérôme Traore**, former President of the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Burkina Faso;
3. **Ms Al-Shaymaa J. Kwegyir**, former Member of Parliament and activist for the plight of Persons with Albinism, Tanzania;
4. **Mr Teixeira Cândido**, Secretary General of the Union of Angolan Journalists, Angola.

#### Introduction

The session started with a short video illustrating the links between media, information and communication and the culture of peace<sup>62</sup>, followed by a short introduction by the moderator, Ms Georja Calvin-Smith.

She argued that a free, independent and pluralistic media landscape ensures free-flowing access to information to all; enables dialogue; encourages people to express their views; and prompts greater political participation. She continued by stating that the media also serves as an accountability mechanism, raising significant issues such as corruption, political wrongdoing or human rights abuses that may not otherwise be publicly debated or addressed. She expressed that therefore, it is true that independent media reinforces the rule of law and good governance. As such, a vibrant free, independent and pluralistic media plays an instrumental role in cultivating a democratic public space where an informed citizenry can express, share and debate their views.

*Because of their relative low cost and potential for connecting with huge audiences, radio broadcasts make it possible to reach the most remote areas across the continent. This is contributing to the development of knowledge across Africa, in urban as well rural enclaves.*

<sup>62</sup> The video can be found by clicking the following link: <https://bit.ly/2HCkKKz>





© Saïd Yusuf Watsame

The role that journalists and media actors play in ensuring the free-flow of information is fundamental for constituting a healthy political environment that guarantees greater and inclusive participation of society, where all voices contribute to the dialogue.

She emphasized that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. As such, the media has a crucial role to play in promoting peace and justice throughout the African continent. This makes the defense of the integrity and safety of professionals working in the media of paramount importance for the promotion of the culture of peace in Africa.

She then introduced the panelists and invited them to take the floor and share their views on how best freedom of expression and freedom of the press can be protected, and how media can be used to foster peace and sustainable development in Africa.

### Presentations and main discussions

**Mr Jérôme Traore** spoke about the formation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court of Justice, which was established in 1993 after the revision of the ECOWAS Lagos Treaty of 1975. However, he explained that the first judges were only being able to take their oath in 2001. The Court began to operate during this period, and since 2005, the Court's jurisdiction has been extended to include human rights.

The Court guarantees the rights and freedoms enshrined in international and regional instruments in the field of freedom of the press. The Court contributes to end impunity for crimes against journalists by compensating victims and encouraging states to reform their legislations. The normative frameworks used by the Court to make its decisions include:

- *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;*
- *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;*
- The revised ECOWAS treaty of 24 July of 1993 and specific ECOWAS-related legal instruments;

*To protect journalists in Africa who risk their lives to provide independent and reliable information, there is need for significant progress in order to ensure their safety.*





A presenter at Radio Shabelle reads the news. Radio continues to be one of the primary sources of information in Somalia.

- *ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance* – whose Art. 1, k) guarantees freedom of the press in member states of ECOWAS.

To date, the ECOWAS Court of Justice has had to deliver several judgments in cases of violations of the rights of journalists in the exercise of their functions. A large majority of these judgments were delivered against The Gambia during the regime of Yahya Jammeh<sup>63</sup>. Providing examples of concrete actions taken by the Court he cited the cases of:

- *Chief Ebrimah Manneh v. The Republic of the Gambia, 2008*: A journalist at *The Daily Observer* was reportedly arrested in Banjul in 2006 by the Gambian intelligence services in secret without a warrant. Today he is reported missing. The Court concluded that the detention and arrest of Ebrimah Manneh was arbitrary. The Gambian government was ordered to free Mr Manneh, and was ordered to pay him a compensation totalling USD 100.000.
- *Musa Saidykhan v. The Republic of the Gambia, 2010*: Mr Saidykhan was arrested in 2006 without a warrant and without notification of charges. The Court ruled that his detention was arbitrary and ordered the

Gambian Government to pay him USD 200 000 in compensation.

- *Deyda Hydara Jr. and Others v. The Republic of the Gambia, 2014*: This case is a turning point regarding the involvement of the ECOWAS Court of Justice. A journalist from the Point Newspaper was shot dead on his way work. The Court took some major decisions, firstly, it ordered the Gambian Government to pay USD 50 000 for the damages suffered, and requested that the Gambian Government reform its legislation by including the protection of journalists as per Art. 66 of the Revised Community Treaty (which imposes an obligation on Member States to assure a safe and conducive atmosphere in the practice of journalism). The Court criticized The Gambia for not having initiated proceedings to find the perpetrators of this crime. The Court found a violation of the freedom of expression in connection with the attack on the physical integrity of the journalist.
- *The Federation of African Journalists and Others v. The Republic of the Gambia, 2016*: The Court found that forcing journalists into exile was an unnecessary restriction on the exercise of freedom of expression of journalists. This decision marks a determination by the ECOWAS Court of Justice to play its full role in protecting the rights and freedoms of community citizens, in particular the guarantee and protection of press freedom, which is fundamental for democracy and the rule of law.

These four cases are critical benchmarks for the jurisprudence of the ECOWAS Court of Justice when it comes to the protection of journalists against arbitrary detention, attacks on physical integrity and threats to their lives. The guaranty of press freedom is fundamental to democracy and the rule of law.

National courts are also called upon to guarantee this protection because unlike the ECOWAS Court of Justice, these courts have full criminal jurisdiction at the national level. As a result, national courts can be the first to guarantee the protection of journalists against the various types of violations to which they

<sup>63</sup> Yahya Jammeh is a former military officer who was the leader of The Gambia from 1994 to 2017, until he was forced to step down after a disputed presidential election. During his 22 years in power, his regime was marked by human rights abuses and the consistent targeting of the press, media, and opposition leaders.



are usually subjected in the exercise of their functions.

**Ms Al-Shaymaa J. Kwegyir** explained that albinism is the congenital absence of any pigmentation or coloration in a person, due to a deficiency in the production of melanin. As per the Latin root of the word, “albus”, meaning white, those who are subject to this hereditary trait lack pigmentation in their skin, hair and eyes.

Due to societal stigmatization, people with albinism (PWA) suffer from discrimination, social exclusion, and are too often the subject of violence. In certain social contexts, people with albinism are looked down upon and are denied their basic human rights. It should be noted that discrimination against people with albinism is not restricted to the African context, but is in fact a worldwide issue.

UNESCO has carried out a nationwide media campaign in Tanzania to promote the well-being of people with albinism. The objectives were to empower local leaders and the government to mobilize and sensitize the country’s citizens about people with albinism. The organization has adopted a number of ways to deliver this message, including through social and cultural approaches that promote positive attitudes, but also by setting up an inclusive education system - now children with albinism go to school with the children. UNESCO reviewed, surveyed, organized focus group discussions and conducted interviews on radio programs to cover the topic of albinism in Tanzania. The radio program changed people’s perception on albinism, aiding the shift in social paradigm – guided towards a more positive outlook. This was ascertained by an evaluation of the intervention, which showed that in locations where the radio programs could reach people, there was a significant reduction in the prejudices and misconceptions faced by PWAs. In addition, UNESCO carried out a national campaign through billboards that also brought the attention of the public to the plight of PWA – thus showing that media can have a massive impact on people’s beliefs on the topic of albinism.

**Mr Al Amin Yusuph** highlighted that one of UNESCO’s main domains is the field

of Communication and Information. The organization’s approach covers a wide range of areas that include:

- Promoting media development and assessment with the safety indicators;
- Promoting capacity strengthening initiatives for public and private media, and community media;
- Supporting development of tools for traditional and new media – like for example, the UNESCO developed Internet Universality Indicators<sup>64</sup>;
- Promoting press freedom by coordinating World Press Freedom Day, and numerous other commemorations advocating diverse pluralistic and free media.

A concrete example of UNESCO’s work on the matter is a project that took place during the 2014-2016, with the cooperation and funding of the Azerbaijan Development Agency. The aim of the intervention was to raise awareness among the Maasai community, in Tanzania, about female genital mutilation (FGM) and mobilize the leaders to condemn this act. A customary ritual, FGM is y as a women rite of passage to adulthood and

<sup>64</sup> The concept of Internet Universality summarizes UNESCO’s updated positions in the digital age, pointing to the four fundamental principles, according to which the Internet should be in compliance with human rights, open, accessible to all, and nurtured by multi-stakeholder participation. UNESCO works to implement this decision by engaging stakeholders to conduct national assessments based on the Indicators framework.

“Internet Universality Indicators”. UNESCO. Available: <https://en.unesco.org/internet-universality-indicators>

*Putting children with albinism in special centers to ensure their safety raises issues of inclusion and human rights. Children on the Buhangija Children’s Center, Tanzania*



marriage. By means of community radios, this project engaged traditional and religious leaders, and young girls and women who practiced this ritual, into a dialogue to address the health challenges associated to FGM and early pregnancy. Progressively, the elders provided a statement condemning FGM. After the end of the project, the community radio became a space where people could alert the community about potential FGM cases. This project demonstrates how local media can be a very strong partner for developing and promoting gender issues and human rights.

### Plenary Discussions

The session concluded with interactions between the individual panelists and the audience. Members of the audience expressed that since the issue of wages has a huge impact on the independence of journalists, unions must play an important role as well by improving collective agreements on wages.

On the ECOWAS Court of Justice, audience members reiterated that African countries must formally commit themselves to respect international and regional instruments they sign up to, on the protection of freedom of expression and the rights of journalists. They also agreed that the application of law and legal instruments is where the challenge resides. Another challenge is that governments do not always comply with the decisions of the Court. Therefore – there is a need to change the mind-set of practitioners in the judicial systems in countries – so that there is an explicit acknowledgement that freedom of expression is a constituent element of building a democracy. People in the audience also made clear that journalists are not enemies of the state or enemies of governments, but rather can help to get their messages across.

International courts are key for the defence of freedom of expression and the protection of journalists, because they often form the last resort when national judiciary fails to respond to their claims. Journalists need however to be aware that the International Courts of Justice cannot deal with cases on its own initia-

tive: the victims need to bring the matter before the court themselves. At the ECOWAS level, the Gambia was the only country to have been sued, but it does not mean that there are no violations in other member states.

The changing perspective on new forms of journalism was covered with the testimony on persons with albinism whereby the Tanzania activist reiterated the role media can play in changing the mindset of local populations leading to reduction of discriminatory practices and violence against this vulnerable segment of the population.

The issue of independence of journalists in pursuit of truth was also raised – with discussants indicating that the often adverse social conditions faced by journalists – is a key factor undermining their independence.

The plenary also spoke about the need to improve media literacy of African users. According to speakers, while more than 700 million SIM cards are activated in Africa, which in theory means that more than 73% of the African population has access to the internet<sup>65</sup>, most of these internet users do not know how to process information. It is thus important to intensify UNESCO's support for countries that need information technology literacy programmes.

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<sup>65</sup> Helen Nyambura-Mwaura, Simon Akam. "Telecoms boom leaves rural Africa behind". REUTERS. 31 JANUARY 2013. Available: <https://reut.rs/2SPgBt4>

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. Noting with deep concern that according to UNESCO, more than 86% of the Judicial Status of cases of enquiry into killings of journalists 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; and recognizing that only 20 countries in Africa 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 programmes.
4. Understanding that persons with albinism (PWA) continue to suffer from violence and large scale discrimination and exclusion on the African continent, we call upon **UNESCO and the AUC** to intensify their support for countries adoption and promotion of actions towards the elimination of prejudice and discrimination against PWAs. UNESCO and AUC should also encourage countries that have not done so already, to adopt policies and strategies to counteract the disadvantage of PWAs.
5. Recognizing that national court systems must be the first to guarantee the protection of journalists against the various types of attacks on their integrity as they exercise their function, we urge **countries** to reinforce their independence and apply the legal provisions provided for in the international, regional and national instruments to defend journalists and media professionals from offenses.
6. Aware that Regional Courts of the ECOWAS Court of Justice have no criminal jurisdiction, we appeal to the **AUC** to consider the establishment of an autonomous criminal court, and the possibility of creating a criminal chamber within the Court of Justice.







### **iii.2 PARALLEL SESSIONS OF THE FORUM OF IDEAS**

Six parallel sessions took place over a period of 5 days, to allow participants to gain in-depth insights into many of the issues discussed during the Forum of Ideas



### iii.2.1 Addressing literacy challenges of disadvantaged children through advanced technology and smart partnerships

**Moderator: Mr Yao Ido**, Director of UNESCO Regional Office for West Africa, Abuja

#### Panelists

1. **Prof. Stephanie Gottwald**, Linguistics and Literacy, Tufts University, and Content Director, Curious Learning;
2. **Mr Creesen Naicker**, Director, Partnership Distribution, Curious Learning;
3. **Ms Loise Danladi Musa**, Executive Secretary of the Bauchi State Agency for Mass Education, Nigeria;
4. **Ms Zulmira Rodrigues**, Chief, Section for Cooperation with Regional Organizations in Africa, Africa Department, UNESCO;
5. **Ms Mari Yasunaga**, Programme Specialist, Section for Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO.

#### Introduction

The moderator opened the session by stressing the centrality of literacy to education and development, especially for Africa where the adult literacy rate is merely 60%. Following a brief illustration of an overview of the literacy progress, remaining challenges and trends, the session explored how digital technology can support literacy learning of children of primary school age, reflecting on some concrete initiatives targeting deprived children in Africa.

*In order to combat school exclusion and promote a Culture of Peace, it is important to give all children in Africa access to education. UNESCO, partners and XPRIZE have successfully trialled a strategy that gave access to education to remote populations through the use of 21st century technology.*

#### Presentations and main discussions

**Ms Mari Yasunaga** started the session by giving a summary overview of literacy progress and challenges:

- Literacy is part of human rights, empowers people and is a driver for sustainable development. In the past 50 years, there was a significant increase in the global adult literacy rate from 56% to 86%. However, due to the population growth, the actual number of adults who cannot read and write has increased compared to 50 years ago. Currently, at least one out of seven adults lacks basic literacy skills (750 million). The progress has been uneven across countries and populations, and Africa is the region where the degree of literacy challenges remain significantly high. In addition, the nature of the skills required are evolving with increasing demands for more advanced literacy skills and digital text-mediated reading and writing skills.
- Nevertheless, basic literacy is still a source of serious concern for all age groups. About one in six children and adolescents who are supposed to be in school (258 million) are out of school. In Africa, the ratio is one out of five for primary school age children, and this increases as the educational level goes up. The ratio at the upper secondary level is 58%. In addition, 617 million children and adolescents are failing to acquire the minimum reading and mathematics skills, while two thirds of them are actually in school.
- To address this literacy learning crisis, measures to tackle the multiple causes are required: 1) external factors that impact learning, such as poverty; 2) educational factors, including lack of access, and the insufficient quality of education; as well as 3) inadequate literate environments in which people acquire, apply, maintain and advance literacy skills.

She then proceeded with a short review of the challenges and opportunities of digital technology-supported literacy teaching and learning:

- The pace of digital technology's development is very fast, generating op-





portunities, as well as challenges to national education systems. Furthermore, existing learning and teaching approaches are not necessarily ready to respond to the resulting transformation. In this evolving digital world, we need to constantly test and adjust our approaches. We have seen cases, for example – with privacy issues, where regulations are not fully developed to manage potential risks for individuals and societies. At the same time, digital technology is providing tremendous opportunities for the promotion of literacy in multilingual contexts, including maintaining and revitalizing indigenous and local languages and cultures, as well as developing the content locally, particularly where only 5% of world's 7,000 living languages are represented in a digital space.

**Ms Zulmira Rodrigues** gave an insight into a joint collaboration with Curious Learning on a new early learning initiative. The initiative was inspired by the UNESCO/XPRIZE project on Early Learning that was carried out in Tanzania between 2016 and 2019.

- According to UNESCO's Institute of Statistics (UIS), in Africa, nearly 9 out of 10 children and adolescents do not acquire the minimum levels of literacy and numeracy after attending 3 to 4 years of school. To find low cost and large-scale solutions for this problem, a number of initiatives have been developed making use of 21st century technologies. One of them, known as the Global Learning XPRIZE - a partnership between XPRIZE Foundation, UNESCO, WFP and the Government of Tanzania – started in October 2016. The XPRIZE was inspired by work undertaken by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Tufts University and the One Laptop per Child initiative in Ethiopia - that started in 2011, and resulted in the creation of Curious Learning.
- In Tanzania, 3,000 children have been empowered through self-learning of basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills in Kiswahili. Google provided tablets for free. Whilst 90% of the targeted children were mostly illiterate



at the beginning of the intervention, 15 months later ( January 2019) this number was halved. Using the open source applications of the XPRIZE and other similar tools, Curious Learning pilot tested the use of smart phones for early literacy and numeracy acquisition in 15 other countries around the globe, several of which are in Africa.

- Smartphones have increasingly been recognized as accessible and cost-effective instruments for the adoption of free, open-source, and scalable software. Tablets, as they are more expensive and complex in terms of maintenance, are more appropriate for governments with significant levels of resources. Where a solution is required for reducing the unit cost, the potential of mobile phones is preferred.

She then proceeded with a description of a new Early Learning Project initiative being developed by UNESCO and Curious Learning:

- UNESCO and Curious Learning are developing a five-year programme on early learning to provide learning opportunities for 100 million children of primary school age in countries with large amounts of out-of-school children and in-school children not achieving basic proficiency in literacy. This programme intends to promote mobile

*Digital technologies have an essential role to play in supporting children to develop quality early grade literacy and numeracy aptitude.*

learning, building on the free, open-source software designed for mobile phones by Curious Learning.

- The project is intended to be deployed in two phases. During the first phase, interventions will target 20 million educationally marginalized children with different profiles<sup>66</sup> in five countries, one from each of the sub-regions in Africa. Countries will be chosen based on their acceptance and readiness to join. The proposed project will start with 6 languages in each country, covering English, French, Arabic, and Portuguese, in addition to 5 local languages. The software will be localized to adjust to the cultural context of each of the language groups. At the national level, a multidisciplinary range of national experts will be trained for the purpose in particular experts in education, local languages, and digital technology – in order to build national capacity allowing to also adjust the software to other languages. It will include an in-built monitoring system enabling the measurement of initial and acquired learning achievements, as well as the effectiveness of the approach.
- In the second phase, the project will be rolled out in 15 additional countries, through localization of the software by the local project teams in accordance with local socio-cultural and geo-economic conditions of the target populations.
- The project will explore how to build partnerships at international and national levels, including collaboration with private sector stakeholder. In particular, the project will seek to partner with companies dealing with smartphones production as well as in other areas of telecommunication.
- The project will also look at ways to further develop software to facilitate learning of different topics, such as citizenship and health education. The project will also seek to support countries in developing a programme

that will provide second chance opportunities for reintegration of out-of-school children into formal education systems. It will also explore the use of software as a pedagogical tool to complement teaching at schools.

**Ms Loise Danladi Musa**, shared the experience of the *School Meet the Learner Approach* (SMLA) in Nigeria

- In Nigeria, many women could not attend school due to socio-cultural and security constraints. To increase access to education, UNESCO supported the implementation of the SMLA project developed to provide literacy learning opportunities for 50,000 women and girls, using tablets. The project had been previously piloted in Senegal, supported by a partnership between UNESCO, a private sector entity, (Proctor & Gamble) and the Ministry of Education and was later adapted for implementation in Northeast Nigeria where Boko Haram is prevalent.
- The government is keen on the project and engaged by providing tablets and mobilizing other government departments to join. The state-run TV, adapted the content of the programme and started broadcasting it. As a result, many more people adhered to the project than initially envisaged.
- In the Northern part of Nigeria, due to extremism violence, children do not get more than 3 teaching hours a day at primary school level. Even when they are in school, their attendance does not guarantee that they are learning as they should. For girls it is even more challenging as they are usually married at an early age.
- The project enabled girls and women to learn from home, reducing their vulnerability to extremism violence. In addition, it had the side effect of having women act as intermediaries for their husbands to learn to read and write, who otherwise the shame of being illiterate would dissuade them from engaging in adult education programmes.

Due to this vast success of the programme, there is now a desire to expand the initiative in other regions of Nigeria.

<sup>66</sup> Displaced children and refugees, out-of-school children, children in remote areas, children at risk from violent extremism and children in school with reduced learning outcomes.

**Ms Stephanie Gottwald** gave a short introduction of ‘Curious Learning’:

- Started in 2011, ‘Curious Learning’ is a research initiative that explores how digital technology can enhance children’s literacy learning, involving experts from MIT, Tufts University, George State University and other partners. It developed apps for self-learning on low-end mobiles and computers.
- The apps have been tested in several countries, including South Africa, rural areas in India, a slum in Uganda, children who cannot attend school in USA, and refugees in Syria (with the support of NORAD). In Ethiopia, children in a village without a school were given tablets loaded with curated literacy apps in English and a usage data tracker. The villages were visited periodically to assess the utility of the of the

apps. Evidence showed that the children were using their tablets 6 hours every day and were learning as much as they would if they were attending a primary school in a developed country.

- The content has been adapted into 48 languages, including 18 local languages, and apps are available on Google Play Store.

She offered more insight into the UNESCO-Curious Learning Early Learning project – she explained that:

- The apps can be easily localized in each country, and that each country teams will be assisted to develop their capacity.
- Children learn reading by reading. We need to enrich literate environments. For the promotion of African languages, family literacy approaches can also be effective.

*Zambian boys using open source software*





- Countries and partners are invited to collaborate and support this project. There is also a need to raise technical and financial resources at local and national levels.
- In 2017, the apps were adapted for smartphones. The use of smartphones devices, besides being cheaper, show a large capacity for reach because - according to research, by 2025, it is believed that there will be around 634 million smartphones subscribers in Africa, about 52% of the entire population<sup>67</sup>. Curious learning has a partnership with Google and is developing an ecosystem to tap into existing resources that will help to drive innovation with telecom companies in Africa.

**Mr Creesen Naicker**, addressed the audience by sharing the experience of the Curious Learning initiative in South Africa:

- The partnership with Curious Learning to promote mother tongue language-based approaches to literacy learning involved the 11 official South Africa languages. The pilot showed that the phonetic approach for teaching reading was particularly noticeable for Zulu children and led to a change of approach by teachers from alphabetical to syllabic methods. This happened because the complexity of the Zulu language, which for example has very long words, made it nearly impossible for children to memorize letters.
- The system does not require the internet – thus allowing apps to be downloaded by putting a smartphone next to another.

*Long distance to school, poor learning outcomes, crowded classes, gender disparity and conflicts impact on education. These challenges can be overcome with the use of e-learning technology.*

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<sup>67</sup> GSMA 2018



## Plenary Discussions

The session continued with exchanges with the audience where the following issues were raised:

With regards to **language choice**, it was clarified that the project will be adjusted to each government's language policy and frameworks. However there was emphasis placed on starting with mother tongue before transitioning to the lingua franca, as recommended in UNESCO literacy guidelines.

The Executive Secretary of the African Academy of Languages<sup>68</sup> (ACALAN), Dr. Lang Fafa Dampha, welcomed this initiative and expressed their interest in joining it. In many countries in Africa, languages are not imposed by national frameworks, and people use their own languages. As part of a range of things that ACALAN does, it has developed 20 writing systems and has facilitated harmonization of writing systems. In collaboration with UNESCO, it also looks into issues related to African languages in cyberspace, for example. The proposal was welcomed, as it is an opportunity to reinforce language diversity and will help to reduce duplication of efforts.

Regarding **approaches to teaching and learning**, several issues were raised. For example, (i) there is a need to reduce relatively long hours (6hours/day) of mobile phone usage by children and as such monitor the timing of the use of mobile phones, following an indicative minimum learning time required for children to master basic literacy skills; (ii) literacy learning should be combined with acquisition of other skills; (iii) the understanding of the feasibility of self-learning without any human support as well as fear for negative impact on the socio-emotional development of the children should be addressed through sensitization (iv) there should

be a clarification of who the target age groups are; (v) there should be more local contents (e.g. folklore, music, stories); (vi) learning should be inclusive (e.g. children with disability, gender); there should also be a thorough understanding of the possible negative.

For some of these questions, there were clarification – for example, the software was designed for children to learn for 12 months to achieve basic literacy skills. It can be adapted locally, using local languages. Regarding the hours and timing of learning, Curious Learning responded that the result of usage tracking and monitoring revealed that children were using mobile phones for only 6 hours per day for the purpose of learning and they used their phones early in the morning or late in the evening. On age groups, Curious Learning said that the importance of emergent literacy is proven in cognitive science. The number of words children hear in early days of life shapes the foundation of their later understanding. It is important to talk to children from birth. But this project will target children of primary school age. Also important is ensuring rich literate environments for children from birth to the ages of 8 to 10 years old. It is also important to help parents to acquire language and other skills that they may need to support their children.

Regarding inclusiveness, the software developed by Curious Learning can be adapted to the needs of children with disabilities, such as for example, for children with dyslexia. The adaptation of digital technology facilitates democratization of local content development.

On the social-emotional impact of e-learning without support, please refer to the UNESCO study undertaken in Tanzania with the support of the University of Dar es Salaam<sup>69</sup>.

The audience also questioned the **monitoring and evaluation of the projects' impacts**, specifically focused on the pre- and post- course assessment.

<sup>68</sup> ACALAN was established on December 2000 by the then President of the Republic of Mali. In January 2006 it became a specialised institution of the African Union. ACALAN is entrusted with the task of developing and promoting African languages so that they can be used in all domains of the society in partnership with the languages inherited from colonisation: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, (<https://acalan-au.org>).

<sup>69</sup> To view this video, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/2w06RDD>







The responder explained that the previous initiatives developed a monitoring system. Literacy skills of children were tested before and after the literacy courses. For instance, with UNICEF, Curious Learning tested literacy proficiency levels of children before and after they used apps. It revealed that with 22 hours use of the digital apps, children achieved literacy proficiency equivalent to that of two months of literacy training in well-equipped primary schools.

Comments were also made relating to the **use of digital technology** – for example, it was made clear that this projects are particularly useful in countries

in conflict and post-conflict situations. Typically, many children in these territories are educationally marginalized and excluded, these tablets and mobile phones can be a means to meet their learning needs.

Some concerns were expressed on the **possible links between the proposed project and formal education systems** such that the children excluded from school can be integrated into formal education systems after completing learning. The government has an important role to play in ensuring that the learning content is equivalent to the learning prescribed in the national curriculum..

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. **Countries** are urged to expand children's access to meaningful learning opportunities to acquire basic literacy skills through digital technology, especially for the most vulnerable children who might be excluded from quality learning - including displaced children and refugees, out-of-school children, children with disabilities, children living in unsafe environments and in remote rural areas and children affected by natural or man-made disasters;
2. Recognizing the opportunities offered by 21st century technologies, **UNESCO** is called upon to support countries in promoting literacy programmes supported by digital technology through a holistic and humanistic approach to learning, encompassing cognitive, social and emotional dimensions, so that learners are autonomous lifelong learners. UNESCO should also help countries to explore the most effective ways to integrate this learning into in school-teaching as well as outside school teaching through family literacy approaches. The literacy projects should also be linked to other areas, such as family planning, sexual reproductive health education, education for sustainable development and global citizenship;
3. The participants applaud and support the UNESCO – Curious Learning initiative, because the quality of literacy learning assisted by digital technology improves the relevance of content and learning processes to the profile, context, needs and aspirations of children. Participants are pleased that there is attention given to the use of African languages, developing local contents and cultures as well as a cost-effective solution for second chance education of the excluded;
4. **Countries** are encouraged to mobilize adequate national and external resources, to adopt similar initiatives so that disadvantaged children can acquire the necessary skills to become fully-fledged citizens empowered to contribute to the development of their countries in a peaceful manner.

### iii.2.2 State of Peace and Security in Africa

**Moderator: Ms Ana Elisa Santana Afonso**, Director of UNESCO's Liaison Office with the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and UNESCO Representative in Ethiopia

#### Panelists

1. **Ms Michelle Ndiaye**, Director of the Peace and Security in Africa Programme of the Institute of Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia;
2. **Dr. Yonas Adaye Adeto**, Director of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) at Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia);
3. **H.E. Mr Afonso Eduardo Inguila**, Ambassador and Director of Africa, Middle East and Regional Organizations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Angola;
4. **Prof. Samuel Kale Ewusi**, Director of the Regional Programme for Africa, United Nations University for Peace;
5. **Mr Charles Binam Bikoi**, Executive Secretary of the International Research and Documentation Centre on African Traditions and Languages (CERDOTOLA);
6. **Ms Seraphine Kando**, Human Rights Officer of the African Union Commission;
7. **Mr Ibrahim Ceesay**, Executive Director and founder of the African Artists for Peace Initiative.

#### Introduction

This session was devoted to the presentation of the 2019 Annual Report on the State of Peace and Security in Africa of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia).

#### Presentations and main discussions

**Mr Afonso Eduardo Inguila**, outlined the role Angola has played in contributing to peace in Africa, he emphasized that “without peace, there will be no progress, no harmony.” He contextualized this statement with the example of Angola during the war, when development stagnated, companies were ruined, people were killed and properties were destroyed. Drawing from Angola's history, which now experiences peace, he stated that all the states in Africa need to work together and make Africa become a united continent in line with the AU Agenda 2063.

**Dr. Yonas Adaye Adeto**, presented the 2019 Annual Report on the State of Peace and Security in Africa (SPSA), which gives an overview over the conflicts that occurred on the continent in 2018. The report states that, in any particular year, and on any particular issue, events and developments across Africa tend to evoke multiple and contrasting impulses. Due to its own making or by default, the continent routinely experiences brief spells of progress and then longer, often intractable cycles of challenges that could be misconstrued as its dominant narrative. Either way, the complexity of peace and security issues the continent contends with on a regular basis, end up defining not just how it is viewed by its citizens and outsiders, but also its status in world affairs. SPSA has become the annual flagship Report of the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, offering a synoptic analysis of the pressing peace and security issues on the continent complementing formal meetings of African heads of state and governments by assembling them in an informal, collaborative environment. It is not intended, and cannot even pretend, to document all the peace and security challenges the continent faced in any particular year, but draws attention to those considered to be the most salient and cross-cutting ones, particularly in terms of the disruption and harm they caused African citizens and the states. The ultimate goal of the SPSA Report is to re-energize and strengthen African agency and commitment to the concep-



*International Day of Peace, Juba, South Sudan, September 2011*



tualization and implementation of proactive and innovative measures in response to the challenges imposed by peace and security considerations on the continent (SPSA Report, 2019).

**Prof. Samuel Kale Ewusi**, emphasised that peace education could be one of the solutions to lasting peace.

**Mr Charles Binam Bikoi**, focused on African epistemology and grammar on culture of peace. Some of the key points discussed revolved around the languages used to promote peace in Africa. “When you use foreign language you speak to the mind, when we use mother tongue, we speak to the heart”, he stated.

**Mr Ibrahim Ceesay**, outlined that the youth is occupying the gaps leaders have created. Youth in Africa are resilient and have worked enormously hard to contribute to sustainable development on the continent, and they have achieved many impressive feats despite the unique experiences they have gone through.

**Ms Seraphine Kando** reiterated that, we cannot speak of peace without the promotion of human rights. Our legal frameworks need to protect all the people and various groups in our society.

### Plenary Discussion

The exchanges with the audience resulted in the following conclusions:

It was underlined that human security – as opposed to conventional, more state-centred understanding of security – is key to addressing emerging challenges, such as the suffering and distress of people, non-conventional threats (e.g. communicable diseases), migration and climate change. The impact of new and diverse forms of conflict were also discussed, e.g. protracted conflicts, such as the ones experienced in Central Africa, the DRC, South Sudan and Dafur, communal and community conflicts, terrorism and violent extremism. These issues were found to be most pressing in the Sahel, Central Africa and horn of Africa regions, especially in Somalia due to the enduring presence of al-Shabaab affecting neighbouring countries and the Lake Chad basin, due to the activity of

insurgent groups. Yet, 2018 saw fewer electoral disputes compared to previous years. IPSS stressed that “we are not actually safe in Africa. We don’t have the means and tools we need to proactively deal with the conflicts and we are not responding to the challenges adequately”.

During the discussion, it was argued that the African situation reflect global trends. As such, peace and security are global issues, that can only be achieved through global solutions. However, some participants raised doubts about African’s willingness to believe in themselves and the desire to work together to deal with the continent’s conflicts. As a result, participants outlined how despite the continent spending a lot of its resources on fighting conflicts, efforts are too often like fighting fires – once one conflict is solved, another one has already emerged. Additionally, conflicts have a high probability of relapse, this is estimated to be around 40%.

One reason is that AU and Regional Communities’ deployments to conflict areas are inadequate to deal with multidimensional nature of problems. For example, poverty and unemployment were identified as some of the underlying problems. Thus, the signing of a continental free trade deal was seen as a positive step, yet for many it remained unclear how participating countries will foster trade whilst still fighting. Rather, participants identified prevention, early warning mechanisms and joint efforts in conflict management, as well as appreciating the gender dimension for conflict resolution as key for building peace.

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. Considering that peace and security are global problems requiring global solutions, on the one hand; and that conflicts have multiple causes, international entities and nations are requested to prioritize the multidimensional treatment of conflicts in Africa, also taking into account the issue of wealth creation and the socio-economic development of countries;
2. Considering that unemployment and underemployment of young people can be a source of conflict, we call upon **governments, with UNESCO's** support, to strengthen education and training for the employability of young people; and to prioritize peace education, particularly by focusing on women's capacity-building, higher education and teacher training;
3. We request that human rights issues are integrated into a comprehensive peace programme in Africa within the **AU** framework, also working with different institutions;
4. We recommend that research and reflection on African epistemology and grammar on the culture of peace within the framework of Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063 is strengthened in accordance with the African Charter on Cultural Renaissance;
5. We propose that the "Annual Report on the State of Peace and Security in Africa" of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia) becomes part of future editions of the "Biennale of Luanda - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace", to show trends in the state of peace in Africa;
6. Request **UNESCO** to be associated with the celebration, in 2022, of the centenary of the birth of President Agostinho Neto, who, through his artistic work, promoted the liberation of his country and the unity of the Angolan people.



### iii.2.3 Sustainable financing of Biosphere reserves in Africa – The AfribioFund

**Moderator: Mr Salah Khaled**, Director of UNESCO's Multisectoral Regional Bureau for Central Africa in Yaoundé

#### Panelists

1. **Ms Noeline Raondry Rakotoarisoa**, Chief of MAB Networks Section: Biosphere Reserves and Capacity Building, Head of Africa Region within the Secretariat of the Man and Biosphere Programme, UNESCO;
2. **Mr Ousmane Dore**, Director General of the Regional Office for Central Africa of the African Development Bank Group;
3. **Prof. Adepoju Adeshola**, Executive Director of the Nigeria Forestry Research Institute (FRIN), and President of the African MAB Network in Africa (AfrimAB).

#### Introduction

The moderator, **M. Salah Khaled**, introduced the session, stating that the theme of the panel is at the heart of UNESCO's priorities because biosphere reserves make an essential contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed, they closely combine the needs of biodiversity conservation with the socio-economic development of local communities. Biosphere reserves are unique sites for understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and climate change management. They are places that provide local solutions to global challenges. Thus, the sustainable financing of biosphere reserves is a crucial issue that requires mobilization at all levels.





### Presentations and main discussions

The session brought together 20 participants from 12 countries, aimed at raising awareness of the AFRIBIOFUND initiative, and providing a common understanding of the issues and challenges related to the sustainable management of biosphere reserves in Africa. Additionally, the session offered an opportunity for sharing experiences on cooperation between UNESCO and the AfDB on the sustainable financing of biosphere reserves.

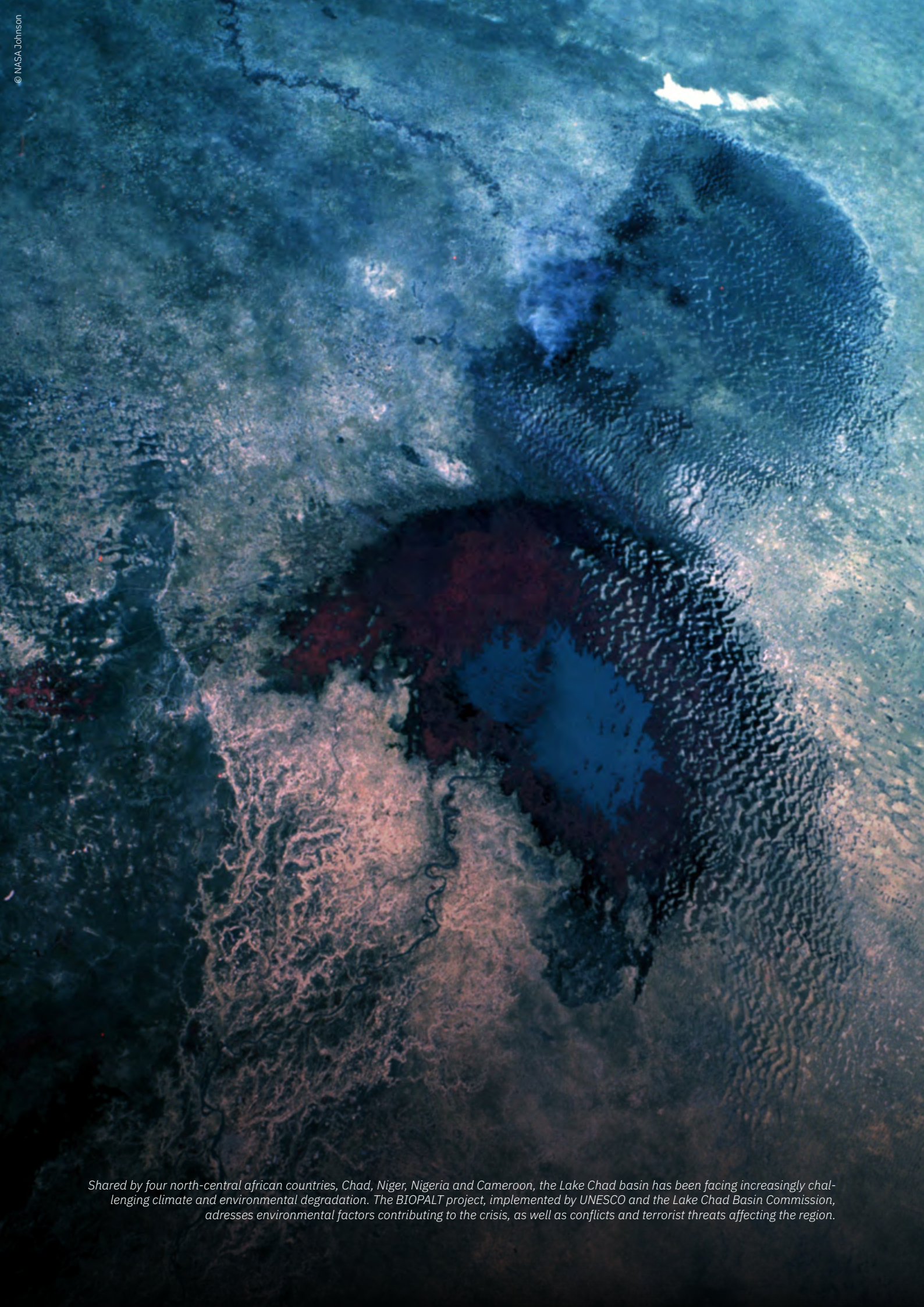
The session highlighted the fact that there are currently 701 Biosphere Reserves (BRs) in 124 countries, including 21 transboundary sites. Africa is home to 79 BRs in 29 countries, including 3 cross-border countries, covering a total area of 83 million hectares and sheltering 21 million people. More than 50% of African BRs are located in Least Developed Countries (17 countries out of 29 and 38 out of 68 sites). These BRs face major obstacles in their management due to the lack of sustainable strategic funding to build human, technical and institutional capacity.

**Ms Raondry Rakotoarisoa** presented the AFRIBIOFUND initiative by highlighting its innovative approach contributing to strengthening the African Network of Biosphere Reserves, and to implementing the SDGs in Africa. Biosphere reserves (BRs) are “learning places for sustainable development” at local, national, regional and global levels. These are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and biodiversity and climate change management. UNESCO is working with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to develop a strategic partnership in favor of the AFRIBIOFUND. This fund will be a major contribution to help African Member States to implement Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 15 (Life on Earth) and SDG 13 (Climate Change). Indeed, the availability of sustainable funding will improve the performance of individual BRs and the regional network in Africa.

*Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site of Saloum Delta, 150 km south-east of Dakar, Senegal*







*Shared by four north-central african countries, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon, the Lake Chad basin has been facing increasingly challenging climate and environmental degradation. The BIOPALT project, implemented by UNESCO and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, addresses environmental factors contributing to the crisis, as well as conflicts and terrorist threats affecting the region.*



The Fund is an initiative strongly supported by Member States by means of UNESCO Draft Resolution 2 of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference of 2017<sup>70</sup>.

**Prof. Adepaju Adeshola** spoke about the African Network of Biosphere Reserves: a strong commitment by countries to ensure the reconciliation between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources for the sustainable development of communities.

**Mr Ousmane Dore** spoke about the African Development Bank as a key partner for the sustainable financing of biosphere reserves.

### Plenary Discussions

The exchanges with the audience focused in particular on the operating procedures of AFRIBIOFUND. It was specified that this Fund will not only support African countries in the creation of new biosphere reserves but also support existing biosphere reserves in a multifaceted way, particularly on issues of conservation, research, training, ecological monitoring, and sustainable socio-economic development of local communities.

It was suggested that AFRIBIOFUND should build on the achievements and experiences of initiatives such as the African World Heritage Fund or the Congo Basin Forest Fund. Links and synergies with other Funds, such as the Climate Fund, should also be pursued. It was also specified that the uniqueness of AFRIBIOFUND is based in particular on the fact that it is the first Fund that combines conservation and development.

Finally, given the extent of ecosystem degradation, it was suggested that the AFRIBIOFUND should be operationally flexible and finance quick impact actions, with a focus on green economy income-generating activities. It was also highlighted that the Fund should finance research activities that are part of the logistic function of BR.

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. For **UNESCO, AfDB and countries** to build on the experiences and lessons learned from initiatives such as the Congo Basin Forest Fund and the African World Heritage Fund to create links and synergies with other Funds such as the Climate Fund;
2. **AfDB** should ensure that AFRIBIOFUND is operationally flexible and can finance quick-impact actions, with a focus on green economy-based activities that benefit local communities.

<sup>70</sup> The draft resolution recommends “the setting up of a trust fund for sustainable financing of the African Biosphere Reserves Network, (AfriBioFund) under the guidance of UNESCO’s Secretariat with appropriate instruments and structures that will attract and inspire the confidence of potential contributors and beneficiaries. UNESCO. “Resolution 15 adopted by the General Conference at its 39th session, 39 C/Resolution 15”.

Available: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260889>



### iii.2.4 Introduction

## Coastal Vulnerability in Central Africa

### Institutional Capacity Building in Ocean Sciences and Coastal Vulnerability in Central Africa

The workshop was jointly organized by the Government of the People's Republic of Angola and the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO) with the support of the Priority Africa and External Relations sector of UNESCO. The workshop aimed at strengthening ownership of a developing initiative between the Central African countries (Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea) and the Secretariat of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

This session, consisting of two discussion panels, was jointly opened by:

1. **Ms. Francisca Delgado**, Focal Point of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of Angola (IOC);
2. **H. E. Mr José Diekumpuna Sita N'Sadisi**, Permanent Delegate of Angola to UNESCO, Chair Central African Sub-Group at UNESCO;
3. **H.E. Ms Maria Antonieta J.S. Baptista**, Minister for Fisheries and the Sea of the Republic of Angola.

*Combating coastal vulnerability has become a priority for UNESCO and African countries in a context of climate change to counteract major environmental, economic and social consequences.*

### Welcome remarks

The Angolan Focal Point for IOC/UNESCO at the Angolan Ministry of Fisheries and the Sea, **Ms Francisca Delgado**, welcomed the participants. **Mr Nsadisi**, then addressed the session by commending the strong efforts made by the Central African Sub-Group for the development of this initiative through an inclusive and consultative approach, fostering the leadership of appropriate national and sub-regional institutions for defining priorities.

**Dr. Baptista** then took the floor, placing particular emphasis on the need of a joint action in the establishment of a true culture of peace and sustainable development, which are at the heart of UNESCO's mandate. She stated that "countries must act in a spirit of shared responsibility for the maintenance of a culture of global peace. UNESCO plays a unique role in the promotion of education and the development of a scientific culture and a Culture of Peace to tackle climate change and ocean pollution." She stressed the importance of the training of young people, whose role will be essential in the promotion of a culture of peace.



### 1.1. Actions to minimize the negative impact of climate change on the blue economy

During this session, **Mr Pier Paolo Balladelli**, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Angola, focused his presentation on the important results that came from a global awareness on climate change: the doubling, in about ten years, of the surface area of marine protected zones; legal and judicial improvements against illegal fishing; the end of the decline in fish stocks.

However, important challenges of coastal vulnerability still need to be addressed. He called the attention on the uncontrolled coastal urbanization in the fragile coastal zone, the acidification of the ocean with a dramatic impact on marine and human life and the floods with the progression of rains and extreme climatological events.

### 1.2. The role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC / UNESCO) in the promotion of ocean sciences and its contribution to the African Decade of the Ocean and Seas

The IOC Executive Secretary, Mr Vladimir Ryabinin, during his online greeting of the participants, apologized for not being able to be physically present. His presentation focused on the work undertaken in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development, with a planned implementation date as from January 2021. As mandated by the UN General Assembly, the IOC/UNESCO is in charge of the coordination of the decade's preparatory phase in close consultation with Member States, United Nations agencies as well as institutional partners and non-governmental organizations and all relevant stakeholders. With regard to the Coastal Vulnerability Initiative, he stated, "it will contribute to the management of the coastal zone and the marine area, the promotion of the blue economy, capacity building in ocean sciences, and combating coastal erosion in central Africa".

### 3.1. The initiative on strengthening ocean sciences and combating coastal vulnerability in Central Africa.

**Mr Justin Ahanhanzo**, UNESCO's focal point and coordinator of the Initiative, presented a brief overview of the African continent's peculiar geography, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. The seas and oceans bordering Africa offer incomparable natural resources, including fishery, gas, coastal and offshore hydrocarbons, exceptional sources of renewable marine energy, maritime routes and ports for transport and international and regional trade. In this respect, he mentioned President Mandela's speech at the Cape Town Conference in 1998, to emphasise the paradox of plenty relative to the African continent.

Referring to the initiative on institutional capacity building in ocean sciences and the fight against coastal vulnerability in Central Africa, he stressed the need for an inventory of the institutional capacities and human resources of the countries concerned. He stated that, to achieve long terms results, "specialists from those countries must play the leading role, and it is imperative for them to invest massively in the infrastructures of basic science research, ocean technologies and innovations".

Coastal vulnerability is a vicious circle that generates a chain of fragilities, including - the weakness of coastal goods and properties; ecological destructibility; economic exposure; social and societal vulnerability; increased threats to life; and other vulnerabilities due to the increased migration of populations.

He finally mentioned the various African initiatives adopted by the Summits of Heads of State of the African Union, including the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy, the Decade of African the Seas and Oceans, the Lomé Charter and other initiatives as part of the African Union 2063.



*Youth in Africa are increasingly committed with climate change. - Young people demonstrating for better climate management in South Africa.*

### 3.2. Situation of Oceanographic Research Stations in Angola

**Dr. Filomena Vaz Velho**, IOC Focal Point at the Ministry of Fisheries and the Sea in Angola, presented on the state of the marine and coastal environment observation and monitoring systems in Angola. The monitoring programs set up are based on a time series, which allow the ministry to know the temporal and seasonal variability of marine and coastal ecosystems in Angolan coastal waters. The conductivity, temperature and depth measurement series cover the period between 1997 and 2019. She explained that studies are being carried out for the knowledge of the circulation and the variability of the current in the tropical Atlantic. The physicochemical parameters are also considered, namely the salinity, the level of nutrients and minerals, the level of dissolved oxygen, which makes

it possible to determine the minimum oxygen zones, as well as the acidification phenomenon. The Coastal Vulnerability Initiative in Central Africa opens up new perspectives for expanding and deepening research at the sub-regional level.

### 3.3. Environmental Monitoring of Oil Operating areas in Angola.

**Dr. Manuel Xavier**, presented a set of complex and complete protocols, which meet the international standards governing environmental monitoring of petroleum operating areas. These international legal standards are becoming increasingly binding in order to guarantee the safety and security of operations, as well as the integrity of the ecosystems associated with the areas exploited. Given the classification of data contained in his presentation, the file was not given to the organizers.





The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. We request the **African Union's** support for the development of a continental and Pan-African programme on coastal vulnerability in Africa, within the context of Agenda 2063 and in particular the “Integrated Maritime Strategy of the African Union to 2050”, the “African Union Decade for the African Seas and Oceans (2015-2025)” and the “African Charter on Maritime Safety and Security and Development in Africa”;
2. We request the support of other **regional entities, the UN system and other multilateral development partners** and the **Governments of the countries concerned in Central Africa** for the development and implementation of the sub-regional framework programme.
3. Considering the complexity of the confluence zone represented by the coastline, and taking into account UNESCO's intersectoral and multidisciplinary mandate, we invite **UNESCO**, including the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission** to support the definition, formulation, development and implementation of the sub-regional initiative in an intersectoral manner. To deliver on these recommendations, we ask for a creation of a Task Force to oversee the processes.

### iii.2.5 Reflections on current policies for the integration of people of African descent and contemporary migrants

*School girls in Livingston, Eastern Guatemala. The city used to be Guatemala's biggest port in the Caribbean sea and is mainly populated by Latinos, Mayas, Afro-Caribbeans and Garifunas who are descendants of West African, Central African, Island Carib and Arawak people.*

**Moderator: Mr Luis Kandjimbo**, Director General of the Higher Institute of Metropolitan Polytechnics, Angola;

**Co-moderator: Mr Dimitri Sanga**, Director of UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

#### Panelists

1. **Mr Edizon Federico Leon Castro**, Professor and Researcher on the African Diaspora, Ecuador;
2. **Ms Susana Matute**, Director of Afro-African Public Policies, Ministry of Culture, Peru;
3. **Prof. Abdi Kusow**, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University, United States;
4. **Mr Cornélio Caley**, Adviser to the Ministry of Culture, Angola.

Demographically, the diaspora represents a significant portion of Global Africa. Overall, it is more educated and skilled than its continental counterpart. Moreover, it has contributed significantly to the development of countries of destination. This session was envisaged to provide an in-depth discussion on how to approach the relationship between the diaspora and the African continent. It sought to bridge the gap between theory and practice on the ties that bind

the concept of Global Africa and the realities encountered.

There is a need to distinguish between the classic long-standing diaspora and the contemporary one. The relationship of the latter with the continent is currently based on their economic power, represented, in part, by the financial weight that remittances play. The African Union should explore effective ways of making use of remittances, among other non-financial attributes of the diaspora's input, for the development of the continent.

As far as the classic (long standing) diaspora is concerned, there is a need to create a system where it is encouraged to have a good understanding of the continent so that it can contribute with the skills and competencies useful for Africa's development. However, in doing so, one has to be cautious about the potential of creating greater inequalities between the returning diaspora and the local population given that this is likely to translate into greater societal polarization.

The diaspora has played a significant role in intellectually shaping Pan-Africanism, and it helped shaping the liberation movements that led to the self-determination and independence of various African countries. To this extent, the African Union and its member states should therefore endeavor to reach out to the diaspora through the establishment of relevant channels with the view of reinvigorating these links to the continent, preferably delineating this at the policy level.

While it is quite legitimate to expect that the diaspora should contribute to the development of the continent, it should be noted that this is a two-way relationship, as Africa itself needs to contribute to keep, and to further explore this bond between the diaspora and the continent.

**Dr. Abdi Kusow** reiterated the strong presence of the African diaspora in the Americas. Brazil occupies a prominent place, with African descendants making up 35-40% of the country's population; in the United States African descendants account for approximately 25% of the overall population. This historical diaspora has substantially influenced



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societies of the New World, shaping the political, economic, social and cultural arenas. Hence, the question is to what degree do the populations in those countries consider themselves as African diaspora? To what extent do the countries – for example Brazil, – although not African but with a considerable African influence in its state and social construction - take into account the close intertwined historical, ethnic and cultural background with Africa?

These issues require that the concept of African diaspora - the so called 6<sup>th</sup> region of Africa according to the African Union - is defined in a more clear manner.

The African diaspora has also contributed to the West and the rest of the world, when it comes to the social and political evolution, and in other areas including helping to formulate the ideals of human rights, emancipation and freedom.

Conversely, the diaspora within the continent, and abroad, play a significant role in the development and the aspirations of the African continent. The classical or historic diaspora had a fundamental influence on the Pan-African movement; they also played a significant part in the struggles for independence and liberation processes. Additionally, the diaspora are bearers of capital, expertise, and know-how, along with other elements essential to the development of their ancestral home. Remittances are an important example of this form of contribution; nevertheless, the future generations of Africans are yet to see the concrete effects and the results of this trend.

**Mr Edizon Federico Leon Castro** shared his experience from Ecuador. He explained that stepping on the African continent for the first time ever relaunches and plants new theoretical challenges when considering the diaspora as the 6<sup>th</sup> region of Africa.

He stated that it is important when considering the experience of the countries of Latin America to determine what the diaspora has meant in the existence of peoples of African descent -. He proposed that the existence of the Afro descendants in these countries was

sustained thanks to the construction of being assumed as children of the African diaspora; which was set in motion by the initial kidnapping of human beings in the context of slavery, that resulted in the fragmentation, dispersion and disarticulation of multiple local identities.

On the debate over the question of reparations to slavery, he reiterated that there are numerous forms of reparations, which include the processes of auto-reparation. In this regard, we cannot limit ourselves to peace, which is often used as a vacuous statement, but rather seek out processes of solidifying identities as members of the diaspora.

From the movements of *Negritude* and Pan-Africanism that emerged in America, African-American peoples appeal to their roots and project in Africa, a belonging that gives way to an ancestral sentiment that shapes their own identities. Henceforth, the construction of these varied African identities should take form in the intricate cultural and existential fabric, which should include oral memory.

It must be emphasized that Africa has a paramount geopolitical position in the world, where hegemony is fiercely contested. How does the diaspora fit into the geopolitical chessboard? Hence, there is a need to understand the diaspora as a political entity, which in itself is a collection of identities that constitute a process for institutionalizing the 6<sup>th</sup> region of Africa. Intercultural dialogue needs to prevail as the channel for exchange between the diaspora and the African continent.

**Mr Cornélio Caley** recalled that the current migration trends, in particular of sub-Saharan Africans to Europe, are mostly ascribed to so-called “unskilled hand”. These migrations have turned to the south of Europe in a clandestine way, fueled in part by the perilous trans-Mediterranean journey, due to political reasons, or even epidemics, like the Ebola virus, that are devastating the continent.

These reflections are not always compiled in an accessible manner to all AU member states’ institutions and interested parties. However, reflections on the search for peace among Africans date



back to the times of struggle against colonial systems, i.e., they rest on the great Pan-African movement. They evolve in the ideas of solidarity, fraternity and develop in moments of armed struggle for national liberation, culminating in independence. In that specific context, it was a historical and solidary embrace among Africans that led to the eventual freedom and mass national independence on the continent, albeit with the passing of time, the solidary embrace has subsided.

The proclamation of the Organization of African Unity in 1963 can be interpreted as a political act to find peace among Africans. This was followed by turbulent times when citizens of one country had to seek peace in the neighboring country because of the ethno-political conflicts that arose almost everywhere on the African continent. Many attempts and resolutions were made to promote peace between neighboring countries. For it depended essentially on the colonial heritage of inherited and independent states. This situation still prevails, although fortunately on a smaller scale.

Today, there is a movement of elites, not only towards Europe (in form of capital flight and the phenomenon of brain-drain) but also towards the more stable African countries, for example, South Africa. For this reason, the xenophobic movement has emerged and needs to be seriously analyzed and countered. We need to have a concerted mutually beneficial and sustainable effort to combine migration with development, establish transnational networks of artists and creators, and cities as cultural havens. All this can turn migration into a positive and sustainable factor.

Since its independence, Angola has and continues to do its part in the integration of peoples of African descent. However, it is necessary to introduce policies at the AU level to revert the brain-drain on the continent, and stimulate intercultural encounters, such as the Biennale of Luanda. These types of forums will further encourage and cement the exchange of the diaspora, especially among the youth.

**Ms Susana Matute**, stated that when it comes to historical African diaspora

in Peru and, by extension across Latin America, the issue at stake is how to reconcile the Afro identity with the national identity. To what degree is there a friction between these identities, especially when considering the intermixing of ethnicities, cultures and histories, prevalent in Latin America? Comparatively, the example of the Angolan national identity is naturally anchored in Africa, hence has no need to recapture their identity as a diaspora. Regardless, she affirmed that the fundamental elements shared are the common experiences. As a member of the African diaspora in Peru, she informed the gathering that this was her first experience in Africa, further reiterating the need to invigorate the vibrant connections between the Americas and the African continent.

Her work focuses on the implementation of public policies in favour of the Afro-Peruvian population within the framework of the International Decade of People of African Descent. On July 14, 2016, the Peruvian state through Supreme Decree 003 approved the National Development Plan for Afro-Peruvian Population (PLANDEPA), thus becoming the first public policy aimed at guaranteeing the attention and protection of the rights of the Afro-descendant population in Peru. PLANDEPA consists of four strategic objectives:

(i) Statistical Visibility; (ii) Guarantee the right to equality and non-discrimination; (iii) Promotion of social, political, economic, productive and cultural development with identity and equal opportunities; and (iv) Promotion of citizenship, their participation and contribution to decision making.

The Directorate of Policies for Afro-Peruvian Population is responsible for the design as well as the implementation of the PLANDEPA and has developed an intervention strategy that includes two dimensions: sectoral and territorial.

### Plenary Session

The session's discussions extended into a conversation between panel members and the audience, ranging from the issues of structural violence inflicted upon

African diaspora to the context of slavery that shaped societies in the Americas, and the importance of reconnecting the diaspora with the African continent.

The panel members reiterated the need to distinguish between historical and contemporary diaspora, they also wanted to clarify these definitions given the multitude and complexity of these identities born from the process of the diaspora. Recalling that this was one of the struggles, based on a history of physical, psychological and intellectual violence. The liberation independence processes in Africa are strong reminders of the colonial past.

An audience member pointed out that within the framework of intercultural dialogue, the fundamentals should not be overlooked. More specifically, they wanted to highlight the asymmetrical power relationships that are currently present or that may arise between diasporas and Africans. These asymmetrical power relationships can manifest themselves on both sides for a myriad reasons. The question is where these discussions pertaining to the diaspora and Global Africa are being advanced, is it in or outside of Africa?

Although there is a need to give the diaspora a chance to revisit and discover Africa for themselves, it should be remembered that this is an arduous process. Questions regarding the difficulties of global mobility despite the advances of globalization were also raised. Moreover, the current political context present in parts of the global North and South, of populism, nationalism and xenophobia hinders the potential of returnees to Africa. Additionally, the income and wealth gaps between the diaspora and local communities in Africa also incur on the dimension of inequality and wealth distribution. Rich diasporas coming back to the reality of poverty and underdevelopment seen across the continent is a cause for further polarization.

The issue of the historical European diaspora, present in Africa, which yearns to reconnect with their ancestors, - similar to the way Afro descendants around the world yearn for reconnection with the

African continent – needs also consideration: the world today is a crossroad of civilizations and as such the inclusion of the European culture in Africa (the European diaspora) into the global history of Africa is a necessity as well. Therefore, the concept of the diaspora needs to be viewed in a fraternal and solidary way, regardless of the origin, form or constitution of this diaspora.

A remnant of the colonial memory, pointed out by a young student in the audience, is in the form of language. Language is a code, and today, a great part of Africa still speaks the code of colonialism.

Questions were raised about the development and the role that is played by remittances, diaspora capital, and even reparations for future African generations. In particular, there needs to be foresight when it comes to the question of reparations on a generational scale; what would the results and the needs of the first, second and third generations of Africans and Afro descendants be?

Conferences such as this one organized by UNESCO, the African Union and the Government of Angola in this Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace, are opportunities to bridge the gap between the diasporas and the African continent, internationally and intra-regionally. This space for intercultural dialogue allows for fathoming the intricate and intertwined facets of the shared experiences, and to solidify these bonds in an institutional manner.

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

Recalling that the diaspora has played an important role in the intellectual formulation of Pan-Africanism and in fueling liberation movements leading to self-determination and independence in various **African countries**, we invite the **African Union** and its member states to establish relevant channels of communication with the diaspora in order to revitalize its ties with the continent.



*African diaspora community in New York raising awareness on drought and famine in Africa.*

### iii.2.6 The Baku Process: Promoting intercultural dialogue for human security, peace and sustainable development - Lessons and perspectives

**Moderator: Mr Vasif Eyvazzade**, Secretary of the International Working Group, “The Baku Process”, Deputy Head of Administration, Head of Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

#### Panelists:

1. **H. E. Mr Anar Karimov**, Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO;
2. **Prof. Mike Hardy**, Executive Director, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, University of Coventry and Advisor to the Government of Azerbaijan (Through video);
3. **Mr Hugue Charnie Ngandeu Ngata**, Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Regional Office for West Africa.

#### Introduction

The session focused on the Baku Process, a platform that was established to create a positive space for an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds, living on different continents, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect. The discussions centered around the engagement of the Government of Azerbaijan to promote intercultural dialogue, as well as on possible cooperation opportunities with Africa, including through the Baku Process, for advancing intercultural dialogue for human security, peace and sustainable development.

The meeting started with a description of the Baku Process, highlighting the historical context of engagement of the Government of Azerbaijan and its contribution to the process. This was followed by a short film<sup>71</sup> on the Baku Process on advancing intercultural dialogue for human security, peace and sustainable development; and thereafter by an overview that looked at the links between the Baku process and the Biennale, with a special focus on African countries. One key element that was highlighted here was the global threat of coexistence among diverse cultures.

<sup>71</sup> To view this video, please visit the following link: <https://youtu.be/QvKNOHqzMio>

#### Presentations and main discussions

**Ambassador Anar Karimov**, gave an overview of the relationship between Azerbaijan and Africa, and highlighted the challenges that were faced on issues of culture of peace. He referred to the long-term engagement of the Government of Azerbaijan with Africa, which dates back to the 1960s, when 8000 students from Africa were offered scholarships in Azerbaijan, including the former President of Angola. He also informed that his country was engaging with Africa nowadays based on a strategic vision of a developed Africa. He explained that the aim of the partnership is to address the continent’s hardships, which poverty, epidemics and wars, through the following three pillars: 1) Assistance and engagement through Azerbaijan International Development Agency<sup>72</sup>, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa; 2) Development assistance and capacity building, particularly on girls’ education<sup>73</sup> and; 3) Protection of cultural heritage through the provision of trainings and capacity building focusing on issues that protect such sites, for instance in Mali. Both activities cited under points 2 and 3 are undertaken through the support of Funds-in-Trust agreement with UNESCO.

While he praised the increasing participation of African countries in the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogues (WFID), he also advocated for a stronger African presence and the need to build appropriate collaboration and synergies to increase the continent’s influence in the Forum. He expressed gratitude for having had the opportunity to meet different UNESCO field office Directors, and that he will build on the conversation started with them. He also expressed his desire to make sure that more African institutions, experts, and good practices from the continent are brought on board

<sup>72</sup> Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) was established on 14 September 2011 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main purpose is to support the efforts of the international community in addressing social problems around the world (<http://aida.mfa.gov.az/>).

<sup>73</sup> He cited the behavioral change among adolescent girls’ project in Kenya and the efforts for stopping Female Genital Mutilation under the Maasai in Tanzania as an example.



– with greater resonance within WFID. He stressed that the Baku Process is a global platform seeking to engage more partners, like the Africa Union. He made clear that the Process was ready to create more opportunities for larger engagement from countries in Africa. He also emphasized the need to build synergies and cooperation through private-public partnership. He concluded by calling for the establishment of interactions between the Luanda Biennale and the Baku Process on a permanent basis, while recommending that the forum be followed by concrete actions.

**Prof. Mike Hardy** made his presentation by video<sup>74</sup>. He started by pointing to the technical and intellectual aspects of the preparation of the Baku Process and the work of the task force for the preparation of WFID. He connected the Baku Process with the timeliness for examining, thinking and exchanging ideas on peace and security. He emphasized that climate change and poverty are the largest challenges facing humankind, reiterating that climate change presents a major threat to security, driving migration and displacement of people. He referred to the three major issues discussed at the 5<sup>th</sup> Baku WFID: 1) Intercultural dialogue: culture, art and heritage; 2) Women as important contributors to intercultural dialogue, and 3) Intercultural dialogue among world religions. He also emphasized the need for member states through their Heads of State and ministers to join the Baku Process as a global movement towards promotion of intercultural dialogue.

**Mr Hugue Ngatta** presented the work of the Intercultural Dialogue Section at UNESCO HQ, within the context of the Social and Human Sciences sector<sup>75</sup>. He used testimonies and examples to show the cooperation between UNESCO and Azerbaijan on the Baku Process and WFID. He demonstrated some of the examples by referring to the five functions of UNESCO:



1. The Baku Process supports UNESCO's **Laboratory of Ideas**, as it helps to shed more light on intercultural dialogue and the advancement of research, knowledge production and innovation in this area, to build more peaceful and inclusive societies;
2. The function of **clearing house**, under which the reactivation of the Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs on Interreligious Dialogue for Intercultural Understanding was made possible, and its institutionalization within the WFID, since the first edition in 2015. The publication of "Interculturalism at the Crossroad" (2017) was mentioned as a key product of this reinvigorated UNITWIN Network, thanks to the platform offered by WFID. The E-Platform on ICD project, funded by Azerbaijan under its Funds-in-Trust modality with UNESCO, and its contribution to bring together experts from all regions of the world to inventory, assess and make recommendations on resourceful tools, initiatives and practices to promote ICD. Many of these are reflected in an interactive e-portal, which is to be improved upon, thanks to a Phase II of this project, recently approved.
3. In relation to the contribution to the **normative function of UNESCO**, he indicated that the Baku Process and WFID is a unique platform that translates some of the major UNESCO in-

<sup>74</sup> To view the video, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/2WTGLNx>

<sup>75</sup> This sector is the UNESCO technical entity supporting the Baku Process

struments in the field of culture into practice. From the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), as well as the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH, and the WHC of 1972, the Baku WFID is a meeting point for genuine dialogue of cultures. Azeri culture and those of the different nations of the world are gathered there, with fruitful interactions; from food to music to world heritage through to the Old Baku Tour.

4. UNESCO's function of **capacity builder of its member states** is also strengthened through the Baku Process and WFID. He referred to interventions from co-panelists and statistics provided by many member states attending the Forum, the different sessions, Ministerial Forum and variety of themes addressed, with information shared, knowledge passed on, good practices brought forward. Baku WFID is indeed a unique capacity building and networking opportunity, to which the Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs on ICD brings another perspective.
5. The Baku Process and the WFID is a **Platform for International Cooperation**, which feeds into the fifth function of UNESCO. This function seeks to enhance the organization's work on intercultural dialogue, while synergizing with key partners, including participating UN agencies and other organization and members of the task force and/or those conveyed to the WFID. Above all, he highlighted how this platform for international cooperation and its contributions strengthens UNESCO's role as lead UN agency for the IDRC (2013-2022), and the effective implementation of its action plan.

In conclusion, he informed the audience about the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)<sup>76</sup> which serves as a follow-up to the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World that the Luanda Forum is carrying forward. Therefore, it is important to build bridges between Luanda and Baku, and in doing so, ensure that there is a more effective presence and contribution from Africa in the WFID. He concluded by introducing the upcoming Regional Conference on the Governance of Diversity, which will be held in Accra, Ghana, from 10 to 11 October 2019, as an opportunity to mobilize African expertise, institutions and other actors on themes relevant to the Baku Process. This will allow stakeholders to build the synergy called upon by the representatives of the Government of Azerbaijan for more African presence in the Baku World Forum of Intercultural Dialogue.

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. Considering the implementation of the "International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures" (2013-2022), we call for the creation of **synergies between the "Baku Process" and the "Luanda Biennale – Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace"**;
2. Ensure the **participation of young people** from Africa in the "Baku Process", with a view to promote intercultural dialogue and the culture of peace, and encourage the **participation of all African** countries.

<sup>76</sup> The "rapprochement of cultures" implies that international security and social inclusion cannot be attained sustainably without a commitment to such principles as human dignity, conviviality and solidarity which are the corner stones of human coexistence, in all faiths and secular ideologies (<https://en.unesco.org/decade-rapprochement-cultures>)







### iii.3 YOUTH FORUM

The Youth Forum of the Biennale of Luanda was designed to provide a platform for experience sharing and encourage reflections, recommendations and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder alliance around Youth, Peace and Security, and on Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation within the continent.

While the forum presented a great opportunity to foster meaningful youth engagement and prioritize concrete actions to advance the continental agenda, it was regrettable that due to budgetary constraints, only a few young people could attend in person. To address this issue, an online platform was created 3 weeks prior to the event increasing the engagement of many more youth on the thematic areas of focus.

The online discussion took place through social media (Facebook events) whereby 1300 young people participated. During the online discussions, the contributions were evaluated, discussed and gathered to add to the recommendations of the Youth Statement, which was adopted at the forum by the participating youths. In addition, a call was made for project proposals aligned with the themes of the Youth Forum. As a result several high-quality project proposals were received and evaluated, from which five were selected and submitted to the Partners Forum component of the Biennale of Luanda.

The Youth Statement was subjected to further discussions and deliberations during the forum and the recommendations from the panel sessions were recorded. The statement was transformed into the Youth Commitment that was adopted and presented during the forum as the outcome of the Youth Forum segment of the Biennale of Luanda.









### iii.3.1 Youth, Peace and Security

The Youth Forum, with the general theme “Youth and the Culture of Peace”, gave a platform for dialogue and reflection to young people from the continent and young diaspora. The first session of the forum focused on “Youth, Peace and Security”.

**Moderator: Mr Bonheur Djerabe Djat-to**, Expert in Information and Communication Technologies / Early Warning and Conflict Prevention of the Economic Community of Central African States, (ECCAS).

#### Panelists

1. **Ms Mfrekeobong Ukpanah**, Chief Youth Network for Peace and Security of the African Union;
2. **Mr John Paul Ekene Ikwele**, Chairperson of the Pan-African Youth network for the Culture of Peace;
3. **Mr Achakele Christian Leke**, Coordinator of the Local Youth Corner in Cameroun;
4. **Mr Noemio Dylan Mukoroli**, Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa Youth Network for the Culture of Peace.

#### Introduction

The session started with a video<sup>77</sup> introducing the theme followed by the moderator’s presentation, which clarified the aim of the session. He asked the panelists to share their insights and experience with the implementation process of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2250 and 2419 and Article 17 of the African Youth Charter, in their respective countries and in Africa more broadly.

Their contributions and exchanges with the public were organized around the following questions:

- What is the level of popularization and appropriation of the UNSCR 2250 and 2419 in your country and sub-region by governments and youth organizations? Is there an action plan in your country, or in another sub-region for its implementation?
- If there is a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of Article 17 and UNSCR 2250 and 2419 in your country, is it due to the government taking initiative, or is it as a result of pressure and advocacy from civil society organizations and/or technical partners? Is it the culmination of an inclusive process

*In order to give African youths the opportunity to make their voices heard, regional platforms were set up, for in person exchanges at the Africa Youth conference held in Nairobi in 2018 and, online - in preparation for the Biennale of Luanda*

<sup>77</sup> To see the video please click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/CAYT3yM2X1Q>





involving multiple stakeholders, including youth organizations?

- Which of the recommendations from the independent studies on Youth, Peace and Security apply to your country? Are they specified in the national action plan for implementing Article 17 of the African Youth Charter and UNSCR 2250 and 2419? In the process of implementing Article 17 and UNSCR 2250 and 2419 in your country, what can be cited as good practice?
- According to the independent study on Youth, Peace and Security, young people are absent from peace processes because they are victims of the “violence of exclusion” in six main areas: (i) political integration; (ii) economic integration; (iii) education; (iv) gender equality; (v) injustice and human rights and (vi) disengagement and reintegration. Which of the six areas pose the greatest challenges in your country? In which of these areas can your country consider itself an example?
- In your country’s development and implementation of a national action plan for Article 17 and UNSCR 2250 and 2419, which of the independent studies on Youth, Peace and Security will apply specifically to your country? And which one can be specified in the national action plan on the implementation of Article 17 and UNSCR 2250 and 2419?
- How can young people and youth organizations in your country, and in Africa in general, appropriate Article 17 and UNSCR 2250 and 2419, and advocate for its implementation?
- After passing the UNSCR 2250 and 2419, the African Union Peace and Security Council (SPC), in its 807th meeting on “Youth, Peace and Security” held on 8 November 2018 in Egypt, called on “all Member States to urgently implement Resolution 2250, to remove all structural obstacles to effective youth participation, to mobilize the necessary resources and to develop long-term national action plans for involvement and participation to promote peace and securi-

ty, as well as national development processes”. Do you consider this call to be sufficient for creating an inclusive platform for youth participation? If not, what more can be done by the African Union to accelerate the implementation of Article 17, resolutions 2250 and 2419, in its Member States?

### Presentations and main discussions

#### **Ms Mfrekeobong Ukpanah, Chief Youth Network for Peace and Security of the African Union**

Africa continues to grapple with diverse threats to peace and security arising from a combination of several factors, including political instability, grievances over exclusion and marginalization, transnational organized crimes (arms, drugs and human trafficking), violent extremism and fundamentalism, amongst other things. Whereas, diverse stakeholders instigate and sustain these conflicts, youth in Africa have often been perceived as the perpetrators of violence - with little or no attention paid to their increasing roles and contributions towards preventive actions. Indeed, youths on the continent are active in building a culture of peace amongst their peers and broader society. Yet, often, young women and men are only involved in peace interventions as beneficiaries without acknowledgements of their skills to lead, implement and monitor peace interventions.

These perceptions and lopsided engagements of youth facilitated calls for a United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted the historic UNSCR 2250, which recognizes the significant roles of youth in the promotion of peace and security, encouraging their meaningful participation via five pillars: 1) participation, 2) prevention, 3) protection, 4) partnerships and 5) disengagement and reintegration. The UNSCR 2250 mandated the elaboration of the independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security - the missing piece that documents youth contributions and challenges in peace



*The Unit4heritage was powered by UNESCO to champion the preservation of cultural heritage and mobilise against extremists' destruction of heritage sites. Since it was welcomed by the international community, Youths have been identified as key stakeholders for the promotion of peace and cultural preservation through this campaign*

and security. It makes strategic recommendations for the implementation of UNSCR 2250 to include nomination of YPS focal points, who will champion national YPS coalitions, with the aim of implementing commitments on UNSCR 2250. It urges regional and continental bodies to support the development of policy frameworks that address YPS issues in partnership with youth. Among other things, it encourages the UN to provide financial support to youth led and oriented organizations, thus ensuring a periodic engagement between the UN and youth through an inclusive participation at the UNSC, especially for youths from countries on the UNSC agenda.

In June 2018, the UNSC further adopted UNSCR 2419, which encourages the effective participation of youth in peace negotiations and implementation. This gave impetus to the commissioning of a global policy paper on the participation of youth in peace processes. The paper identifies youth participation in peace processes across 3 layers: 1) inside, 2) around and 3) outside the room and makes substantive recommenda-

tions for the inclusion of youth in all phases and tracks of peace processes and the establishment of young insider mediation networks for the effective implementation and durability of peace agreement as well.

In this regard and as part of the efforts to implement Article 17 of the AU Youth Charter of 2006 (AYC) and UNSCR 2250/2419, the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the African Union Commission (AUC) launched the Youth for Peace (Y4P) Africa Program in September 2018 in Lagos, Nigeria, with the cardinal objective of including, investing and partnering with youth for the promotion of sustainable peace and security in Africa. Article 17 of the AYC prescribes that AU Member States work with youth on peace and security across seven areas: (i) capacity building; (ii) promotion of a culture of peace via education and dialogue; (iii) condemnation of armed conflicts and prevention of sexual slavery of young people; (iv) protection of civilian population including youth during armed conflicts; (v) mobilization of youth for the reconstruction of war-torn areas



including bringing assistance to war victims; (vi) promote peace, reconciliation and rehabilitation actions; and (vii) promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of young victims. It is against this background that the Youth4Peace Africa program seeks to effectively engage, involve and collaborate with youth (individual and organizations) in the promotion of peace and security on the continent. This is expected to contribute towards changing the negative perception of youth as harbingers of violence.

Further, as part of the efforts to gain political will in the implementation of the programme, the Youth4Peace Africa program advocated and secured the first open session of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) on Youth, Peace and Security, held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in commemoration of the Africa Youth Day. Key decisions of the communiqué of the 807<sup>th</sup> meeting on the PSC include: (i) call to member states to urgently implement UNSCR 2250, 2419 and other regional and continental instruments relating to youth peace and security;

(ii) appointment of five regional African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP) to champion the promotion of peace in collaboration with the AU Youth Envoy; (iii) finalization of the ongoing framework on youth peace and security; and (iv) commissioning of a study to assess the role and contributions of youth in peace and security on the continent. The PSC also institutionalized an annual session on YPS. Plans are ongoing to validate the continental study and framework on YPS, which is anchored in Article 17 of AYC and UNSCR 2250. It is our hope that the continental framework will serve as a guide to Member States in the development of national action plans as mandated by PSC; build and enhance the capacities of youth; support diverse efforts and interventions of youth on peace and security; develop a five year strategic plan (2020 – 2024); select the AYAP who in collaboration with the AU Youth Envoy will champion peaceful coexistence in Africa especially amongst youth agencies. The report from the study, the continental framework and the AYAP will be presented and inaugurated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC session on YPS in November 2019.







*The “16 days of activism against violence against women and girls”, - a campaign designed to raise awareness among youth - through an inter-school competition focussed on promoting peace and the knowledge of the law*

The regional and national level consultations for the PSC-mandated study provided unquestionable evidence of the incredible actions of young women, and men across the spectrum of peace and security, including but not limited to the following:

- In **West Africa**, the *Sanctuary of Hope and Charity Foundation*, a youth-oriented organization is conducting awareness for youth in schools and universities on the dangers of drug abuse and criminalization of drug trafficking. In collaboration with Nigeria’s drug and law enforcement agency as well as psychiatric doctors, the group has reached more than 8,000 young people in 12 of the 36 states in Nigeria. The organization has also facilitated the rescue of 31 youth from drug abuse.
- In **Cameroon**, through its Youth Initiative for Inclusive Dialogue (YILD) program, *LifeAid* advocates for young people as forerunners of inclusive dialogue in the ongoing Anglophone crisis. This work includes shuttle mediation efforts between disputing parties. The group is also raising awareness on the consequences of the crisis, drawing attention to issues such as, for example, the plight of displaced people and the increased risk of radicalization and violent extremism in the Anglophone areas.
- In **Rwanda**, a youth organization mobilizes people against hate speech and genocidal ideologies and conducts training, dialogues forums and conferences with the objective of preventing a re-occurrence of the 1994 genocide and all forms of atrocity crimes.
- In **Somalia**, the Centre for Youth Empowerment works to promote the participation of youth, especially young women in decision making against systemic and cultural hindrances in Burao region of Togheer. The group has succeeded in lobbying traditional and religious authorities to allocate seats to youth and women in the decision-making process.
- In **Zimbabwe**, Community Solutions Zimbabwe (CSZ) initiated and implemented the Youth Capacity Building and Advocacy Initiative on National Peace and Reconciliation. The group engaged in targeted advocacy at the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) to encourage meaningful participation of youth in the NPRC-led dialogue that facilitated peaceful political transition.



Their interventions created awareness especially within the NPRC structure, which now increasingly strives to ensure meaningful youth participation in all peace and reconciliation efforts. It also nurtured trust between the country's youth and NPRC as the former are now dedicated and actively participating in all NPRC outreach consultations across the 10 provinces.

The undertaking of peace education by diverse youth organizations, including those working in remote communities to create peace clubs and raise peer mediators in schools is strategic, as these steps go a long way towards building a culture of peace in pupils. The aim is to instill these values in young people so that they are not easily discarded, as they grow older. Several young people have also taken to arts, music, movies and sport, for example, to promote peace and foster cohesion in their communities. This is very appealing, as these are spaces young people are readily found and could be enticed/incentivized for peace. Hence, I have conceived what I term the CAR approach – Creative, appealing/Attractive and Rewarding - as a measure to promote peace. With this in mind, the Youth4Peace Africa Program team, with support from the AU leadership, will

be instituting an annual reward scheme for young peacebuilders. Youth4Peace will also be using a range of creative and attractive ways to promote peace across the continent. The above examples are only minor evidence of youth engagement as agents of peace on the continent. Youth4Peace Africa program is convinced that given the opportunity and space to operate, African youth will undoubtedly and effectively promote sustainable peace either in the formal or informal sectors.

To foster sustainable peace, security and development - several structures, policies, programmes and attitudinal changes are required. For instance, we need to review strategies to capture the heart, mind and soul of youth for peace – we are not solely interested in their promotion of peace, but mostly interested in their being peaceful and ‘infecting’ the world with the peace they carry. (as the saying goes, ‘you can’t give what you don’t have’). We need to work to control and silence the negative and inciteful thoughts that penetrate our minds daily – for all the violence of this world are a direct manifestation of the human mind, hence we must put the mind in check. Specifically, I make the following recommendations:

**To the Government:**

1. We appreciate the diverse policies, programmes and platforms to facilitate youth engagement and involvement. However, these policies and programmes are inadequate and do not necessarily facilitate the active inclusion and participation of youth in design and implementation. As the largest and most potent population of the continent, we need to move beyond the talk and act the talk by ensuring meaningful youth engagement and participation.
2. Provide the political space and resources required to support the youth agency. Deliberately create spaces for youth, including in key positions in the presidency, government and in the private sector.
3. Allocate dedicated financial resources to support the enormous work being done by youth in peacebuilding, entrepreneurship and innovation.
4. Provide the necessary infrastructures to enhance the capacities of youth - supporting also their creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation - for their effective contribution and drive of the 4th industrial revolution on the continent and beyond.

**To the Youth:**

1. Arise Ye African Youth and assert your leadership in all spheres.
2. Awake from slumber, circumstances, and blame-games and create the future you desire and deserve. There is no room to wallow in self-pity; we can no longer afford to cry or bemoan unavailability of jobs, perceptions of marginalization and exclusion. We need to arise and upset the status quo, shake off obstacles and build peace, foster cohesion and create employment and livelihood opportunities.
3. You can no longer afford to wait for seats to be allocated to you on the table. Peaceably arise to demand and take your seats on the table; where necessary, create inclusive tables to drive desired changes. Have impact that cannot be comprehended but yet cannot be denied – this way, no one will deny your presence or impact but rather lobby for your participation at the decision making and implementing tables.
4. Refrain from unhealthy competitions that pitch you against your agency. Foster collaborative partnership within available resources while exploring more opportunities; forge and maintain strong links to your respective youth agencies and ensure strategic as well as effective information and communication flows. Adopt a bottom up approach and build trust amongst your agency.
5. We can do all of these and many more because we are the most potent population on the continent with – physical strength, wisdom for unbeatable & inconceivable creativity and innovation. So, arise, activate your subconscious mind - develop positive intent, dwell on strategies to implement this intent and possess the unending burning desire to nurture a better Africa.
6. Arise, take the lead to design, deploy and implement sustainable peace, development and technological strides on the continent and beyond.
7. There is never a better time to act than now – to cultivate, harvest and convert the enormous energies that lies within the African Youth for the promotion of sustainable peace, stability and development for the actualization of the Africa we collectively want, desire and deserve.





### Mr John Paul Ekene ikwele

After so many years of denial, the UN through UNSC Resolutions 2250 and 2419 finally walked the talk by acknowledging the enormous and quintessential contribution of young people to peace and security across the world. Before this happened in 2015, the African Union (maybe without knowing it) had already made same acknowledgement in 2006 under Article 17 of the African Youth Charter - which began with these words: *“In view of the important role of youth in promoting peace and non-violence and the lasting physical and psychological scars that result from involvement in violence, armed conflict and war States Parties shall: [work with youth on peace and security across seven areas].”*

Despite taking the lead on this, several countries in Africa, especially Nigeria has not yet domesticated these legal frameworks. Two weeks ago, over 60 youth

organizations with the support of ECOWAS, AU, WANEP, GIZ, BAYWOOD Foundation and PAYNCoP<sup>78</sup> came together and agreed to drive the involvement of young people in peace and security architectures that exist in Nigeria under the caption: *Youth4Peace Naija*, using an action plan. Hence, it is safe to say that youth organizations are doing their part. But the same cannot be said for the Nigerian government. Although there are processes in place like the Early Warning Centre, but what is concretely missing is youth’s presence in those processes and architectures.

<sup>78</sup> Steaming from UNESCO’s support for youth engagement, the PAYNCoP (Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace) was created in December 2014. It is composed of 60 founding members, of which African Youth Councils and Youth Organizations and Diaspora engaged in actions promoting a culture of peace and of nonviolence on the continent creating synergies between UNESCO Special Envoy Forest Whitaker’s Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation (WPDI), African Youth Organizations and the Diaspora.

*Political Leadership among youth event in Abuja, Nigeria, February 2015: Youths need to be included in the political framework so that they can contribute as current and future peace and security stakeholders*

There are several challenges for youth participation in Nigeria, although in 2018, to an extent, political integration of youth was fostered by reducing the age requirement for elective positions through the *Not Too Young To Run* campaign. Several measures are advised to move towards better youth engagement in peace processes:

1. The first step is to unite and work in coalitions and partnerships among the youth, through PAYNCoP. The work the network has been able to do in its 5 years of existence is remarkable and transformative. There are several other youth-led coalitions doing outstanding work around peace and security in Africa to which youth could link up to.
2. The second step is to evaluate the implementation of the aforementioned frameworks in AU member states.

This could be a recommendation of the Youth Declaration at the end of the Biennale of Luanda Youth Forum.

3. Finally, young people on the continent, especially the ones here at the Biennale, must now work towards professionalization of the work being done by youth groups – such that we can present youth experts who are able to represent Africa’s youth community at every level.

It is a step in the right direction that the AU Peace and Security Council has opened new doors for youth engagement on issues relating to peace and security within the African Union, through the adoption of the Youth4Peace (Y4P) Africa program. I have been an active participant in the activities of the Y4P Africa, and it has been a refreshing journey. However, a lot of intentional approaches or frameworks are needed to remove

*Political Leadership among youth event in Abuja, Nigeria, February 2015*



the structural barriers that hamper the meaningful contribution and participation of youth in the peace and security architectures across the continent, especially at the national level. AU member states should no longer alienate young people from national peace and security discussions, and should evolve from treating young people as beneficiaries, to working with them as partners and leaders. That's the only way forward for sustainable peace and security in Africa.

**Mr Achakele Christian Leke,**  
**Coordinator Local Youth Corner in Cameroon**

The role of young people in peace building is very critical not only because they have always been seen as troublemakers or beneficiaries, but because they have demonstrated innovation, commitment and passion toward promoting peace in their communities. For example, in Cameroon, my organization, *Local Youth Corner*, is working in prisons to support rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates through entrepreneurship development. Today we have over 5000 prisoners benefiting from our programs with 300 of them engaged in sales of goods and services they produce themselves. In fact, they produced what I am wearing today. They have become what we call *prison-preneurs*.

These youth efforts became a legitimate endeavor with the adoption of the UNSCR 2250 and 2419. From this experience in Cameroon, they proved to be key because young Cameroonian voices contributed to the process for the development of these resolutions; for example, they effectively participated in drafting of the Amman declaration. In my capacity as member of the UNOY youth advocacy team, I too participated in the championing process of the resolution.

Unfortunately, despite the adoption of these resolutions, committed young people still lack support in terms of funding as well as opportunities to participate in formal and informal peace processes. Nevertheless, I think that the challenge we are facing as youth is that we are not working towards ensuring the implementation of these policies within our communities and countries. We cannot

wait for government to come and implement these policies for us. We must start ourselves, and by doing so we, will be creating our own space. When these spaces have impact, governments will have no choice than to follow and support us. This is my experience in Cameroon and my involvement with youth across the Commonwealth.

Another major challenge, which is affecting us, young people, is the lack of capacity. From my experience most of us in civil society and peacebuilding want to remain as activists, we do not want to engage in research and tell our own stories. This is not just our fault, but I know we lack capacity. We focus a lot on the activism but neglect how to lobby and strategically build our own space. How many times have we, as young people done events where we make policy recommendations? It is hard to provide policy recommendations and not to talk about implementation. Let us start shifting this narrative. For example, the work of our organization to combat hate speech in collaboration with UNESCO did not just focus on capacity building. We saw an avenue to add knowledge. This gave the opportunity to commission a research on *'Hate Speech and Violent Conflict in Cameroon'*<sup>79</sup>. This enabled us to capture real evidence of hate speech and led to the formulation of key policy recommendations.

Above all of this, my advice is that we do not need to stop doing what we do for our communities, even when there is no support. I suggest that we actively seek to forge partnerships with other organizations. We need to focus on building our personal capacity and networks in order to ensure that our projects are designed and implemented in an efficient manner. From my experience, it is always important for us to seek key partners. We should not forget about the importance of mentorship and intergenerational connections. We might be smart and energetic, but mentors and individuals older than us are very important as they have expe-

<sup>79</sup> For more information please see <https://legideon.org/index.php?page=view/article/649/Hate-Speech-a-Violent-Conflict-Driver-in-Cameroon-LOYOC-Has-Asserted>



rience. Finally, I would like to conclude by repeating that resolutions and policies will only matter for us if we start their implementation within our communities.

**Mr Noemio Dylan Mukoroli,  
Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa  
of the Pan-African Youth Network for the  
Culture of Peace (PAYNCoP)**

With regards to the UNSCR 2250 and 2419, they are not sufficiently known and appropriated by governments and youth organizations. There is a lot of youth development in Namibia, however youth development covers areas of agriculture, financial literacy and industrialization. Youth are still greatly marginalized from the issues of peace and security. Issues of peace and security are regarded as high profile interventions and there is a sentiment that it cannot be left in the hands of young people. Although the sustainable development agenda has great levels of participation amongst young people in the country, there is little emphasis on peace and security.

There are no actions to spearhead the implementation of UNSCR 2250 and 2419. This puts youth at a great disadvantage, as it does not give them a foundational scope to advocate for the issue.

On Article 17 of the African Youth Charter (AYC) that looks at the right to education, ability to freely take part in cultural life of their community and promotion and protection of morals and traditional ideas, this perhaps is an issue that young people are championing. Right to education is a big political issue in my country. The constitution places great legal emphasis on the issue. There exist certain youth organizations that are championing this issue, such as the Namibian National Students Organization (NANSO). However, there is no action to implement article 17 of the AU YPC. The advocacy around right to education is merely an issue of principle, but there is nothing of substance that directly speaks of an action plan.

Of all the areas, the ones that pose a challenge in my country are political integration and economic integration: On Political Integration, Namibia is a relatively young democracy. Having gained independence in 1990, there is a lot that still needs to happen in order to consolidate our democracy; political integration is one of them. With regards to our parliament, it is shameful to say that 29 years after independence, young people are still not fully represented in the legislature. The legislature is still dominated by old guards who refuse to relinquish power to the young and capable.

However, one notable intervention is the establishment of a Children's Parliament. The aim of this parliament is to include young people in the decision-making processes. However, it mostly concerns itself with issues relating to the girl and boy child. The parliament can go up to 6 years without having a session, which leads to questions about the effectiveness of the institution.

Another poignant example is on the Electoral College recently held by the ruling party of the country, SWAPO, for the selection of its party members for parliamentary seats. Young party members really came out in numbers to contest. However, as slightly expected - the old guards mobilized themselves and again dominated the party seats; young Namibians saw this as a takeover of the parliamentary process. Only a small number of young people made it through. This answers the question of political integration: young people are not integrated.

Economic Integration is one area where young people have been consistently demanding for their own. The Namibian economy is very much exclusive in the sense that it does not include women and young people. The most notable case of attempt for inclusion of young people in the economy was the establishment of the Small and Medium Enterprise Bank (SME Bank). SME Bank's priority was to offer economic support to young people in Namibia,

and indeed the bank gave out non-collateral credit facilities to youth owned SMEs. Unfortunately this support was short-lived because the bank was mis-managed and eventually closed down. This greatly affected young people as it set them back to square one. In terms of genuine economic integration, there are a few examples of some initiatives, but nothing substantial to satisfy the question of integration.

On recommendations for the way forward: the most important one is to increase youth engagement platforms. This is a concept that allows young people to develop action plans and compare strategies with other young people. Initiatives such as the Biennale of Luanda are key as they allow for critical policy scrutiny. Young people can take ownership by becoming more involved in civic engagement platforms, such as public forums and conferences. It is at such platforms that young people will be able to develop youth networks.

Secondly youth organizations such as NANSO and the National Youth Council must reconfigure and restructure their youth-based policies. Policies cannot only be theoretical only, they must be operationalized into concrete strategies. UNSCR 2250 and 2419 and Article 17 of AU AYC are not sufficient on their own, as they do not refer to accountability, monitoring and evaluation. There is nothing that holds countries to account if they do not prioritise the removal of barriers that is hampering the effective implementation of UNSCR 2250 and 2419 resolutions. Above and beyond that, there's no committee that will evaluate how well countries have integrated the two UN resolutions.

### Plenary Discussion

The exchanges between the panellists and the public demonstrated that:

- a. There seem to be a general misunderstanding amongst most young people in the continent on the contents of UNSC Resolutions 2250, 2419 and Article 17 of the African Youth Charter.
- b. There is a common misconception that these resolutions only concern countries in armed conflict and post-conflict situation;
- c. There is a seeming lack of political will, from public authorities on the continent, to implement these international normative instruments relating to youth, peace and security.

In addition, all participants agreed unanimously that the implementation of these normative instruments in Africa is also the responsibility of young people themselves and their organizations. They also agreed that it is important for young people to become more proactive and unified as they seek to better understand the meaning of UNSCR 2250, 2419 and Article 17 of the African Youth Charter. They must also work towards finding ways to implement all the frameworks.

### iii.3.2 Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The second session of the Youth Forum was dedicated to the thematic **“Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation”**.

**Moderator: Mr Marius Tchakounang**, Head of AUF French Digital Campus (Cameroon)

#### Panelists

1. **Ms Fadwa Gmiden**, Vice-President of the Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace (Tunisia);
2. **Mr Zié Daouda Koné**, Incubation and Innovation Center of the National Commission for UNESCO (Côte d’Ivoire);
3. **Ms Dora Massounga**, Executive Director of Warisse (Gabon);
4. **Ms Yvette Ishimwe**, Managing Director of IRIBA WATER GROUP LTD (Rwanda);
5. **Mr Maxwell Katekwe**, Head of Monitoring and Evaluation of Restless Development (Zimbabwe);
6. **Mr Jofre Euclides Dos Santos**, Director General of the Youth Institute, Angola.

The session started with a video<sup>80</sup> illustrating the links between creativity, entrepreneurship and youth aspirations for economic integration.

Increasingly, more young Africans choose entrepreneurship either to create wealth and make a profit (economic entrepreneurship), or to create social value and ensure financial autonomy (social entrepreneurship). This creative and innovative entrepreneurial spirit of young people is being deployed and manifested in almost every area of social and economic life in the countries on the continent.

Based on success stories, this 2nd session of the *Luanda Biennale* Youth Forum aimed to highlight, not only the concrete solutions and good practices of young people themselves in terms of entrepreneurial innovation, but also challenges, in terms of funding, training and support, that they experienced and still face on a daily basis as economic or social entrepreneurs.

<sup>80</sup> To view the video, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/2VsQsSo>





The panelists' contributions and exchanges with the public were organized around the following questions:

1. Is it by necessity or by vocational choice that you became an entrepreneur? How long has your company been around? What is its major field of activity? How is your entrepreneurial project innovative? What are the challenges, in terms of funding, training and support, that you have faced or are facing daily as an entrepreneur?
2. Do you consider yourself an economic or a social entrepreneur?
3. What are your company's prospects in terms of profitability and job creation over the next five years?
4. What public policies are in place in your country supporting creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation of young people? What is the proportion of these policies reserved for the promotion of enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, i.e. non-profit or low-level enterprises, in the service of the general or mutual interest, whose main *raison d'être* is not the maximization of profits but the satisfaction of certain economic, social, cultural or environmental objectives or needs?
5. Are you in favour of a Pan-African programmatic initiative on youth creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation, such as the *1Millionby2021*<sup>81</sup>?

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<sup>81</sup> This an initiative by the AUC Chairperson launched in April 2019 to reach millions of young people through Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Engagement opportunities (the 4 Es) aimed at boosting the youth dividend in Africa and accelerate socioeconomic development on the African continent.



### Presentations and main discussions

#### **Ms Fadwa Gmiden, Vice-President of the Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace (Tunisia)**

I became an entrepreneur both by necessity and by choice. My business is in the field of software engineering focusing on architecture, design, and security. My academic and professional experience was shaped by the time I spent in the United States, Belgium, and Tunisia. Regardless of the size and the geographical space, I have observed some of the typical, repetitive and mostly unnoticeable problems. My project is about enabling companies to identify these problems before they become too large and impossible to solve. Unlike the typical consultant, I do not give a solution: I bring the set of tools that allow companies to figure out how to get better solutions when they face a problem.

The challenges I have faced range in nature, from financial to intellectual:

- Skills improvement: I find myself, frequently in situation of needing to look for training outside Tunisia to upgrade my skills, which costs time and money.
- Support: I can hardly find people who are doing similar work, which makes it difficult to get hands-on knowledge and support.
- Funding: another huge challenge: I am building my enterprise through personal funds.

I see myself as an economic entrepreneur, and for my business, the key phrase is 'profitable growth'. The company must carry both goals simultaneously: it is important to make profit but it is also important to make profit in a direction that will allow for growth. For the next five years, I am working on expanding this project to other industries and to find potential "enablers" to achieve this goal.

The most impactful decision taken by the Tunisian government in support of innovation and entrepreneurship has been the Start-up Act, which allowed start-ups the possibility to grow, access special funds and support.

With respect to the AUC *1Millionby2021* initiative: I fully concur as this kind of initiatives provides hope and motivation for African youth. It also presents a sense of belonging to a group. "I am going through a lot of problems, but I am not alone." "We will be able to go through these challenges, because they are acknowledged by everyone around."

#### **Mr Zié Daouda Koné, Incubation and Innovation Center of the National Commission for UNESCO (Côte d'Ivoire)**

According to statistics, while 10 to 12 million unemployed people enter the labour market each year in Africa, only three million jobs are created, leaving about 7 to 9 million unemployed. Thus, not only is the pace of formal job creation not changing at the rate of young labour force, but a significant number of young people remain unskilled to meet the demands of the labour market.

For me, it is a choice to create values, to participate in the development of the economic fabric of my country, and by extension, of the continent too. This has allowed me to build my capacity and skills in several areas, and it has helped me to obtain a holistic view of my activities. It has also allowed me to better understand the vision of development at national, regional and continental levels.

The incubation center and laboratory of social innovation has existed a bit longer than 2 years. We strengthen the capacity of young entrepreneurs with training adapted to the realities of their activities. For example, building their capacity in market research, simplified accounting, financial education, management, fundraising. We do start-up domicile and connection. It is innovative because it is UNESCO's first incubation center run by and with young people. We work in search of innovative processes in terms of 21st century skills, new trades and scaling up successes in all sectors of activity. We bring together all the decision-makers in the entrepreneurial ecosystem in one place. Innovative results in the agricultural sectors, in construction allow us to rethink our way of life and recycle our waste.



The first major challenge is the access of rural young people to these services in support of their businesses. The second is getting the support of state institutions which is often unaligned with the expectations of entrepreneurs.

We are social entrepreneurs who create social value by meeting specific social needs. This requires knowledge of the environment in which we find ourselves; by producing adapted training, like training in project management, digital education, governance, market research, in the context and the implementation of processes essential to the creation of social and inclusive added value.

In terms of future perspective, we aim to: i) create and install incubation centers in other cities in Ivory Coast; ii) engage in partnerships with universities to increase access to intellectual resources i.e. studies, theses and scientific articles; iii) train over 20,000 young people in en-

trepreneurship over the next 5 years, and iv) allow the start-up of at least 50% of those in their own businesses.

Government's most promising initiative has been the establishment of the Youth Employment Agency, by the Ministry of Youth Promotion and Youth Employment, a one-stop shop for youth employment in Ivory Coast, that develops programmes to support young people in entrepreneurship and innovation.

It should be noted that youth employment is placed as the 4<sup>th</sup> priority of the government's social plan. Initiatives have been developed such as *Acting for Young People*, which finances individual or collective projects, and setting up the Employment Desk. The Ministry via the Directorate for Associations also supports youth organizations and some companies in the social and solidarity economy, but for the time being, studies

*President Cyril Ramaphose launched the "Yes initiative" aiming to guarantee paid professional experiences for young South Africans.*

*Youth employment has become a concern for many african countries that can be reflected through incubations centers or youth employment initiatives to enable the youth to become the next-day entrepreneurs.*



are under way to strengthen the status of these companies.

Yes, regarding the AUC 1Millionby 2021, we need a Pan-African initiative with a structuring policy considering the aspirations of young people. Multiplying investment projects in skills development of the local workforce means (currently unavailable) but also thinking about the younger ones, who will be the next generation of jobseekers. According to the UN, there will be an estimated 23 million new jobseekers per year by 2050. As such the areas of employment, entrepreneurship, education and engagement in initiatives such as this Biennale, are important ways to empower young people and to enable the inclusive and sustainable development of our countries.

Youth policies must consider regional communities and the context of the evolution of our economies. Initiatives that successfully promote innovations in terms of decent employment and creativity for young people should be scaled in all five regions, accompanied by a fund to support young entrepreneurs.

**Ms Dora Massounga, Director General of Warisse (Gabon)**

In a country where unemployment rates are high, especially among women and young people, and where the tourism potential is still widely underutilized, entrepreneurship in that field seems to be one logical solution. This is the goal that *Warisse*, a tourism startup based in Gabon, is set out to achieve. I am one of the founders and my background is in tourism management. I will explain how our company intends to create sustainable jobs, involve local communities and promote revenue distribution; whilst at the same time encourages cultural heritage preservation.

The daily challenges range from lack of funding, to lack of skills in critical fields. It is also challenging to evolve in an environment that is not yet familiar with the culture of entrepreneurship. However, we are determined to bring change to the environment where youths operate, to their countries and to the continent, because we believe that the

African youth can achieve anything, if given the right opportunities.

Gabon, like many other sub-Saharan African countries, is characterized by a high rate of unemployment<sup>82</sup>, with many women and young people, some of them highly educated, struggling to find decent jobs. As one of the solutions to address the crisis, the Gabonese government is encouraging unemployed citizens to pursue entrepreneurship. Over the past few years, there have been various initiatives to diversify the country's economy and promote entrepreneurship, especially among the youth. This has been done mainly through the implementation of a legal framework adapted to entrepreneurship and the establishment of a one-stop shop that – registers companies, provides training, offers mentoring opportunities and improves access to funding.

The tourism sector of Gabon presents the perfect opportunity to achieve this, because the industry is still in its early stages. Gabon is a very beautiful country with extremely rich natural and cultural resources. However, the tourism sector is in bad shape because of the lack of diversity and poor quality service provision to potential customers. This is the reason why we chose to create the startup *Warisse*, a company that aims to create one-of-a-kind tourism experience in Gabon.

I am a travel and tourism professional with a passion for excellent customer services and a determination for success. As well as *Warisse*, I am also the founder of AZ Travel Consulting and Services. Before becoming an entrepreneur, I had the privilege of working worldwide for hospitality brands like Garden Court, Marriott International, Park Inn and Radisson Blu hotels.

After obtaining a postgraduate degree in Tourism Management from the University of Johannesburg, I was committed

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<sup>82</sup> According to the World Bank in Gabon, “the unemployment rate is 35.7% for young people between the ages of 15 and 24, and 26% for the labor force aged 25 to 34. It is twice as high for women as for men” – World Bank 2015 – to read the report please visit: <https://bit.ly/3cfxS6d>

to contribute to the development of the tourism sector in my country. I felt that this could be achieved through entrepreneurial activities based on strategic partnerships and host community participation. My goal is to expand my expertise and creativity to benefit my own companies in generating profitable revenues, but importantly I would also like to create jobs and contribute to poverty alleviation in Gabon.

In 2019, I was selected to take part in the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders and was also given the opportunity to participate in a professional development experience with a US based organization.

Warisse started as both a private company and a social initiative. My co-founder and I wanted to put our knowledge, past experiences and creativity to good use by tackling one big challenge: the inadequacy of the tourism supply in Gabon. We had already been entrepreneurs for a while, having both quit our respective jobs, in search of something meaningful. After we met in early 2018 and realized that we shared the same vision for tourism in our country and having been struggling on our own, we decided to join forces and work on this project together. We officially launched Warisse in November of 2018.

Warisse offers curated trips, tours and activities that expose travelers to the hidden beauty of Gabon based on its culture, traditions, people and nature. Moving away from traditional destination-based ways of viewing and promoting tourism, Warisse focuses on the unique experience of the customer.

The concept of Warisse is to leverage the internet; users essentially browse a web platform where they can view, reserve and purchase a range of unique tourism experiences that fit their preferences. The aim is to use technology to simplify the purchasing processes, and to increase customer satisfaction, whilst also making sure that the purchasing experience is one of a kind. This can be achieved if each customer is offered an outstanding service quality. The company works with a range of partners, sup-

pliers and tour operators, as well as with many local communities. With the help of these partners, a range of experiences is continuously being offered. These experiences can be categorized under: Cultural Traditions, Nature and Wildlife, Gastronomy, Adventure, Arts and Crafts, Road Trips and Excursions.

Warisse responds to several needs, whether economic or social by, for example, creating employment and income-generating activities through tourism - for local populations who are often poor and have no other means of survival. The company also works at valorizing and conserving cultural heritage, diversifying the economy and promoting Gabon as a tourism destination - for locally based customers as well as to international visitors. In that regard, Warisse can therefore be considered as a social enterprise.

The company - which relies heavily on strategic partnerships with other SMEs and local communities - is expected to create fifty (50) direct and indirect jobs in the next five (5) years. It also expects to generate a cumulative turnover of approximately 150 000 USD that will be distributed to all stakeholders.

One of the largest challenges faced by startups is the lack of funding to launch and execute their business strategy in the best conditions. Warisse is no exception, but instead of waiting around for a grant or for big funding, we chose to bootstrap our way to success. We also frequently apply for startup competitions and entrepreneurship programs whenever the opportunity presents itself.

In addition, there is also the fact that entrepreneurship is not well understood nor encouraged in some African societies. Parents of young entrepreneurs rarely support their efforts, as they would prefer them to pursue more traditional careers in fields like medicine, law, banking or even politics. In order to face that societal discomfort, we believe that it is important to develop a network of entrepreneurs who can relate and support each other through these daily struggles. It would also be helpful to have mentors who can advise and share their experi-

ence of going through a similar journey; this would help and guide young entrepreneurs. Initiatives like #1Million-by2021 are therefore very welcomed and highly encouraged, for a blooming of African entrepreneurs.

**Ms Yvette Ishimwe, Managing Director of IRIBA WATER GROUP LTD (Rwanda)**

I would say that I became an entrepreneur both out of necessity and vocational choice. Since long ago, when I was in high school, my vision was to become an entrepreneur but I did not know which business I would be venturing into. In 2015 after my family relocated from Kigali city to a rural village in the Eastern part of Rwanda, I had a firsthand experience of difficulties in access to safe drinking water. This inspired me to start IRIBA Water Group as a venture to both solve the community problem, and also to help me achieve my vocational aspiration. IRIBA Water Group has been around for 3 years and 4 months. We primarily focus on water treatment and supply to both rural and urban communities. IRIBA Water Group provides innovative business solutions to facilitate access to clean water in Rwanda. We improve existing solutions and tailor them in a manner that is financially sustainable while still being affordable to the lowest income population group. We have a three-pronged distribution method:

1. We build rural water treatment plants in hard to reach valleys, and then we pump and pipe water to communities using solar energy at affordable prices.
2. We supply water treatment systems to schools and hospitals at affordable prices to give people easy access to safe drinking water.
3. We set up drinking water ATMs in low-income urban areas, markets and suburbs, to enable low-income people to easily access affordable safe, clean drinking water.

One of the largest challenges that we have been facing is access to capital to scale and replicate our solution. The need for our services is incredibly huge, but we lack funding to reach our full market potential.

I rank myself as a social entrepreneur. This is because I am more motivated by creating social value targeted at solving Africa’s most pressing issues, while ensuring financial sustainability and independence.

In the next 5 years, IRIBA Water Group is expected to create about 91 jobs in Rwanda, and in one neighboring country<sup>83</sup>. In terms of profitability, we are targeting a yearly turnover equivalent to 750,000 USD with a 20% profit margin.

The government of Rwanda is doing amazing work by creating favorable policies for young people in business. For example:

- For youth engaged in manufacturing, there is a program called ZAMUKANA UBUZIRANENGE with a mandate to help young entrepreneurs and manufacturers acquire certification standards for their products, as their companies are growing. This is usually done without enforcing heavy requirements on them or on their businesses while their enterprise is still very small
- Vocational training education is being supported at a high level to equip youths with practical experience, which will enable them to create en-

*Youth Connekt Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, July 2017*



<sup>83</sup> At the moment we expect the expansion into the Democratic Republic of Congo or in Uganda.



trepreneurial innovations – and in turn create more jobs.

- Several funding opportunities are being piloted to target youth in the country – for example, the *Youth-Connekt Africa*, and the Business Development Fund were introduced to support young people. There have been many beneficiaries from these schemes, with many young people still benefiting from the programmes.
- There is a chamber for young entrepreneurs in the Private Sector Federation in Rwanda. The mandate of this chamber is to advocate for young entrepreneurs and their creative businesses, as well as to provide capacity building in different aspects of the business including in, taxation, intellectual property registration and other important areas.
- There are several ongoing mobilization events to encourage young people to be confident as they seek to start businesses or implement their innovative ideas.

All these opportunities apply particularly to businesses that are solving a certain social, economic or environmental challenge in the country. And on the 1Million Initiative of the AUC, I am in favor of such a Pan-African programmatic initiative on youth creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation. I believe that this initiative will create a more resilient and self-sustaining *Africa we want*.

**Mr Maxwell Katekwe, Head of Monitoring and Evaluation at Restless Development (Zimbabwe)**

A peaceful environment gives room for young people to be creative and innovative and for entrepreneurship to thrive, which is key for the *Africa We Want*. I have been a peace ambassador since using the story circle tool for the first time in 2017 in Zimbabwe and in Southern Africa on a pilot project and testing the tool. I dedicated my time to this when I was working on a project called “*Fostering a Culture of Peace Among Young People in Zimbabwe*” in Mufakose, Ushewokunze and Hopley Farm. The project was designed to champion peace and tolerance among

young people, by equipping them with knowledge, skills and attitudes on how to live peacefully with others despite their differences. At the time, Zimbabwe was approaching the 2018 elections. I conducted 30 community dialogue sessions with the assistance of other young people, reaching out to 489 young people (211 male and 278 female) in four months.

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. Conflicts have exacted numerous burdens on society and on the economy. Without peace, the destructive tendencies of our species will continue to inch us closer to catastrophe. Young people need to identify common, similar and shared lived experiences and recognize that despite differences we must start building cordial relationships to sustain peace. Differences should be celebrated within communities and should be a sign of strength. In 2016 the global economy lost \$14.3 trillion to violence and conflict; therefore peace is important for prosperity too.

A number of topics have been covered in the dialogue sessions that I have been a part of. Many of these conversations covered topics such as culture and cultural differences, communication, self-awareness, empathy, respect, peace and relation building. Through these exchanges, young people have reflected on the main sources of misunderstanding, conflict and violence at school, in their neighborhood, in marriages and at church.

- The sessions created safe spaces for young people to share and reflect on their experiences. The story circles were participatory in nature; they opened the floor for everyone to share their thoughts and personal experiences.
- The story circles generated a lot of useful information using open-ended questions, which gave room for gathering contextual and diverse views from participants.
- In addition, the story circles are more about listening than telling; therefore, they have challenged young people to

critically listen to other people's views rather than dominating discussions.

The manual<sup>84</sup> is very detailed, so it provides the facilitator with good content on topics to cover.

The intercultural dialogue sessions utilize the story circles methodology, which encouraged young people to share their experiences on a few topics. An evaluation of the sessions has shown that young people have been empowered with the essential aspects of intercultural competencies such as respect, self-awareness, empathy, listening and relationship building. The competencies gained have enabled peace, community building, reconciliation and celebration in the short period that the project has been implemented. In the long run the competencies gained will help young people to have some of the characteristics of social entrepreneurship, which are - self-confidence, perseverance, leadership, team spirit and adaptability – all essential for every entrepreneur.

The feedback has shown an important element of the methodology, as it does not end on just understanding each other, but it also challenges individuals on what they think and why, and what they will do with the gained knowledge.

I employed the story circles methodology to address gender-based-violence (GBV) and drug abuse issues by bringing together young people from different districts to exchange on these issues.

- Intercultural competencies are required in any society as they unpack the realized causes of misunderstanding, conflict and violence and facilitate locally generated solutions that ultimately promote tolerance, peace and harmony.
- There is a need to also contextualize the prompts or area of focus for the discussion during a dialogue, for example in one of the areas – participants had to discuss issues relating to GBV.

There is need for financial resources for more activities pertaining to building

peace, in order to enable the promotion of a culture of peace among young people.

In Zimbabwe there is the National Youth Policy, which guides young people's entrepreneurship and creativity. It stipulates that youth empowerment is the creation of an enabling environment for the youth to have freedom to choose, to participate and take decisions in matters that affect them. It also talks of inclusion and leaving no youth behind – in reference to young people with disability, because an estimated 10% of young people in Zimbabwe have some kind of disability. The youth policy recognizes that unemployment and limited access to socio-economic opportunities are among the greatest challenges facing young people in Zimbabwe. The country's youth empowerment and participation goals include the following:

- a. Ensure meaningful youth participation during the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth programmes and projects;
- b. Facilitate establishment and funding of youth groups and youth led NGOs,; and ensure their participation in the decision-making processes at all levels;
- c. Promote the creation of a National Youth Forum for all youth and youth organizations.

SDG 16 speaks of Peace, Justice and Strong institutions which is essential and should be achieved by year 2030. On the same note, to achieve the AU's Agenda 2063 - the concrete manifestation of the Pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity - peace is required. The full realization of Africa Union's Agenda 2063 and the development of Africa depends heavily on utilizing the potential of the continent's youth. I am in favor of the "1 Million By 2021 Initiative" which aims to concretely reach millions of African youths from across the continent with opportunities and interventions in the key areas of *Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Engagement (4E's)*, because it will accelerate socioeconomic devel-

<sup>84</sup> To view the manual, please go through the following link: <https://bit.ly/2V8zybo>



opment on the continent. To achieve the four E's there is need for peace, hence Peace for Prosperity.

**Mr Jofre Euclides Dos Santos, Director General of the Youth Institute, Angola**

Angola is a country with a majority young population: data from the last population census show that about 2/3 of its population is less than 25 years old. Therefore, it would be foolish to lay the foundations of socio-economic development of the country without considering this factor. It is thus the government's primary concern to work to secure the present and the future for Angola's youth, in order to make them capable of contributing to the sustainable development of the country.

The government attaches capital importance to youth, because this demographic group is the main resource capable of contributing to economic and social transformation. As such, the government supports this group with a number of initiatives. The Constitution of the Republic of Angola foresees in accordance with Article 81, that young people benefit from special protection for the enjoyment of their econom-

ic, social and cultural rights, among which we highlight the following:

- in education, vocational training and culture;
- in the access to the first job, at work and social security.

In 2013 the Angolan Government developed a broad youth consultation process. More than 200 meetings were held in all municipalities and provinces of the country with the participation of more than 50,000 young people, culminating in the National Youth Forum in September 2013. This resulted in 65 recommendations structured in 10 main areas, of which I would like to highlight the areas of employment, vocational training, education and access to ICT.

These recommendations and areas were translated into the National Youth Development Plan, aligned with the 2014-2017 National Development Plan. It contained the main concerns of young people, while its implementation outlines a transversal approach through close articulation between the Ministry of Youth and the other ministries. This plan also formed the guidance for the formulation of youth-oriented policies,

*African governments are taking the issues of youth unemployment on the continent more seriously – youth members of an Angolan youth entrepreneurship capacity promotion initiative*



allowing public and private actors to align strategies, mutually understand their objectives and define more effective and coherent common actions.

These areas correspond to a 4-axis action programme of which I would like to emphasize the first: young people's insertion into working life. In order to support the implementation of the plan, the following instruments were created: The Angolan Youth Institute was created whilst the Youth and Sport Support Fund was strengthened.

In this period, in order to promote creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation, the Government invested heavily in professional training centers, arts and craft schools, higher education institutions. I would like to draw special attention to the creation of the national technological center of Agostinho Neto University, where the following programs have been developed to stimulate young inventors' creativity:

1. Community Entrepreneurship Programme: it has benefited 12,430 youth of which 5,528 were given access to micro-credit
2. Incubator of INEFOP companies
3. 66 Municipal centers of entrepreneurship and employment services across the country
4. CLESE's (Local Entrepreneurship Centers and Employment Services)
5. Creation and Expansion of the Media library Network (8 fixed and 6 moving centers)
6. Creation of Digital Squares
7. Pro-Youth Program: A credit line to support young entrepreneur
8. Realization of Innovation Fairs: They have already resulted in many medals for the country
9. Several Arts and Craft pavilions have been created
10. 79 higher education institutions that promote creativity and innovation based on scientific research and the use of technology, benefitting more than 300,000 students

An additional 700 training units were created in private and public institutions - available to train young people and other citizens in technology through the so called Cinfotec programme (Integrated Center for Technological Training).

In 2018, the multiannual National Development Plan, NDP (2018-2022), covering national, sectoral and provincial planning levels, was approved with a framework for the implementation of long-term development strategy for the country.

In the same sense, the National Youth Policy was approved in July 2019, and it has one main objective; to prepare and enhance the new generations of Angolans. This will help to transform men and women with creative skills into competent citizens – it will also enable them to fulfill their role in the process of reconstruction and development of the country.

### Development

Young Angolans are very creative and innovative by nature, which makes them entrepreneurs par excellence. This is due, in part, to the country's history, and the legacy from our ancestors. Angolans are used to finding solutions to the many social challenges they have faced and have always been very proactive and resilient.

In Angola, youth-related matters are dealt with by the government with a high sense of responsibility. As such, this has led to the successful insertion of many young people into the labour market – which in turn has resulted in a significant improvement of quality of life for many youths.

The Angolan government supports and encourages creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation through sustenance of young people's initiatives, developing specific programmes and projects and creating structures that facilitate young people's access to training by a number of measures including: by partnering with banks in the design of subsidized credits; through advocacy with private entities for the financing of young people's projects; through the promotion of self-employment; by providing financial investment and institutional support, embodied in





the monitoring, facilitation and access to financing; and by valuing creativity, innovation capacity, entrepreneurial income-generating spirit.

### **Recommendations**

1. Promote self-employment and the development of entrepreneurial spirit of beneficiaries of vocational training programmes
2. Increase support for youth initiatives and entrepreneurship in order to foster job creation
3. Support training tailored to market needs
4. Support entrepreneurs in overcoming the multiples challenges in the implementation of their businesses by providing training and consulting
5. Promote applied research in entrepreneurship and business development
6. Encourage research, including by young students themselves, in order to initiate entrepreneurial activities based on scientific evidence
7. Promote adequate provision of training in the area of business education and entrepreneurship
8. Create networks of youth incubation centers to facilitate interaction on economic activities
9. Develop an entrepreneurship promotion agenda in the 18 provinces of the country
10. Implement programmes that facilitate the formalization of young people's small businesses
11. Creation of more digital squares in all the provinces to facilitate internet access for young people
12. Promote entrepreneurship training in educational and vocational institutions
13. Expand the network of technological research centers in the country
14. Promote the appreciation and dissemination of the inventions of young Angolans as contributors to the sustainable development of the country
15. Increase monitoring of technological start-ups – help with the management and formalization of their activities if required
16. Develop credit lines that facilitate the generation of small business for young people
17. Consolidate entrepreneurship programmes in education and training institutions in order to promote behaviors, skills and actions for job creation in the spirit of initiative, creativity and autonomy
18. Encourage entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises by supporting emerging entrepreneurs, and boosting the incubator network for the emergence of new businesses
19. The undertaking and management of scientific research as a key component for the promotion of innovation
20. Require tertiary institutions to invest more in the scientific research and innovation component



### Plenary Discussion

During the exchanges between panelists and the audience, it became apparent that, even though some do it out of vocation, many young entrepreneurs became entrepreneurs out of necessity to escape unemployment.

Among the challenges that young entrepreneurs face on a daily basis are family pressures and lack of support, because many families do not believe in entrepreneurship and instead encourage entrepreneurs to pursue salaried civil servant jobs in general – believed to provide more guarantee and security. In addition, young entrepreneurs have poor access to financing – to initiate and to further develop their businesses. They also struggle to access adequate and affordable training. Another challenge is that many work in isolation as a result of the lack of solidarity and networking.

While the exchanges have highlighted the existence, in many countries, of political and programmatic initiatives for youth entrepreneurship, it is also true these government initiatives are not always sufficient. Many of the communicated government support are considered insufficient to address challenges faced by a high number of young people requiring labour integration through paid jobs or through their own job creation.

The Youth Forum concluded with a “African Youth Engagement for a Culture of Peace” declaration, annexed to this report, which includes 12 commitments and recommendations to the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and the Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace (PAYNCOP).



## COMMITMENT OF AFRICAN YOUTH FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE

**We**, the young leaders living in Africa and in the diaspora participating in the Youth Forum of the “Luanda Biennial - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace”; Forum, held in Luanda (Angola), from 19th to 20th September, under the general theme “Youth and Culture of Peace”, divided into two sub-themes: “Youth, Peace and Security” and “Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation”;

**Congratulate** the Government of the Republic of Angola, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the African Union (AU) on the joint initiative to create a biennial culture of peace in Africa inspired by the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance;

**Thank** the Government of the Republic of Angola and its people for their warm welcome and hospitality; as well as UNESCO and the United Nations (UN) Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) for their logistical support;

**Recall** the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 which states that “[...] young people should take an active part in the establishment of lasting peace and work for justice and reconciliation, and that the demographic importance of the youth of today is an asset that can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity,” reinforced by resolution 2419 which calls on “[...] all relevant actors to consider ways to increase the inclusive representation of youth for the prevention and resolution of conflict, including when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to take into account the meaningful participation and views of youth, recognizing that their marginalization is detrimental to building sustainable peace and countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism;”

**Recall** the call from the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), at its 807th meeting on “Youth, Peace and Security”, held on 8th November 2018 in Addis Ababa, to “all Member States to urgently implement UNSCR 2250, remove all structural barriers to effective youth participation, mobilize the necessary resources and to develop long-term national plans of action for the involvement and effective participation of the youth in the promotion of peace and security, as well as national development processes”

**Consider** Article 17 of the African Youth Charter (AYC) recognizing the “important role of youth in the promotion of peace and non-violence” and invite State parties to, inter alia, “build capacity of African youth and youth organizations in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution through the promotion of intercultural education, education for citizenship, tolerance, human rights, democracy mutual respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, and the importance of dialogue, cooperation, responsibility, solidarity, and international cooperation”;

**Recognize** the expertise of the youth living in Africa, and the diaspora, regarding the themes of Culture, Peace and Security, Entrepreneurship and others.

**Recognize** the increasing need for innovative mechanisms supporting trans and cross-disciplinary approaches for addressing complex governance challenges at local and global scales - relating to urbanization, migration, climate change, resource management, gender, and social disparities;

**Recognize** the dual role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) as: 1) an accelerator for innovation, and 2) a threat to privacy and security through the

manipulation and use of data. We also recognize the rapid adoption of such systems at both urban and local governance levels;

**Recognize** the importance of creativity and innovation through the promotion of entrepreneurship, not only economic but also social, as one of the means to build and consolidate the culture of peace through the creation of wealth and social value; and the empowerment of individuals and communities;

**Note** that 42% of the population of the African continent will be between 15 to 24 years of age by 2030; and that there is an increasing need for more localized inclusive mechanisms of implementing UNSCR 2250, 2419 and Article 17 of the AYC in various economies of scale;

**Note** the lack of dissemination and limited knowledge of UNSCR 2250, 2419 and Article 17 of the AYC, due to the perception that these resolutions only concern countries in armed conflict and post-conflict situations; and also note the lack of political will of public authorities to implement these international normative instruments relating to youth, peace and security;

**Conscious** of the need for us to be proactive; and our responsibility to aid the implementation of these normative instruments, as well as the need for governments to be receptive and open to innovation;

**We are committed**, through our associations and organizations:

1. to appropriate these normative instruments and popularize them among young people in our different countries;
2. to conduct national studies on the status of implementation of UNSC resolutions 2250, 2419 and Article 17 of the African Youth Charter;
3. to expand our partnerships with the private sector, to implement projects and programs in respect to these normative instruments, with particular focus on projects and programs concerning youth;
4. to assume responsibility and be trained to become good negotiators and lobbyists so that we can interact in an effective and efficient manner with the public sector, and to encourage a culture of active citizenship and leadership;
5. to encourage a culture of resilience, autonomy, solidarity, and sharing - through the creation of platforms and the participation of youth in entrepreneurship forums;
6. to engage, monitor and follow up on the maintenance of youth employment and their careers along with their employability;
7. to advocate for the inclusion of African youth's and diaspora's expertise in the public and private sectors on the African continent;
8. to engage in research, capacity building, and digitization to measure societal, economic and political impacts of our work;
9. to support active involvement with the private sector; and innovative tools for building entrepreneurship, resilience, and creativity through the use of fiscal mechanisms;
10. to preserve cultural identities in both their tangible and intangible forms as a means to achieve and maintain societal cohesion;



11. To support trans-generational dialogue for knowledge exchange and experiences;
12. to work, primarily through our organisations and others, for the realisation of gender equity and the autonomy of women and girls.

**We request:**

1. that the Pan-African Youth Network for Peace Culture (PAYNCOP) conduct national studies on the state of play of implementation of UNSCR 2250, 2419 and Article 17 of the African Youth Charter by 2020, with the support of UNESCO and the AU; we also request that they report on the status - every four (4) years;
2. that the AU, with the help of the agencies and organs of the UN, create a continental entity for funding social and economic entrepreneurship projects for youth;
3. that the regional economic platforms, with the help of the agencies and organs of the UN, establish political structures for the promotion of creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation and youth employability;
4. that PAYNCOP, in cooperation with other organizations of youth at sub-regional, regional and in the diaspora, assure the monitoring and follow up of the engagements of these recommendations.



**#Youth  
Mobile  
Naija**



### iii.4 WOMEN'S FORUM

The Women's Forum, under the general theme "Women and the Culture of Peace" took place on 21st September, the International Day of Peace. The Biennale of Luanda celebrated the day by initiating the sessions with a tree planting ceremony to honor the 2019 theme Climate Action for Peace. The planting was done on Rua Nova da Marginal, led by H.E. Ms Maria Piedade de Jesus, the Minister of Culture of Angola, in front of the Agostinho Neto Memorial.

The ceremony reiterated the importance of environmental sustainability and peace. The day continued with in the following sessions:

1. Opening ceremony
2. Role of Women in the Culture of Peace: Girls and Women's Vulnerability to Violence;
3. Women's Networks for Peace in Africa: women as agents of peace.





### iii.4.1 Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony for the Women and the Culture of Peace was chaired by **Ms Zulmira Rodrigues**, Chief Section for Cooperation with Regional Organizations in Africa, Africa Department at UNESCO HQs<sup>85</sup> and counted the presence of:

- **Ms Anne Lemaistre**, Head of Office and UNESCO Representative in Ivory Coast
- **H.E. Ms Specioza Naigaga Wandira-Kazibwe**, Former Vice-President of Uganda, Member and Representative of the Pan-African Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa) in representation of the African Union Commission
- **H.E. Ms Carolina Cerqueira**, Minister of State for Social Affairs of the Republic of Angola

Addressing the Opening Ceremony of the Women's Forum of the Biennale of Luanda, on behalf of **Mr Moez Chakchouk**, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information of UNESCO, **Ms Anne Lemaistre** told the audience that by having the Women's Forum on the same day as the International Day of Peace, we were emphasizing that only through the full recognition of women's rights and their contribution to the development of societies, can lasting peace be achieved. Referring to harmful practices such as early and forced marriage; and female genital mutilation, she noted that it was regretful that the African continent's progress in combating sexual violence and violence against girls and women, is still the slowest, compared with other regions in the world. She shared a 2015 information which showed that half of the African countries reported that more than 40% of women have experienced violence with 20% experiencing sexual violence.

Those figures reiterate that peace pursuance for girls and women, did not only apply to countries in conflict situations. Ms Lemaistre continued by underlining the unfortunate reality for women who, are often excluded from peace negotiations, despite the key roles that they play in their homes, communities and societies.

<sup>85</sup> Ms Rodrigues was also the Coordinator for the Forum of Ideas of the Biennale of Luanda.

She continued by sharing that UNESCO's second priority next to Africa is, Gender Equality. This, she explained, highlights that the organization's programmes are striving to provide innovative solutions for women's empowerment, but importantly they are also making significant efforts to create an enabling environment for women's contribution to sustainable development and peace.

Reflecting on UNESCO's policies and strategies, she indicated that gender equality permeates all activities and programmes of the organization, from education to sciences, culture and communication and information. These policies focus on reducing exclusion and underrepresentation, as well as on applying measures to harness current opportunities, including digital transformation and new technologies for the advancement of girls and women's position.

She concluded by stating that the reason for having a specific Women's Forum at the Biennale of Luanda Forum for the Culture of Peace is precisely to emphasize that actions for greater and successful pacification of African societies should take into account the rights of girls and women. This will enable the continent to reap from the resilience and activism of women in Africa, whilst also helping to celebrate the role of African women as the real weavers of peace on the continent.

Giving an overview of her own experience, **H.E. Ms Specioza Naigaga Wandira-Kazibwe** spoke about what it was like growing up in post-independence era of Uganda, "never seeing anything called peace". In her view, after the liberation struggle, men in Africa started fighting for power, bringing in armed conflicts as a result, and in the process dismantling African traditional structures. In the middle of the wrangling, Africa kind of forgot how to manage conflict.

She urged people in the audience not to forget about the impact of colonialism and its legacy. She pledged for Africans to seek to understand the causes of Africa's struggle in the pursuit of sustainable peace. She said, "when we talk about colonialism, people say, why do Africans talk about colonialism? It is important



*The Planting Ceremony in front of the Agostinho Neto Memorial in Luanda*

when we are here meeting under the aegis of UNESCO and discussing our future. Because we must know why we are disorganized, why we are fighting each other, why we have no sense of directions for our youth”.

She then read out Lord Macaulay’s address to the British Parliament on 2 February 1835, which she said was rather revealing:

*“I have travelled across the length and breadth of Africa and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief. Such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such caliber, that I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone*

*of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage and therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Africans think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation”.*

Speaking about the incommensurable role played by African women in the history of the continent, Ms Wandira shared her own journey as an example of the underestimation of women’s importance: “I have dedicated my life to making sure that I got the opportunity to be recognized as a women and then





*Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (left) and Ms Specioza Naigaga Wandira Kazibwe (right) at the meeting of the high-level delegation from the United Nations and African Union in Bentiu, South Sudan 2018*

I became the first female Executive Vice-President in Africa. I want to tell you that every time you talk about empowering women and being an activist for women, they think, “you are not smart enough’... but when you get into this history, it made me leave government in 2003, resigning as Vice-President, to go back to university, to study as a social scientist; I did anthropology, I did sociology... “nobody can convince me that there is anything better than being an African, especially an African woman”.

She continued her address by recalling all those African women, from different parts of Africa, who have joined efforts to bring Africans together, and who have worked very hard to rebuild the values and the traditions that are the backbone of the continent. She asked, “who was responsible for those moral values? Who was responsible for education of Africans before colonialism came here? Who was responsible for ensuring that children grew up,

and that they were led into the technological innovations? It is the African woman”. Ms Wandira emphasized that bringing Africa together has been the preoccupation of women from all parts of the continent and this has led to the establishment of the African Committee whose members were among the most prominent African women at the time.

She reiterated this point referring to 1987, when UNESCO helped the AU and Uganda to come up with the Kampala declaration on how to include women in the peace process. This was to ensure that all women’s issues were mainstreamed into the activities of the AU. She called upon women to rally together to ensure that the African Union Peace and Security Architecture (ASPA) is delivered.

*“Agenda 2063 needs us not to take our hands off the driving seat as women in matters of ensuring a culture of peace to facilitate sustainable development”.* To this effect, Dr. Kazibwe highlighted

the birth of FEMWISE, whose aim is to ensure that women are mediators for peace, food security and access to education for all. She further emphasized that the African Union is ready to work with women to ensure that they take their rightful place in Africa.

In her official launching of the Women's Forum, **H.E. Ms Carolina Cerqueira** also reiterated that peace is not only about the absence of war, but also about the sustainable development and the respect of human rights. In this regard, she stated that the final defeat of the many forms of violence that still affect our societies is crucial to achieving lasting peace.

For a true culture of peace, she said that it was *“key not only to eliminate criminal violence, usually subjected to judicial scrutiny, but that it is also important to eliminate the ‘natural’ ones present in authoritarian family relations, in domestic violence, in the violence against the more vulnerable, particularly children, in authoritarian labour relations, in racist and sexist relations”*. All of these, she expressed, are often so subtle in our lives and societies, that we are not even aware of their disrupting impact on social and family tranquility.

She highlighted that women represent more than half of the continent's population, and are not only the families' foundations throughout Africa, but are also the ones more engaged in the education, sensitization and social mobilization in their communities. She stressed that women can bring about this needed paradigm change; one whereby women's values and the feminine nature of the human soul will bring about new perceptions of the world and of life. It will also help with the construction of new dialogues based on generosity, altruism and humbleness.

Ms Cerqueira referred to Leymah Gbowee's peace movement of Liberia in 2011. She explained that this movement is one of the many examples of women's leadership, which has inspired women to engage in the peace seeking process. This has resulted in

the effective resolution of conflict in her country. She praised the women in Mali, and the Sahel region where they have been playing such a fundamental role in solving ethnic conflicts. She also spoke about the women in Burundi<sup>86</sup> who were key in the peace negotiations that lead to the transitional period and implementation of the Arusha peace agreement. In Kenya, women's organizations are mobilizing mothers against religious radicalization of the youth. In Angola women provided their share of resources and support in the fight for colonial liberation and during and after the civil war, continuing to promote peace, family and community civic education activism. Most recently in Sudan, women such as Alaa Salah became icons for mobilizing thousands of other women in the pursuit of liberty and democracy. All of these are examples of solid commitment from women in the promotion of peace and democracy in various countries across Africa.

She then reiterated the importance of multiplying women's participation and visibility in the decision-making process at national, regional and international levels and to strengthen efforts for access for education to women. Educated citizens will be more resilient to social change and will be custodians of law and order. Women should therefore be present, heard and brave enough to enable the continent to cultivate a new era of peace that we are all looking for.

She concluded by saying that the Biennale of Luanda, by joining so many voices, peoples, generations and cultural diversity, is proof that peace belongs to everyone. For peace to last, it must be built upon mutual understanding and intellectual solidarity of humankind, where its infinite resources of tolerance and dignity must be devoted to reach this ideal.

<sup>86</sup> The Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, widely known as the Arusha Accords, was a transitional peace treaty, which brought the Burundian Civil War to an end, signed in August 2000.

### iii.4.2 Role of Women in the Culture of Peace: Girls and Women's Vulnerability to Violence

**Moderator: Ms Georja Calvin-Smith,**  
Journalist of FRANCE 24

#### Panelists:

1. **Ms Askah Buraci Otao**, Educator for the Gionseri Girls Highschool, and beneficiary of the “UNESCO Mentorship Programme for unlocking the potential of Girls in STEM”, Kenya
2. **Dr. Carmel Stella Matoko Miabanzila**, Director of Bacongo Base Hospital, Republic of Congo
3. **Ms Elisa Ravengai**, National Coordinator of the Federation of Organization of Disabled People, Zimbabwe
4. **Ms Iqbal El-Samaloty**, Secretary General of the Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education, Egypt
5. **Ms Loise Danladi Musa**, Executive Secretary of the Bauchi State Agency for Mass Education, Nigeria
6. **Ms Júlia Quitócuá**, National Director for Women's Rights and Gender Equality from the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Gender Promotion (MASFAMU), Angola

#### Introduction

The session started with a short video<sup>87</sup> after which the moderator, **Ms Georja Calvin-Smith**, introduced the context of the thematic area. She called attention to the vulnerability of women and girls to many forms of violence within society and emphasized that all forms of gender-based violence are a violation of women's rights. Citing the high prevalences of violence against women in Africa, she talked about women and girls being victims of slavery, sexual and physical assault. She referred to South Africa, as an example, where thousands of people were protesting just before the Biennale over the number of murders and violent crimes committed against women. In her own words: *“this week in an emergency sitting in parliament, the numbers of violence against women and children in that country alone were likened to those of a nation at war. At least 2700 women were murdered by men just last year, at least 100 rapes were reported daily. Remember that these are just figures for those that are reported, and the numbers are only for South Africa”*.

She continued by reiterating that, although there is increasingly more reporting on the abuse and repression of women in some communities on the continent, the growing awareness has yet to be matched by sufficient action or urgency. While steps are being taken, and investments in time, effort and education are making inroads, this is nowhere near being enough. *“Every day women die because, in the eyes of those around them, their gender renders them disposable. Many die, many more are too often violated, vilified, side-lined and belittled. This is not drama. This is not catastrophizing. It is a fact that weighs heavily on all of us.”*

Ms Smith concluded by reiterating that *“peace and prosperity cannot be built for our societies when their foundations are corroded by attitudes that degrade 50 per cent of our population. That poison does not stop halfway. From education to human rights, to research and devel-*

<sup>87</sup> To view the video, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/2vt96z9>



opment, to health - the way we treat our women affects progress on all fronts”.

She then introduced the panel of women professionals who have dedicated their efforts and expertise to empower women and girls striving to reduce their vulnerability to all forms of violence. The panellists represented the five regions of the African continent and different programmatic areas of UNESCO.

### Presentations and main discussions

**Ms Askah Buraci Otao**, a teacher at the Kereri Girls’ High School, spoke about UNESCO’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education (STEM) mentorship programme in Kenya, with a focus on the experience from her school.

She began by explaining how the African girl child has been demeaned for a long time due to cultural misconceptions, not only at home, but also in the academic arena. This has led to low number of women in some careers especially those steeped in STEM. However, the introduction of the UNESCO STEM mentorship programme for secondary school girls has revolutionized the thinking of many in the education sector - with regards to ensuring that girls have equal opportunity to participate in STEM courses and careers for a more secure, just and peaceful world.

The mentorship programme started in 2014<sup>88</sup> and was piloted in Kenya. In 2015, Ms Otao’s school was selected to partake in the second cycle of the programme, which allowed students and teachers from the school to attend a “scientific camp”. Students had the opportunity to participate in activities and courses in the STEM field, aimed at sparking their interest and unlocking the potential of girls in the sciences.

These weeklong camps involved discussions about career choices, life skills mentoring, experience-sharing with STEM university students, science experiments, and industry visits. Ms Otao

<sup>88</sup> The annual Scientific Camps of Excellence for Mentoring Girls, in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), is jointly organized by the UNESCO Nairobi Office, the Government of Kenya, the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, and the University of Nairobi.



*Girls in Kenya participating in STEM activities*

explained that she accompanied four girls from her school to the camp. The camp helped to break societal norms and prejudices against capacities of the African girl child. The visit raised curiosity amongst the girls, helping them to relate sciences to their daily lives - while the ‘life and survival’ skills sessions helped them to understand how best to go through adolescence without letting their daily challenges interfere with their academic performance.

After the camp, the four girls who had attended from Kekereri Girls’ High School organized a club with 20 students, who they mentored. By 2018, the club had grown to 50. The enrolment of girls in Chemistry and Maths increased by 40% between 2015 and 2017; and the number of girls taking Physics for final exams almost tripled from 57 in 2017 to 145 in 2019. Several students enrolled in science-based courses in Civil Engineering, Information Technology, Pharmacy and Agriculture Technology in tertiary institutions across Kenya.

The teachers who joined the camp also reported fundamental changes in their teaching, embracing ICT to make teaching and learning more interactive.

By mid-2015, more than 400 high school girls from all over the country had the opportunity to participate in the project. As part of the programme, forty Kenyan STEM teachers were trained in gender-responsive teaching, and new partnerships for enhancing women’s participation in STEM were established at the



*Encouraging girls and women to participate in STEM education is fundamental in the steps being taken to address gender inequality in accessing STEM professions*

national level with relevant ministries, government institutions, the private sector and science-focused industries. As a result, this project gave a lot more visibility to UNESCO's focus on addressing the challenge of girls' enrolment in science and engineering studies, and STEM became a benchmark in strategies for girls' empowerment through education.

Based on the results, Ms Otao made the following recommendations:

1. That the STEM camps should be expanded to all the girls in Kenya and on the African continent.
2. More Science and Mathematics teachers should enroll in parallel programmes, so that they can be mentored on how best to reduce the gender gap in STEM, and on how to address its root causes.
3. Sensitize school administrators and parents to ensure that attitudes change on the capabilities of girls in sciences subjects, dismantling the gender stereotypes for girls and women so that they can undertake STEM courses and careers without prejudice.

Giving testimony of strategies to support the fight against gender-based violence in Republic of Congo, **Dr. Carmel Stella**

**Matoko Miabanzila**, with an extensive experience as a physician in caring for women subjected to sexual violence, spoke about UNESCO's contribution to promoting peace and non-violence at schools. Speaking about the recurrent internal armed conflicts between 1998 and 2012, the Republic of Congo put in place a programme for the physical and psychological treatment of girls and women victims of sexual violence during conflicts.

In 2012, an incident involving a series of explosions at a munitions depot in Brazzaville left a high number of casualties, a fire that ravaged the city, and the displacement of many families. In the aftermath of the explosions, an elevated number of incidents of violence, particularly against women were noted. There was also a remarkable violence spike on sites hosting displaced persons. A UN contingency plan was enacted, and UNESCO embraced the task of training teachers and educators with the aim of eradicating violence in these precarious situations and in school environments. This initiative also included an awareness raising campaign, which focused on gender-based issues, and violence prevention in schools.

In 2016, based on this UNESCO experience, a manual for teachers and educators was produced focusing on transmitting values of peace to students. This manual has now been integrated into the teachers' curriculum and it forms the basis for moral and civic education. The teachers help raise awareness regarding gender issues, with particular emphasis on eliminating gender-based violence whilst promoting peaceful coexistence.

Dr. Matoko Miabanzila explained that in the past, she was responsible for 700 young girls, victims of sexual violence, even during peaceful periods. There is a desperate need for a culture of peace, because often, violence against women is unseen, hidden, or neglected in Africa. Furthermore, she stressed that psychological trauma as a result of sexual violence leaves lasting invisible scars on victims, the treatment for these victims is therefore of vital importance. Teach-

ers and educators need to be trained on how to identify signs of trauma – both physical and psychological - in students, at early stages. They also need to be trained on how to adequately address these sensitive issues in a school environment. Teachers can encourage victims to seek medical treatment and build up their resilience so that they can help others in similar circumstances. In this way, victims can themselves become agents of peace.

**Ms Elisa Ravengai's** presentation focused on the role of persons with disabilities (PWDs) as agents of peace. She wanted to emphasise the needs of women with disabilities and explore how UNESCO can continue helping to improve social inclusion and participation of girls and women with disabilities.

Ms Ravengai explained that people with disability account for 15% of the world's population; of this demographic, women and girls with disabilities constitute the largest minority, and continue to suffer many human rights violations. Their marginalization and exclusion due to their double stigma and discrimination associated with their gender, has resulted in their limited access to crucial sexual reproductive health (SRH) information and justice. Negative cultural beliefs and attitudes exacerbate this situation. Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)<sup>89</sup> recognizes that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination and as such require specific attention and support.

She explained that culture is a significant driver in the marginalization of persons with disabilities, and therefore UNESCO has a very important role and mandate to carry out, to change mindsets. In certain

Zimbabwean societies, disability is often associated with witchcraft; and the birth of a child with disability is a bad omen for the family. This hostile view of disability translates into the low social acceptance and isolation experienced by persons with disabilities. Communities play a key role in perpetuating this discrimination and stigma and as a result, the fear and shame surrounding disability propels parents to leave their children in solitude, thereby segregating them from other children and the wider community. This form of protective abuse increases the likelihood of sexual violence and solidifies the invisibility of persons with disabilities in public spheres.

She explained that after recognizing the challenges faced by PWDs in 2013, the Government of Zimbabwe revised the Constitution and ratified the adoption of the UNCPRD. These steps have helped advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the country, supported by relevant legal and institutional frameworks. Zimbabwe also signed the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR).

From 2018, UNESCO, under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) initiative<sup>90</sup>, has partnered with the Federation of Disabled Persons in Zimbabwe (FOD-PZ)<sup>91</sup> to ensure the explicit involvement and participation of women and girls with disabilities, including those in rural areas, in all realms of society. The partnership also seeks to address discriminatory social and cultural norms and promote SRH rights of persons with disabilities.

By commissioning two qualitative studies on: 1) investigating the needs, concerns and aspirations of girls and women with disabilities” and, 2) a review of the

<sup>89</sup> Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) states that: 1) States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms 2) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.

<sup>90</sup> UNPRPD supports the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by facilitating policy-dialogue, coalition building and capacity-development at country, regional and global level.

<sup>91</sup> Federation of Disabled Persons in Zimbabwe is an umbrella association of 14 organizations that advocate for the rights of peoples with disabilities in Zimbabwe. The UNPRPD aims to strengthen partnership with Disabled Persons Organizations and Human Rights Institutions in monitoring the implementation of the CRPD.



interface of culture, gender and disability”, UNESCO has been able to gather data that registers the experiences of this specific group. This information will contribute to the dialogue with governments and will form the basis for recommendations seeking to improve service delivery and access to justice.

The review of the country’s gender policy showed that the country had already adopted disability compliant frameworks. However, the review noted that despite the positive achievements, there is still a long way to go to enable women and girls with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedom. As such the following recommendations were made to Zimbabwe but they also apply equally to all countries in Africa:

1. The independent Human Rights Commissions should continue to receive training to appreciate Disability Rights.
2. As the nation is forging ahead in a spirit of tolerance and reconciliation, the disability segment must be assisted with resources to bring issues affecting its constituency into the national discourse.
3. The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) should be capacitated on disability education as it is creating space for national conversations aimed at achieving social, economic and political cohesion and transformation in Zimbabwe.
4. There is need for line ministries to mainstream disability in their programmes. This can be done by fully engaging with organizations who work with persons with disabilities.
5. Programmes for the economic empowerment of girls and persons with disabilities should work to address poverty, because poverty fuels the vulnerability of this already marginalized group.
6. Women and girls must be capacitated with advocacy skills for confidence building so that they learn to articulate their concerns. Especially since they are often relegated to so-

ciety’s periphery, due to their low social and economic status.

7. The AU and UN agencies must harness resources so that they can influence governments to domesticate the CRPD and ratify the African disability protocol. The AU and UN should also help to develop strategies to implement these and other regional and international treaties working to advance gender equality.

In line with the principle of the UN SDG Agenda 2030 - *leaving no one behind* - and in the spirit of promoting self-representation, the inclusion and involvement of girls and women with disabilities is paramount to sustainable peace. Ms Ranvengai concluded by saying, “*peace begins with me, peace begins with you, and peace begins with us all*”.

**Ms Iqbal El-Samaloty’s** presentation focused on the project, *Technology Enabled Literacy for Marginalized Girls and Women in Egypt*. She explained that this intervention was developed jointly with UNESCO to address the huge issue of illiteracy in Egypt, where 11,2 million women and adolescent girls<sup>92</sup> are illiterate.

The unemployment rate among females over the age of 15 is 23.1%, roughly 3 times higher than the unemployment rate for men in the country, which is currently 8.2%. Women are also more frequently victims of domestic violence. According to the National Council for Women, 36% of married women reported that they had experienced physical violence in their marriage.

In 2017, with the support of Microsoft and the Weidong Group from China in 2019, UNESCO piloted an innovative project – which offered ICT-based learning materials and tools to promote literacy among girls and women. This was done in collaboration with governmental bodies, civil society organizations and development partners to ensure sustainability and national ownership.

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<sup>92</sup> According to Egypt’s Institute of Statistics, the country currently has a 15+-illiteracy rate of 28.8%. This represents 23.5% of the over 15 male population and 34.5% of the country’s over 15 female population. This was equivalent to 18.8 million people in a 2017.

In Giza, 685 girls and women aged between 16 and 35 have benefited and developed literacy and numeracy skills. They also acquired digital literacy and life skills and were legal empowered – essentially obtaining the so called “multiple functional literacies skills”<sup>93</sup> conceptualized by UNESCO.

The project adopted a new literacy curriculum developed by Ms El Samaloty and her team from the Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education. It is called *Women and Life* and is specifically geared towards the empowerment of girls and women. The curriculum also included an educational, interactive, cross-platform digital application, which enabling the beneficiaries to become active members of their families and their communities.

The learning phase provided a comprehensive empowerment programme to build the knowledge, skills and character of learners. Different subjects such as early marriage, female genital mutilation, political participation and family relationships were discussed. The project also supported women to start their own small business. This comprehensive programme empowered female learners to act as key agents of change and peace within their communities, reducing thereby their vulnerability to violence and exploitation.

Technology enabled literacy requires less time to have an impact than the traditional literacy programmes. Learners were also more eager to regularly attend the technology-based sessions than they are to attend conventional literacy classes. At the end of the learning phase of 2017/2018 sessions, learners sat for the Adult Education Authority examination. The exam pass rate in the examination also reached 92%, which is much higher than the national average.

<sup>93</sup> UNESCO deems a person as functionally literate if they can engage in all those activities in which literacy is required for effective functioning of his or her group and community and also for enabling him or her to continue to use reading, writing and calculation for his or her own and the community's development. Multiple literacies refers to the ability to interpret the many formats, sources, or media through which we obtain information. The four competencies that comprise multiple literacies are visual, textual, digital and technological literacy.



*A young girl in Lilongwe is being trained on how to be a tailor on her specially adapted sewing machine*

**Ms Lois Danladi Musa** gave a presentation on the North East girls and women basic education initiative: *School Meet the Learner Approach* (SMLA). She informed that the project was initiated to address the huge issue of illiteracy in Bauchi State, Nigeria. Currently 10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria – this is one of the highest numbers in the world. 60% of those children, (6.3 million) are in the northern part of the country – and of this, 71% are girls and women (UNESCO 2015 GMR). This is almost one out of every three primary school children, and one out of every four junior secondary school children, out of school.

The high incidence of out-of-school children in North East Nigeria is largely due to the Boko Haram insurgency. The Boko Haram armed conflict has deprived many children, including girls, of access to education. It has caused 1.9 million people to be internally displaced, 80% of whom are women and children. Apart from the insurgency, low perceptions of the value of education for girls, cultural and religious barriers and early marriages are among the reasons for poor enrolment or early drop out. In North East Nigeria, 26% of women aged 20-49 years are married by the age of 15 and over 56% are married by the age of 18 (MICS 2015).

The *School Meets the Learner Approach* (SMLA) is an innovative approach developed by UNESCO and piloted in Bauchi State, Nigeria. It is designed to address poor access and gender inequality in education in the North East zone, many of which have



Fulani girls at Miga Primary School, Jigawa State, Nigeria.

arisen from armed conflict and cultural challenges. As the name suggests, it brings the school to the learners by means of use of developed IT software applications. This is deployed on mobile devices and computers, and even through broadcast television stations, with lesson contents for both formal and non-formal education. Targeted schools are equipped with desktop computers to complement the learning while multi-media centers at community level were created in targeted local areas to cater for the needs of the non-formal education learners. This approach is an offline solution based on self-learning and self-assessment.

### Results

Using this innovative approach to learning, the following results was observed:

- Capacity of 10,000 low-performing girls in Junior Secondary School Year 2 are being strengthened as a result of the digitization of 56 lesson contents in six subject areas. These include Basic Science, Basic Technology, Physical and Health Education, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Mathematics and English.
- 40,000 illiterate women and girls who had dropped out of school were reached to develop literacy and other relevant skills for employment and

income generation activities. This is being achieved through the digitization and migration of 85 lessons onto mobile devices for non-formal education students and learners.

- Furthermore, with collaboration between the local Bauchi Television Authority and the National Television Authority (NTA), the content was spread to an even more far-reaching group beyond the 50,000 targeted.

The project was the result of a smart partnerships between UNESCO, the provincial government and Proctor and Gamble. It built on the success story from a UNESCO pilot project in Senegal funded also by Proctor and Gamble. In the Senegal project ICTs were used to accelerate and reach more of the poor and illiterate learning population in- and out-of-school situations.

**Ms Júlia Quitócuá** presented on the Angolan National Policy for Gender Equality – which she used to illustrate the Angolan perspective on how governments can support women empowerment.

The government of Angola recognizes the challenges that girls and women face in society, which is why the country is an active participant in international forums, has ratified international legal frameworks and adopted domestic legislations protecting women's rights. In conformity with international legal frameworks, for example, the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, and the *Beijing Platform for Action*<sup>94</sup>, Angola adopted the *Law against Domestic Violence* (Law 25/11). The country also developed the National Policy for Gender Equality. This set of policies aims to mitigate gender-based violence and seeks to promote harmony within the families and households by changing societal norms.

There are varied forms of violence to which girls and young women are particularly vulnerable, especially when consid-

<sup>94</sup> The Beijing Platform for Action is a framework seeking to address gender equality, adopted during the Fourth World Conference on Women. The resolution was adopted to promulgate a set of principles for achieving greater equality and opportunity for women and remains relevant today – celebrating its 24th anniversary on the 15 September 2019.



ering early marriages. As result, the Angolan Government adhered to the African Union's campaign against early marriage and premature pregnancies. The government also engaged in efforts to raise awareness to mitigate early pregnancy rates in the country. This is enabling girls and young women to pursue formal education and improve their access to better employment opportunities.

Domestic violence in Angola continues to be a critical societal challenge, considering the elevated rates of violence against women and *femicide*, or the act of killing a woman just because she is female. On a national level, the government has established a network of help centers for women, so that they can be informed about their rights, their obligations as citizens and as women and of their legal protections. Recognizing the less acknowledged violence perpetrated by women against women, the government has made an appeal for greater respect, tolerance and solidarity among women.

Reiterating its appreciation for human rights, its inherent universal value, and the rights of girls and women, the national policy for gender equality promotes the role of women in society, encouraging them to take part in decision making processes and it also advocates for the inclusion of more women in positions of authority.

In Angola, women represent over half of the population, and of this percentage, nearly a third are heads of their respective families. Many of these female heads of households are single parents. This means that the education of children is mostly the responsibility of women. Therefore, access to education for both children and adults is fundamental in order to support underprivileged mothers and their families, so that they can become active participants of society. This set of policies are geared towards promoting girls and women's roles in society, by providing opportunities, and a platform where their opinions are expressed and heard. This will allow them to contribute to the (re)construction of their own communities.

### Plenary Discussion

During the session, panelists interacted with the audience on a diverse range of issues that showcase the challenges girls and women face on the African continent. They shared their experiences on the projects that empowered girls and women across the continent. These best practices represent viable approaches and solutions to address girls and women's vulnerability on the continent – and there were recommendations to scale them up. Some of the other discussion points are highlighted below:

- The higher vulnerability of women and girls living with disabilities to violence emphasizes the need for their inclusion in peace promoting initiatives. Women and girls with disabilities and the poor typically lack access to education due to many social and physical barriers that they suffer from within their families and communities.
- Many women are not given decision-making roles; as a result, they are seriously inhibited from contributing to matters that affect them directly.
- Young girls are victims of forced early marriages and female genital mutilation; unfortunately, this is a persistent issue, which requires doubling of efforts on the entire continent.
- Women and girls are victims of domestic violence within the household and in their marital spaces. Many are not empowered enough to know that they can ask for assistance and that there are legal frameworks to address their issues. Many women also do not possess the skills, including basic literacy and numeracy to venture into economic activities to escape dependence from abusive males and spouses.
- Mentorship for both girls and women are necessary to equip them with the skills and knowledge to build their confidence and self-esteem. It would also empower them to become active members of their communities.
- National gender policies in all countries are required to address gender-based violence. Governments

should therefore set up legal frameworks for protecting women against violence in their families, communities and society at large.

- A plea was made to women to be more tolerant with one another given the high number of cases of women's violence against other women. There was emphasis on the need to advocate and sensitize women to become agents of peace, living in harmony and solidarity with one another.
- Education was emphasized as a critical tool for empowerment of girls and women, with literacy programmes to be enhanced to facilitate their optimal integration in society.
- The panelists deplored the cultural practices and norms that enhance women's vulnerability to violence such as: marrying up to 4 wives; imprisonment of women in the homes unless they are granted permission to go out by their husbands; the belief that since girls would get married and go out of the household, there is no need to invest in them; and the fact that in some societies, only men are allowed to fend for the women and thus are ridiculed if their women are working – since working women are seen as a threat to the man in the household. In some cases, women also enforce customary perceptions by, for example, removing their daughters from school to help with the housework at home, insisting on taking them for female genital mutilation for them to become better wives in future.
- The need to better understand and address Gender Based Violence (GBV) through measures such as: getting a better view on the economic implication of GBV to better grasp the cost of devaluing women to the country; the need to introduce GBV issues as a key component in the curriculum; the need to mobilize religious and political leaders to speak out against GBV; the need to provide psychological care and support by an organized system for women and girls who survived trauma, in particular sexual violence.



The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. Recognizing the need to build truly inclusive peaceful societies and acknowledging that there can be no peaceful societies without the actual realization of the human rights of women and girls, we call upon all states and governments in Africa to develop and implement inclusive and gender transformative policies that promote: changes in attitudes; changes that encourage positive masculinity and support advocacy against malpractices and; changes to social norms that enhance the vulnerability of women and girls to violence;
2. Acknowledging that education is key to inclusion and equity and noting that many girls continue to drop out of school at a very young age, we call upon states, governments and international organizations to support women and girls' **access to quality and inclusive education**. In that regard, we recommend the adoption as well of technology as a means of enhancing teaching and learning, as well as to address the literacy and learning needs of populations that have been left behind by formal educational programmes.
3. In addition, recognizing the gender gap in science, technology and innovation overall in Africa, we advocated for the scaling up of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes for girls as well as the establishment of mentorship programmes for their empowerment and effective participation in conflict resolution mechanisms as well as reduction of their vulnerability to gender-based violence.
4. Recognizing the key role of African women as agents and promoters of peace on the continent, and acknowledging their limited capacity – which inhibits their contribution to reducing violence and the pursuit of peace, we the participants at the Biennale de Luanda, encourage an **enhanced coordination between United Nations agencies**, in particular **UNESCO and UNWOMEN, the African Union, the regional and national women organizations and the network of civil society**;
5. Recognizing that girls and women with disabilities still face intersecting barriers and lack the support necessary to participate fully in society, and in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which aims to “promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity”, we remind states of their obligations to guarantee and promote “the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability and gender” and to comply with the established provisions by developing and implementing adopted laws and policies, through a process of close consultation and their active participation.
6. We propose organizing a **conference to follow-up**, to further exchange experiences and best practices in peace and non-violence for and by women. We also propose conducting research on women leadership; the role of women in conflict prevention measures; as well as on the role of women in the promotion of a culture of peace.



### iii.4.3 Women's Network for the Culture of Peace

**Moderator: Ms Ana Elisa Santana Afonso**, Director of UNESCO's Liaison Office with the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and UNESCO's Representative to Ethiopia

#### Panelists

1. **H. E. Ms Specioza Naigaga Wandira-Kazibwe**, Former Vice-President of Uganda and Co-President of the Pan-African Network of African Women in conflict prevention and mediation (FemWise-Africa)
2. **Ms Awa Ndiaye Seck**, UN Women Representative in the Democratic Republic of Congo
3. **Ms Victoire Lasseni-Duboze**, President of the Pan-African Women's Peace Culture Network (Gabon)
4. **Mrs Jeanne d'Arc Kanakuze**, Executive Secretary of the Pro-Women/Twese Hamwe Collective (Rwanda)
5. **Ms Coumba Fall Venn**, Administrator of the Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development of Women Africa Solidarity, Senegal
6. **Dr. Yemisi Akinbobola**, Co-Founder of the African Women in Media Network, Nigeria.

#### Introduction

The session was introduced by Ms Ana Elisa Santana Afonso. Recalling that in Africa, the struggle for freedom has not always been solely the work of men, she referred to historical figures such as the Angolan Queen Njinga Mbandi (circa 1581/83-1663), the Senegalese Queen Ndeté Yalla (1810-1860), the South African Charlotte Maxeke (1874-1939) and the Madagascar's Gisèle Rabesahala (1929-2011), to name a few of the numerous women of different origins and conditions, who have done their part in the emancipatory struggles against slavery and colonialism. By working for the freedom and independence of their countries, and of the continent, she stated that these African women were working at the same time for their own emancipation.

This female activism did not disappear; aware of the strategic need to come together and act for equal rights - one of the foundations of peace and development on the continent - African women activists and their organizations are increasingly forming national and transnational unifying entities. This session provided the opportunity to present some of these organizations, which include, for example: the "Pan-African Women's Network for the Culture of Peace", created in Gabon in 2018 with the support of UNESCO and the United Nations System; the "Pan-African Network of African Women in conflict prevention and mediation" (FemWise-Africa) established in 2017 by the Conference of African Union (AU) Heads of State and Governments; "Women Africa Solidarity" (FAS), established in 2006 in Dakar, Senegal, offers academic training and capacity building programmes through its Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development; the "Pro-Women/Twese Hamwe Collective" was established in 1992 in Rwanda and was awarded the "UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence" in 1996; and the African Women in Media (AWiM) network, established in Nigeria in 2016.

**H.E. Dr. Specioza Wandira-Kazibwe** explained that the Network of African



Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation, also known as FemWise-Africa, was established by the AU Heads of State in 2017 within the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as a subsidiary mechanism of the Panel of the Wise<sup>95</sup>. The establishment of FemWise-Africa came after long-term commitments and studies by the AU

looking at the advancement of women on the continent, and into the roles that women play in conflict prevention and mediation.

In 2010, the Panel of the Wise commissioned a study to look into the eradication of sexual violence against women and children in armed conflicts. In examining the recommendations of the study, there was a consensus that for there to be effective implementation, there was an institutional need to get women to mobilize, have a common agenda, come up with strategic activities, and put in place effective monitoring and evaluation procedures.

Presently, the network is led by two Co-Chairs and has a Steering Committee, made up of Panels of the RECS, mediation experts, NGOs, representatives from UN Agencies and other partners. There is also a General Assembly (GA), made up of all FemWise-Africa mem-

*Women can become key stakeholders in the promotion of a culture of peace if efforts are mobilized to give them the opportunity to act in that direction – a female ranger at Virunga National Park*

<sup>95</sup> The first Panel was appointed in 2007 by the AU through Article 11 of the “Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union”, aimed to support the efforts of the Council and the Chairperson of the AU Commission, particularly in conflict prevention. In creating the Panel of the Wise, the African Union recognized the importance of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and their continued relevance in preventing and mediating disputes and conflicts in contemporary Africa. Since then (<https://unchronicle.un.org>). So far there have been 4 appointed Panels, the 4th having a mandate from 2018 to 2022 and composed by H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba (Namibia), H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia), Dr. Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe (Uganda), Mr Amr Moussa (Egypt), Mrs Honorine Nzet Bitéghé (Gabon) (<https://www.peaceau.org>)





*The establishment of women's networks for women is essential for enhancing the recognition of women as key actors in the promotion of the culture of peace*

bers, which has been used to get the ideas of women from across Africa. FemWise works with NGOs, governments, women in politics, individual women, activists in the peace area, women in law, women in agriculture, women in education and many more similar organizations. It is important to underscore that FemWise-Africa is not an NGO. It is a government machinery to mainstream the efforts of women to ensure they participate in mediation and peace building activities.

**Ms Awa Ndiaye Seck** began by recapping the genesis of UN Women. She explained that the organization was established as part of the UN reform in 2010, to better coordinate the United Nations' efforts to advance the gender equality agenda, with emphasis on women's empowerment at international, regional and national levels. UN Women has been endowed with three mandates:

1. The **normative mandate** is to support the effective implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325<sup>96</sup>.
2. The **operational mandate** includes the five different pillars of actions of the organization:

- leadership and women's participation,
- women's economic empowerment,
- elimination of all forms of violence against women,
- women, peace and security and
- gender-sensitive planning and budgeting.

3. The **coordination mandate** focuses on the coordinating between the United Nations system and the partnership with governments, development partners, civil society organizations, businesses, foundations, as well as committed individuals.

She proceeded by thanking the organizers of the Biennale for the Culture of Peace, and reiterated UN Women's commitment to the partnership with UNESCO, the African Union and other entities. This partnership in her views will help to effectively support the implementation of the culture of peace, an initiative that contributes to both the operational and the coordination mandate of UN Women. Understanding the challenges of creating and sustaining movements like this, she called for everyone's support to optimize *"this opportunity to put together our energies, and our mandates to contribute effectively to better management and use of this culture of peace"* movement.

**Ms Victoire Lasseni-Duboze** started her address by providing information on the Gabon-section of the *Pan-African Network of Women for Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development*. Legally recognized as per the Gabonese association legislation, the network was established on 16 June 2018, following a constituent general assembly facilitated with the support of UNESCO. It consists of 123 associations and organizations, including the Gabonese Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AGAM). Like the latter, which is made up of women and men, the *Pan-African Women's Network for the Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development* is an inclusive network, which has amongst its members women's associations and organizations but it also is open to men's associations and organisations.

<sup>96</sup> Resolution 1325 was the first formal and legal document from the Security Council that required parties in a conflict to prevent violations of women's rights, to support women's participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction, and to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence.



By bringing together associations, foundations and research institutes interested in the promotion of women, the Network's ambition is to contribute to the construction and consolidation of a culture of peace. As such, the Network aims to:

- Contribute to Gabon's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDGs 5 and 16<sup>97</sup>
- Play the role of watch and mediator in case of crises or conflicts
- Promote women's empowerment and leadership Contribute to the preservation and promotion of Gabon's natural and cultural heritage from the perspective of dialogue between cultures and civilizations
- Build any kind of partnerships, in Gabon and/or abroad, that can help to achieve its purpose

Called to be represented throughout the country by branches, the *Pan-African Women's Network for the Culture of Peace* is made up of four bodies: (i) a General Assembly; (ii) an Executive Office; (iii) a Committee of Experts and; (iv) a Council of Wise Women.

Responsible for the day-to-day operation and implementation of the decisions and deliberations of the General Assembly, the Executive Office has 12 members, with a diverse profile in training and age (30% are over 60 years of age, and 70% of the members are under the age of 40). The president's term is three years, renewable only once.

Comprised of individuals with diverse expertise recognized by their peers, the Committee of Experts is the technical advisory body that works to assist the Executive Board.

Bringing together women of wisdom, i.e. holders of indigenous knowledge, the Council of Wise Women is also a technical advisory body with expertise in traditional knowledge on tangible and intangible cultural heritage. This council is made up of eighteen people, with two experts representing each of the nine provinces.

As part of its action plan for 2019-2021, the *Pan-African Network of Women for Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development (PANWCoPSD)* envisages, among other to:

1. Contribute to the development of a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325. Thanks to the Network's advocacy, the Government adopted this recommendation at one of its Councils of Ministers. This will equally support the efforts to the implement the National Women's Decade (2015-2025).
2. Raise awareness among young people about the protection and preservation of biodiversity, and thus to promote ecological peace, through the organisation of a music festival that will bring together in Libreville (Gabon), 10,000 young people between the ages of 8 and 18 years old – representing various nationalities.
3. Contribute to the empowerment of fifty visually impaired people through braille reading and writing training.
4. Establish a program that will help to solve the "street children" phenomenon.
5. Develop a pilot program to reintegrate incarcerated women and girls who have served their sentences. This will require the undertaking of a study to document the situation of this group.
6. Establish a pilot program in primary and secondary schools for the training of peer moderators on non-violent communication to discourage physical and verbal abuse and prevent conflicts among youth.

In order to become a truly social enterprise, for the period between 2019 and 2021, the PANWCoPSD plans to create at least two permanent jobs that will complement the work being done by volunteer staff.

These examples show that, as well as the work on SDGs 5 and 16, the also intends to contribute to the achieve-

<sup>97</sup> SDG 5 is on Gender Equality while SDG 16 is about Peace, justice and strong institutions

ment of SDG 4<sup>98</sup>, particularly in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence in schools. The Network is committed to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The development and implementation of a national action plan for the implementation of UNSC's Resolution 1325 shows that the Network is also operationalizing the African Union Commission's programme for Women, Peace and Security in Africa. However, this programme, like other initiatives, from the AU, UNESCO and the UN System, cannot prosper without solidarity. As the African proverb goes "one finger cannot wash the entire face" and "A hand alone cannot clap."

The PANWCoPSD is also supportive of the idea of collaboration in the form of sharing good practices and experiences between women's networks for the culture of peace in Africa.

**Mrs Jeanne d'Arc Kanakuze** commenced by explaining that after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis, Rwanda considers respect for human dignity and national unity, a cornerstone of its socio-economic development and lasting peace in the country.

25 years since the Genocide, gender equality and women's empowerment have been at the forefront of the country's national development (Vision 2020, 2050, National Strategy for Transformation 1-NST1). In that regard, Rwanda established a legal and political framework that aimed for the effective participation of women in all areas of life in the country.

This legal framework has enabled civil society organizations and women's organizations specifically, to contribute to the reconstruction of peace and the socio-economic development of the country.

The *Pro-Women/Twese Hamwe Collective* was founded in 1992 with 53 member organizations working for the promotion of a culture of peace, gender equality, the socio-economic development of women and the participation of women in political governance.

The *Collective* was involved in the implementation of the Action for Peace Campaign Programme, focusing on the culture of peace, the assistance and supervision of widows, orphans and unaccompanied children, housing construction for women and socio-economic recovery.

They have received several awards in recognition of these efforts, including:

- UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, November 1996
- Peter Gruber Foundation Award for the Promotion of Women's Rights, December 2003 in the United States
- African Gender AWARD by Women Africa Solidarity (FAS) in Senegal in 2007
- Best Services to the Basic Community Award by Community Development Initiative (CDI) in Kigali in 2007

#### Rwanda's legal and regulatory framework affecting women

The Government is committed to improving women's position by:

1. Having Rwanda's Constitution attribute at least 30% of positions in decision-making bodies to women
2. Introducing the Law on Prevention and Repression against Gender Based Violence, which punishes rape and deals with all forms of gender-based violence
3. Issuing the Law on Matrimonial Regimes, Liberalities and Estates, equally granting men and women, girls and boys the right to succession and inheritance from their parents. The Act gives women equal rights to land use and property
4. Introducing the Law governing land management in Rwanda that guarantees women and men equal rights over access to and use of land and property. As a result, women's financial inclusion rose from 36% in 2012 to 62.9% in 2016
5. Issuing the Labour Law which grants equal opportunity and equal pay to women and men and prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace

<sup>98</sup> SDG4 is Life-long education

6. Establishing the National Gender Machinery, consisting of the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Council of Women, the National Commission for Children, the Gender Observatory and the women parliamentarians, which are all a catalyst for today's changes in gender equality and women's empowerment in Rwanda.

### The Pro-Women/Twese Hamwe Collective's are of work

The 1994 Genocide resulted in more than 1 million deaths, and between 250,000 and 500,000 women were raped during the hundred days of violence, leaving more than 50,000 widows and 75,000 orphans along with the destruction of community social fabric, property and infrastructure.

The *Collective* took advantage of the political will to rebuild the country based on the principles of respect, human dignity, unity, national reconciliation, the fight against all forms of discrimination and the promotion of equal rights for all.

Specifically, these are the contributions of the *Pro-Women/Twese Hamwe* collective:

- The group created frameworks for exchanges and dialogue between women in the country, those in exile, women widows victims of the genocide and those of the perpetrators of the crime of genocide, which exemplifies the complexity of the peace building context.
- They mobilized women for their effective involvement in traditional Gacaca<sup>99</sup> justice, a reconciling justice.
- The *Collective* worked on women's capacity building in governance, participation in the democratic and electoral process, leadership, economic power, women's entrepreneurship,

<sup>99</sup> The Gacaca court is a system of community justice inspired by Rwandan tradition where gacaca can be loosely translated as grass, the place where the community gather to resolve disputes. This traditional, communal justice system was adapted in 2001 to fit the needs of Rwanda in the wake of the 1994 Rwandan genocide in view of government struggles to pursue justice on such a massive scale. The Gacaca courts were introduced as a form of transitional justice designed to promote communal healing and rebuilding placing justice in the hands of trusted citizens.



peacebuilding, unity and reconciliation and social justice.

- They also strengthen and support women in politics at all levels by offering guidance to those with political ambitions, assisting women candidates at all levels through a women's leadership program called *Women Can Do It*.
- The *Collective* established a regional consultation framework for women in the Great Lakes region "COCAFEM-GL" to promote peaceful cross-border co-existence between women in the region. The aim of the framework is to build a strong voice for women, that helps to address their demands for peace, security, participation in governance and the promotion of their rights.

In the long term, the *Collective* will continue to strengthen its programs including culture of peace, women's leadership, economic empowerment, women's participation in governance as well as institutional and organizational capacity building. Their organization is now building a center of excellence for women's leadership and the culture of peace that will strengthen the capacity of women in Africa and will facilitate studies and research as well as the development of partnership with others.

*Women's empowerment has been possible in some African countries that recognize women as an essential actor in the economic development of the country*



According to **Ms Coumba Fall Venn**, Today, most armed conflicts take place mainly within states and continue to occur in many African countries. In addition to intra-state armed conflict, terrorism and electoral violence are the other emerging forms of fighting on the continent, that pose an unprecedented challenge to collective security, especially for women and young people.

Even latent conflicts affect men and women in different ways, because of the different biological constitution and the greater socio-economic vulnerability of women and the burdens that they usually carry within their families. When there is conflict, women are usually the most exposed to violence, precariousness, social destruction and harsh living conditions.

In the Sahel, the spread of violent extremism poses a real threat to women's lives. Rejecting the diktats imposed on them by violent extremism, they want to protect their families and communities from polarization and threats. Women peacebuilders are caught between the growing extent of extremism in their communities and the constraints imposed on them by anti-terrorist policies that limit their access to finance and resources.

This situation exacerbates the already existing socio-cultural and economic conditions for contribute to the exclusion and marginalization of women. It also hinders their empowerment and participation in political and strategic decision-making aimed at eliminating violent extremism.

Deprived of space for expression in the political arena, women have established circumventing strategies and have invested in civil society organizations. It is through these associations that they act, attempting to transform inequalities of power. In this way, they are at the forefront of the prevention and response efforts. They raise awareness and introduce prevention activities, through women's networks for peace, non-violent conflict management, and culture of peace.

Peace is therefore intimately linked to gender equality and women's empowerment. Women's participation in the promotion of peace is imperative for sustainable, participatory and inclusive development. This participation is a significant contribution that corrects gender inequalities while contributing to the strive for political stability, economic growth, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The potential for lasting peace is thus held back if women are confined to victimhood at the expense of effective participation as promoters of peace and human security.

Despite the recognition of these realities, remarkably, women continue to be left out of the process of finding solutions for sustained peace and are marginalized in the development process. The absence of women from the prevention and peace-building processes is obviously surprising given that they are increasingly involved in the conflict, both as combatants and peace activists. As many studies point out, women make up more than half of the world's population - whether as survivors, combatants or peacemakers, they must play a crucial role in preventing conflict and maintaining peace in the world, as outlined in the UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security. Despite this high-level commitment through UNSCR 1325, women's participation in conflict prevention and peace-building remains low due to obstacles such as lack of education, poor access to information, persistence of a socio-cultural environment unfavourable to women and in many cases, limited opportunities to involve them in decision-making. These situations are further exacerbated by the slow pace of political will for their inclusion and consideration, along with prevailing socio-cultural prejudices.

In fact, it has been found that those at the negotiating table are often those who are waging wars. Despite making up half of population, women, who are generally the victims and survivors, are forgotten with their concerns hardly ever considered. Yet their situation, their position, and their experiences should give them the legitimacy to contribute to









*There is a need for empowering women to become stakeholders in conflict prevention and resolution. This can be done through education in schools as well as information workshops in refugee camps - Women attending a community meeting held at the UN Women multipurpose centre in the Ngam refugee camp, Cameroon*

the search for lasting solutions. Studies have shown that signed peace agreements that have not benefited from women's contributions, are doomed to fail within 10-15 years.

It is important to recall the importance of investing in institutional capacity building to improve services for women, to improve their participation in political decision-making and mobilize them in the peacebuilding efforts, in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Indeed, when women are involved and mobilized as active stakeholders in peacebuilding, trust is established between the various communities and populations. When women reach the level of leadership, transformative change and positive development can be encouraged and maintained. Finally, when women are empowered and given the opportunity to improve their livelihoods, it can create a huge dividend for peace in communities.

Thus, the actions of Women Africa Solidarity (FaS) aims to consolidate its achievements in the Sahel, the Mano River, the Great Lakes, these actions also aim to strengthen and catalyze the contribution of women's organizations for peace. In this mission, it builds on its Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development - a Centre of Excellence, established in Dakar in 2006 that offers academic training and capacity building programmes.

FaS has been contributing to the Networks and Institutions promoting a Culture of Peace since its launch in 2013 by UNESCO and its partners.

**Dr. Yemisi Akinbobola** provided a testimony on her work as a journalist in the promotion of women's rights and empowerment through a media perspective.

"Between 2010-2014, I founded and ran a news website called IQ4News. Those four years provided me with first hand experience in media entrepreneurship, cross border team management, working with digital platforms, and other aspects of media business and news production that comes with being a publisher. In 2014 I decided to shelve IQ4News despite being profitable, given that I had little room to innovate. This was followed by a year of reflection: 'what do I do next? How can I have a greater impact? How can I share my experiences with other women in media?' In 2015, we got funding to produce an investigative story on football player trafficking. This in-depth report won the CNN African Journalist Award for Sports Reporting in 2016. Yet as a woman in media, I soon realised there was no network through which I could get the support that I needed to take the next steps in my career, or even identify those steps.

So, in August 2016, I set up African Women in Media (AWiM) as a Facebook group. This attracted some interest, but it was not until October 2016 during a *Media Forum* at the *CNN/Multichoice*



*Awards Finalists* programme in Johannesburg that I realised the urgent need for a pan-continental network that connected us women in media around urgent pan-continental objectives. Participants at the forum spoke passionately about the lack of support for women in the media. They wanted the kind of support I had been looking for since 2014, and this led me to forge on with implementing my vision for AWiM.

What started as a Facebook group and research agenda in my academic role, metamorphosed into an annual conference. We now have three successful annual conferences under our belts, built fruitful relationships with organisations like the African Union Commission, Natural Resource Governance Institute, GIZ, International Organisation for Migration, Google News Initiative, and worked with news media such as AllAfrica, Royal Media Group, Standard Media group, among others.

African Women in Media conferences bring together media stakeholders, and puts into action some of the solutions we speak passionately about, like the economic empowerment of women through our Pitch Zone production grants. Our work is guided by three pillars: (i) Knowledge exchange between academia and industry; (ii) Economic empowerment of women, and (iii) Visibility. Our mission is to improve the way that the media functions in relation to African women. We inspire, support and empower. Our membership brings together African women with diverse media backgrounds, from factual content to fictional content, marketing and communications, academia, entrepreneurship and more. With a pan-continental focus, we aim to provide support for, and collaborate with, regional and national media bodies.

Our AWiM Awards has supported the production of seven factual projects - some completed, others ongoing. At the African Women in Media 2019 conference in Nairobi, following the murder of the journalist Hodan Nalayeh<sup>100</sup>, who

was scheduled to speak, we launched our *Changing Narratives* award. We are grateful to the Nalayeh family for permitting us to rename the award the *Hodan Nalayeh Changing Narratives Award*.

Over the next 12 months, we plan to develop research networks and to collaborate with the Wikimedia Nigeria community to increase the number of African women profiled on Wikipedia. Our focus areas are profiling African women who are contributing to peacebuilding and conflict resolution, African women in technology, and African women in the media. We are already planning the AWiM2020 Summit, with the theme *Reimagining Futures: Peace, Media and Society 5.0*, the summit will see us build on lessons learnt so far.

Among those lessons learnt, in terms of practical support for African women in the media, are:

1. The need for more women in media to be mentored towards leadership.
2. The need for financial support for the production of in-depth stories, because the allocation of resources within media organisations are not just limited but can also be gendered.
3. The need to build stronger relationships between African women in the media industries, with a wider international media. This would include providing essential training on how to pitch stories.

These however will not be enough, and that is why we are in the process of strategizing towards a transition from being a conference series to an international NGO, thus further enhancing our mandate to inspire, support, and empower. There are calls to join forces with other women networks around the values of FEMWISE, therefore this Women's Forum at the Biennale for the Culture of Peace in Luanda comes at a good time.

In preparation for my talk at this Women's Forum, I asked our members a simple question: "*Do you think women in*

<sup>100</sup> Hodan Nalayeh was a Somali-Canadian media executive, marketing consultant, social activist and entrepreneur. She was president of the Cultural

Integration Agency and vice president of Sales & Programming Development of Cameraworks Productions International who was killed in a extremist attack in Somalia in July 2019.

*media networks and organisations like African Women in Media, should join forces towards the prevention and management of conflicts across Africa, and work to protect girls and women who are vulnerable to violence?"* The resounding answer I got was 'Yes!'

And so, in exploring AWiM's positioning on uniting with the various networks of women for peace in Africa around the ethos of FEMWISE, whilst valuing our complementarity, permit me to explore three key areas: What women in media should be doing, why, and how AWiM will support women in media in this regard.

**What the media should be doing, in particular, what women in media should be doing:**

**1. Sensitivity and balanced reporting:**

These are essential ingredients to conflict reporting, and it was not a surprise to find that all our members responding to my question, highlighted this point. The need for careful handling of conflict reporting in the newsroom, as AWiM member Liliane Kambirigi-Sebatigita, a retired communication and media relations advisor at the UN, put it, sensitivity and balanced reporting means ensuring media reporting on conflict uses "non-confrontational language [and] avoid disrespectful polemics". The human touch, compassion and knowledge of the local contexts are particularly important in this process. When we speak of understanding local contexts, we also speak of the importance for international media outlets not to simply parachute reporters to conflicts zones on the continent, but instead – they should work with local African journalists in these communities of conflict who truly understand the issues, contexts and background. Reporting conflict requires various levels of sensitivity, not in the least ensuring that conflicts like the insurgency in the Maghreb, and the various civil wars and civic unrests are reported by the international media in the contexts in which these acts

of violence occur. They should not be reported in the context of misinformed stereotyping, nor in the context of the global war on terror, or worse still a singular African war (see the work of Ricchiardi 2006; Musa & Yusha'u, 2013);

**2. Accuracy:**

Our reporting informs the public, our decision makers and consequently influences policies, treaties and humanitarian responses. Whenever we are not objective or unbiased in our reporting, we unwittingly interfere with quick responses and conflict resolution processes. This underscores the importance of dissemination of the right information, and creating effective processes and systems in tackling fake news and misinformation. This includes a call for each country to be unambiguous about how they will address misinformation in their National Action Plans towards achieving the UN Security Council Resolution 1325;

**3. Finally, how are we documenting, monitoring and reporting**

on international and pan-continental mechanisms like the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals, the UNSCR 1325, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights? Those mechanisms put in place to promote peace, security, and the rights of women and girls in Africa.

**Why women in media should be doing this:**

The reason why women in media should select these specific areas (balanced reporting, accuracy and monitoring) as agendas, and develop internal codes of ethics around these, is evident in the UNSCR 1325. It is because women and girls are often the worst hit and face various forms of violence and exploitation during conflicts. So, what is the difference between male and female reporters of conflict? In practice, being a female reporter on the frontline

comes with certain risks not as common with men, for example sexual violence and harassment. And the presence of femininity in hostile environments that are stereotypically male-centric, is bound to cause reactions.

In terms of our storytelling though, the very experience of being a woman, the lived experiences acquired from our various African socio-cultural dimensions, mean that we view the world through a particular lens. Consequently, when we tell stories of conflict and its impact on women and girls, our shared experiences enable us to report through this lens that only we as African women in media, can report through. The overarching question to answer by African women in the media therefore revolves around how we can use our position and lived experiences to not just tell the stories with a careful human touch, but do so in a way that empowers female survivors of conflict to speak up? How can we use our position to challenge traditional patriarchal norms? As an AWiM supporter, Larissa Buschmann, Programme Coordinator for Gender & Media at Free Press Unlimited, puts it: we women in media should *“investigate how these [mechanisms] are implemented and share any results (positive or negative) with [the] broader public to continue the dialogue, encourage individual activists, grass-roots and CSOs, and remind policy makers that we have a long way to go.”*

Unfortunately, very few African women in the media are assigned to report during conflict. Additionally, in preparation for this forum, I analysed the National Action Plan for four African countries (Nigeria, Kenya, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo). Of these four countries, only South Sudan specifically mentioned and provided for female journalists as part of their strategy. The NAPs present women as mediators and media as those saddled with the responsibility of raising awareness. When we bring both together - women and the media - it creates a new opportunity to support journalists in using their profession to both raise awareness and mediate. Community media and partnerships with national and interna-

tional women in media associations are important in this regard. Joining forces with other organisations under FEMWISE, will provide opportunities to create channels for access to locations and people that are otherwise out of reach. AWiM can therefore be a mediator in brokering these relationships facilitating and supporting media producers in sourcing for the stories that will significantly contribute to change, peacebuilding and impact.

#### **How AWiM should support them to do this:**

As an organisation that rallies female media professionals, AWiM's proposed actions of priority are intended to contribute to the *UNSCR 1325's four basic pillars* of a vision that privileges unifying projects in order to put them in place around the prevention and management of gender-based conflicts and violence:

- 1. Research and Advocacy towards Enabling Environments:** Understanding the lived experiences of women in conflict reporting is essential to guide an advocacy and campaign objective towards ensuring that countries and media organisations create the necessary enabling environment for women in media to effectively execute their work. Equally, understanding the

*Because of the violence faced by many women in Africa, their presence in the media can prove to be a strong tool to denounce violence and inequality – it will also contribute to the general empowerment of women in society*





lived experiences of female victims and survivors of conflict can also guide the orchestration of campaigns geared towards the creation of enabling environments where gender based violence can be prevented. This advocacy agenda will target decision makers at national, continental, and global levels. Part of this advocacy initiative to create enabling environments constitutes a reliable tool for monitoring how well African countries comply with the treaties they signed to and a means of obtaining data that will support journalists to perform their functions. Safety is however indispensable for bringing about these enabling environments.

2. **Training for Awareness:** Supporting and promoting impactful storytelling that raises awareness about the incidents and impact of gender based violence (GBV) during conflict on survivors. Women and girls need a safe place where they can talk about GBV, gender stereotyping and inequity, where they have the confidence to speak up. Supporting female journalists, and even those female survivors of conflict, through reporting grants and training on alternative interviewing techniques like oral history interviewing. Methods that help to reconstruct narratives from the bottom up, that help to document a greater understanding of gender issues, and that create the kind of human touch interviewing that women in media can embody. Often disempowerment begins from a lack of confidence to speak up. Speaking up leads to awareness, and this awareness can influence policies. Identifying the important role women in media can play is only the first step towards helping female victims and survivors of conflict, to feel sufficiently at ease to begin to speak out. We must also support the training of these women in media on how to interview in the context of sensitive reporting, how to build impact into their story plan-

ning and consequently bring about social change;

3. **Gender Inclusive Media:** Leadership mentoring is the number one area in which AWiM's support is requested. Increasing the number of women appointed in leadership positions of media organisations and governing bodies is critical to creating an enabling environment that can also contribute to improving sensitive reporting around gendered topics like Sexual and GBV. To succeed we must also enlist the support of male colleagues as key allies in executing initiatives that seek to achieve the socio-economic empowerment of women. Engaging beneficiaries in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases of our programmes and priority actions, guarantees that expectations are well managed and that the lessons learnt contribute to appropriately meeting the needs of the people we serve.

### Plenary Discussion

During the exchanges, it became clear that there is a need to prioritize the following:

1. Strengthening cooperation between different civil society and governmental organizations.
2. Setting up a broad research programme on women's participation in the promotion of a culture of peace.
3. Strengthening platforms to share information on women and the culture of peace and;
4. Strengthening women's participation in the media for a culture of peace.

In addition, the panelists stressed the need for preventive action against conflict through education, culture and communication, emphasizing the role of women in media as important actors. To achieve this, the partners also stressed the need to avoid rigid coordination structures, which would hinder the active engagement of the various partner organizations.

The session arrived at the following recommendations:

1. Recognizing the key role of African women as peace-promoters on the continent, and recognizing their limited opportunities to engage and contribute to national, continental and international initiatives for the reduction of violence and peacemaking decisions, we encourage an enhanced coordination between the **United Nations**, in particular UNESCO **and UN-Women, the African Union, regional and national women's organizations and civil society** networks;
2. Propose the organization of a **conference** to share experiences and best practices in peace and non-violence, as well as research on women's leadership, conflict prevention practices and the role of women, including women in the media, in promoting and building a culture of peace.







## ii. Festival of Cultures









Fashion show  
at the Moroccan Village

The Festival of Cultures took place at the National Museum of Military History, former Fortress of São Miguel and adjacent areas. It was a multidisciplinary event that provided space for exchanges between artistic and cultural expressions, which contributed to the promotion of African values of peace and non-violence.

16 countries participated in the Festival of Cultures, 10 from Africa and 6 from elsewhere – with representation from the following countries: Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Cape Verde, Cuba, Egypt, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa and South Korea - bringing together more than 200 artists, musical and cultural groups of different modalities. Each country displayed part of its cultural diversity at their respective stands, combined with additional spaces for gastronomic shows and stages for diverse cultural performances and manifestations.

Several artistic and cultural activities were carried out, displaying samples of traditional and contemporary dance, music, cinema, theater, poetry, literature, fine arts, dialogues, crafts, gas-

tronomy, sustainable robotics as well as workshops on creative and environmental awareness and interactive knowledge platforms through workshops on different genres of dance including semba, capoeira, traditional ballet and percussion. In addition there were also many different shows and exhibitions.

Films were exhibited at the Auditorium of the Museum with special prominence given to “The Mercy of the Jungle”<sup>101</sup> from Rwandan director Joël Karekeez and the Angolan film “Beyond my steps”<sup>102</sup>, by Kamy Lara’s, which won the 2019 FESPACO film festival of Ouagadougou. Gastronomic degustation from Angola, Cuba, Egypt, Italy, Kenya and Morocco allowed the visitors to enrich their palates with the diversity of tastes from Africa and elsewhere.

15,000 visitors attended the Festival of Cultures, where they were able to see up to 156 performances. 58 of the staged activities originated from across the continent, with the remaining 98 showcased by Angolan artists. The *Word Tree* workshop registered 430 participants, while 555 others joined the other workshops. 13 restaurants and food areas served more than 5,300 people.

Fourteen stands were set up for countries to present their cultural diversity, 6 galleries for exhibitions, and offices for the management of the event. The National Museum of Military History also benefited from several infrastructure improvements that were undertaken in preparation for the Biennale.

Morocco built a Moroccan Village at the *Marginal de Luanda*, to highlight a variety of handicrafts, the rich gastronomy and a fashion show, as a testimony of the country’s rich and diverse cultural heritage.

<sup>101</sup> The Mercy of the Jungle is a film telling the story of two Rwandan soldiers separated from their military unit at the beginning of the Second Congo War and their struggle to survive in a hostile jungle environment amidst intense armed conflict.

<sup>102</sup> With the original title “Para lá dos meus Passos” in this film released in 2019, five dancers explore the concepts of tradition, culture, memory, and identity, questioning the transformation and deconstruction of these themes in their own lives.

Angola as the host country presented a pavilion portraying the chronology of peace from 1975 to present, a reflection on 27 years of war. The exhibit was also a tribute to the Angolan people who fought, died and waited for peace. In addition, it honored the refugees who cross(ed) borders to find peace in Angola.

The Fortress hosted several parallel events, organized by cultural agents who associated themselves to the Biennale:

- Semba Festival at the *Palácio de Ferro* with participation of over 3,500 people;
  - Craft fair at *Largo do Pelourinho* hosting 52 stands with African clothing, handicrafts and arts;
  - Arts and Crafts fairs at the *Triângulo da Ilha* with 25 fairs stands;
  - Performances and exhibitions at *Chá de Caxinde* cultural space with 400 visitors;
  - Exhibition at the Portuguese Cultural Center with 1000 visitors;
  - Exhibition on the “Historical Heritage of Portuguese Origin in the World” at the National Museum of Natural History;
  - Exhibition on the 500th anniversary of the death Leonardo da Vinci at the Cultural Center Brazil-Angola;
  - Festival of Italian film.
- Several initiatives were carried out by Angolan national entities, associating themselves to the Biennale:
- The *Correios de Angola*, presented a collection of five different stamps designed and packaged together to commemorate the Luanda Biennale. The Minister of Culture and representatives of the Board of Directors of the Post Office of Angola attended the event.
  - The Interreligious Forum for Peace and Sustainable Development took place at the Dr. António Agostinho Neto Memorial and was organized by the National Council for Christian Churches in Angola (CICA). The National Institute for Religious Affairs welcomed 250 participants from various religious groups, in a theological debate on how religion can contribute to peace and sustainable development in Angola.
  - On the International Peace Day (21 September), an Ecumenical Service was held in the *Campo dos Coqueiros*, with the participation of 2,500 devotees from various religious backgrounds, organized by the National Council for Christian Churches in Angola (CICA) and the Evangelical Alliance of Angola (EEA).

Art exhibition during the Festival of Cultures



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# V. Closing of the Biennale

The closing of the Biennale of Luanda took place with two distinct sessions:

1. the Closing Ceremony of the Forum of Ideas and
2. the Closing Concert

## V.1 Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of the Forum of Ideas was chaired by Ms Zulmira Rodrigues, UNESCO Chief of Section for Cooperation with Regional Organizations and Coordinator of the Forum of Ideas. The session began with the presentation of the:

1. Communiqué of the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace Forum for the first edition of the Biennale of Luanda by Ms Safira Mahanjane, Director of the Literacy Department of the Ministry of Education and Human Development, Mozambique
2. Communiqué of the African Youth Forum for a Culture of Peace by Mr John Paul Ekene Ikwelle, President of the Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace (Nigeria)<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> To view the *Commitment of African Youth for the Culture of Peace*, please refer to page 154.





## **COMMUNIQUÉ 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 organizations, the private sector, the arts, sciences, academic and international institutions in Africa, its diaspora, and other regions of the world came to Angola's capital for five days.

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

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

- 1.** Agree that 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 to implement and operationalize 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 organizations, philanthropists and influential personalities on the continent and abroad to join this movement, leveraging each member's strength and resources, and form a multi-stakeholder 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 State in support of this movement, and request his sustained support for ensuring the continuity of the process, as well as further involvement of Heads of State.

The Biennale had five main axes: 1) the Partners' Forum - Alliance for Africa, 2) the Forum of Ideas, 3) the Youth Forum, 4) the Women's Forum, and 5) 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 the continent, 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, which brought together representatives from the multilateral institutions, private sector, networks of Youth organizations and cultural stakeholder, forms the adequate Partners Alliance that is key to leveraging resources for the implementation of interventions throughout the continent and its diaspora with the goal of fostering peace.

Recognizing this mechanism, the participants thank the partners for their commitment, and urged them to continue supporting the different initiatives. In that regard, considering the importance of innovation for sustainable development we call upon:

1. The **United Nations Organizations, development banks and other multilateral organizations**, to continue to champion initiatives promoting the Culture of Peace as an indispensable element in support of governments' efforts, as they pursue inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development;
2. The **private sector**, to expand and strengthen its collaboration with the public sector, thereby reinforcing, in particular, the collaboration with UNESCO, to facilitate the implementation of innovative and comprehensive programmes for the promotion of the Culture of Peace;
3. **African governments** to set up political and legal ecosystems favorable to the promotion and development of cultural and social entrepreneurship of young people, women, and indigenous peoples. We also call on them to promote the contribution of African artists' work on peace, in view of the opportunities offered by arts in support of African reconciliation and unity.

## 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 urged the different stakeholders to support the realization of the following actions:

### Prevention of violence and conflict resolution through Culture and Education

Acknowledging the undeniable links between Education, Culture and Peace, we the participants call upon **African States, the United Nations** and in particular **UNESCO and African Union** to:

1. Promote cross sectoral informal, formal and non-formal education content and approaches that respect cultural diversity, the values of peace and tolerance, and that provide spaces for dialogue and "living together"; these education content should include specific needs of vulnerable people and minorities with specific focus on persons with disabilities and persons with albinism.
2. Noting that millions of primary school age children are out-of-school; and that nearly 9 out of 10 children in primary schools do not acquire 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.

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 expressions 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 programme that reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of the continent.

#### **Conflict prevention over Natural Resources**

Noting that natural resources are often the source of conflicts including violent conflicts, we the participants recommend that **UNESCO, the African Union and countries:**

1. Improve knowledge on the compatible and sustainable use and preservation of shared natural resources at country and transboundary levels, with particular emphasis on UNESCO World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves and geo parks, through the enhancement of traditional and indigenous knowledge.
2. Noting that several major conflicts on 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 society organizations to add 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 some of the key assets of the continent, 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 request that **UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and countries:**

1. Establish interstate cooperation mechanisms to increase technical and scientific institutional expertise in water management and sanitation.

2. Promote and adopt holistic and science-based policies and interventions, encouraging the creation of multi-sectoral structures, and the enhancement of scientific research to inform knowledge and policy formation.
3. Develop programmes for the expansion of knowledge and sensitization of the population on coastal vulnerability as a human security issue, in its economic, social and environmental dimensions.
4. Enhance general 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 to step 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, to address violence against women 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 their 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. We also urge governments to establish an annual review mechanism to monitor and control compliance, in order to improve the protection of women and children; and to also eliminate harmful practices that exacerbate their vulnerability in situations of displacement;
4. Adopt effective processes, practices and structures for the 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 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 only 20 countries in Africa have adopted legislation on Access to Information, we call upon **all African States**

to pass access to information (ATI) laws as a means to promote freedom of expression and peace in Africa;

3. Bearing 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**

Considering that the Baku Process, which takes place every two years in Azerbaijan, is a global platform for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and that the number of African countries participating in the forum has been increasing; and recognizing that the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) would benefit from synergies between the Baku Process and the Biennale of Luanda - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Culture, the participants welcome the invitation from the **Government of Azerbaijan** to link both initiatives with regards to the promotion of intercultural dialogue and the culture of peace in Africa.

#### **WOMEN'S FORUM**

Recognizing the need to build truly inclusive peaceful societies, and acknowledging that the fulfillment of women and girls' human rights is systematically lagging behind, we call upon all **African States**, to intensify the development and implementation of inclusive 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;

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 - that include the reduction of their vulnerability to gender-based violence;

Recognizing the key role of African women as agents and promoters of peace on the continent, and acknowledging their limited capacity to contribute to the reduction of violence by being part of the decision making process with regard to peace, we the participants at the Biennale of Luanda encourage an enhanced coordination between **United Nations** (in particular **UNESCO and UNWOMEN**), the **African Union, the regional and national women organizations and the network of civil society**;

We propose the organization of a conference to follow-up, exchange experiences and best practices in peace and non-violence, we also propose the commissioning of research to look into women leadership, the role of women in conflict prevention measures, women and media, as well as women promoters of a culture of peace.

#### **Global Africa: Exploring the African Presence in the World**

The participants recommend:

1. To **UNESCO**, in conformity with its mandate, to support the recognition, appreciation and promotion of the contribution, at the technical, scientific, cul-



tural and human levels, of the Afro-descendant people building a new society worldwide. In that regard, to continue with the expansion of the educational programme based on the General History of Africa, through formal, non-formal and informal education, but also through information to the public.

2. To all **African States** concerned, to actively promote the adoption and mainstreaming of the General History of Africa in their curricula and cross sectoral education system.
3. To the **African Union** and its sub-regional organizations, to adopt relevant resolutions committing Member States to promote the links between Africans and Afro-descendants worldwide; and also to support inter-continental collaboration for the promotion of the human rights of Afro-descendants.
4. To all the **states, civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations, organizations and networks working to promote human rights**, to promote policies and interventions for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, protection of human rights of people of Afro-descendants 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 “African Youth Commitment for the Culture of Peace” (p. 154).

#### FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

Complementary to the intellectual forums, the Luanda Biennale provided a platform on which to display cultural manifestations and products from 16 countries including Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Cape Verde, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Italy, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa and South Korea. There was a gathering of more than 200 artists, musical groups from several parts of the world. The Festival recorded an attendance of 15000 people.

As well as the cultural entertainments, the Festival of cultures provided an opportunity to celebrate African cultural diversity from around the continent, creating interactions between cultures, artists and the audience.

#### CLOSING / CONCLUSION

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

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

In addition, a special gratitude to 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.

The session concluded with two final presentations made by representatives of the Biennale's organizers:

- **Mr Salah Khaled**, Director of UNESCO's Multisectoral Regional Bureau for Africa, on behalf of UNESCO;
- **H.E. Mr Anibal João da Silva Melo**, Minister of Communication of the Republic of Angola, on behalf of Angola.

In his speech during the Closing Ceremony, on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, **Mr Salah Khaled** praised the positive result of this successful first edition of the Biennale of Luanda. Thanking the President of Angola, His Excellency, Mr João Lourenço for this successful partnership, Mr Khaled stated that what had started in 2013 in Luanda as reflections to identify Africa's potential for peace, is now further enhanced with association of the AUC for the optimization of Africa's endogenous resources for peace.

In this respect, he affirmed that the very first resource, the many actors in Africa, governments, civil society organizations, young people women, artist, academia, were mobilized and they demonstrated their commitment to the objectives, with their presence at Biennale of Luanda. For that, he congratulated everyone who had participated in the Biennale for "making the culture of peace a real tool not only for states, but also for citizens and peoples". The second move towards the operationalization of the reflections on peace occurred when the very first Partners Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa brought representatives from the private sector, network of sports and cultural organization and foundations from Africa, the Diaspora and elsewhere to the Biennale, anchoring therefore the event as a major contribution to peace-building on the continent. For this, he expressed once again on behalf of the Director General, UNESCO's commitment to continue supporting this event – he also emphasized the Director General's gratitude for the support of the partner organizations and the private sector sponsors who helped to make the first edition of the Biennale a reality.

Mr Khaled called upon everyone to build on the rich discussions and contents of the various fora and translate those into tangible projects and initiatives in promotion of peace and sustainable development on the continent.

He concluded by recalling that the Culture of Peace is the very *raison d'être* of UNESCO, as the organization's motto testifies: "If wars begin in the minds of people, it is in the minds of people that the defenses for peace must be constructed".

In his speech, the Minister of Social Communication of Angola, **His Excellency, Mr João Melo**, started by applauding the rich and diverse participation in the first edition of the Biennale, bringing together nearly 3000 participants from all over the world. Reflecting on the profile of attendees, he praised the involvement of such a varied set of entities, including regional economic communities, academic institutions, professional associations, international organizations, the private sector, civil society organizations, philanthropists and influential personalities from the continent and abroad, showing a veritable coalition of partners. He applauded in particular the presence of the three Heads of State, from Angola, Namibia and Mali, the Director General of UNESCO, the President of the African Union Commission, the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Denis Mukwege, and the great African athlete Didier Drogba, as well as many other high level entities from Africa and the rest of the world, who are keen to support Africa as the continent strives for a peaceful future.

Mentioning the different forums brought together during the event, he stated that the most important conclusion of this first edition of the Luanda Biennial is the recognition that in order to achieve peace, a multiple coalition of partners is needed to support African people in the positive transformation of African societies.

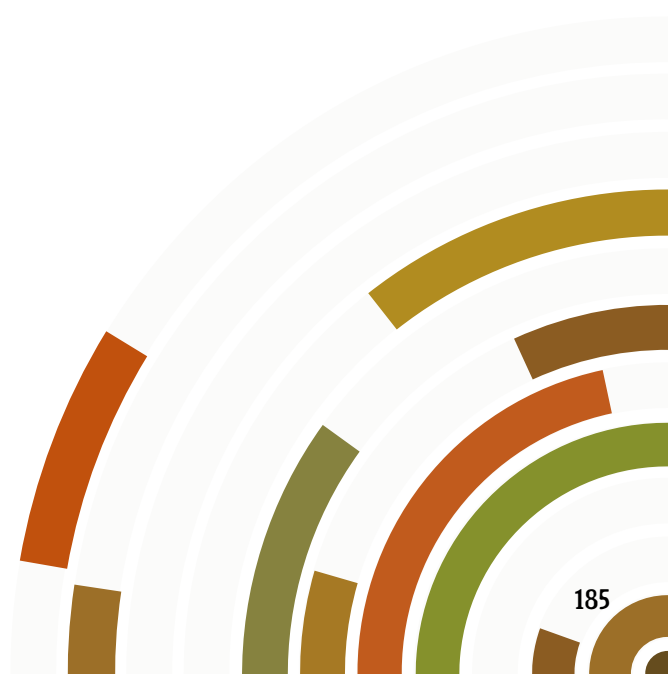
Referring to his own portfolio, he reiterated the importance of the recommendations and suggestions made for the media to strengthen its role as promot-

er of Africa's peace and development. Giving the example of Angola, which after the elections of 23 August 2017 underlined the importance of having an open, plural, free and diversified media Mr Melo rejoiced that the same recommendations were adopted in the framework of the Biennale. However, he also warned to be vigilant on the advising the contemporary challenges of misinformation, fake news and hate speech.

He concluded his address by making two concrete suggestions for the next Biennale edition: 1) to start working on the conditions to facilitate the participation of people coming from abroad; and 2) to provide more space for deeper discussion on the situation of the African diaspora.

## V. 2 Closing Concert

To conclude the celebration of the first Edition of the Biennale of Luanda, a Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace, a major concert was held on 22 September at the Luanda Marginal, with performances from more than thirty-two Angolan musicians, musical groups from South Africa, Egypt and Namibia. 7000 spectators attended the concert.











# Annexes



## **A.i Programme of the Biennale**





# Biennale of Luanda

Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace



18 to 22  
SEPTEMBER  
2019

LUANDA, ANGOLA

Partners'  
forum  
des  
PARTENAIRES

**Festival**  
OF CULTURES

**Forum**  
OF IDEAS

YOUTH  
**Forum**

WOMEN'S  
**Forum**

PARALLEL  
**Sessions**

Alliance  
for **Africa**



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

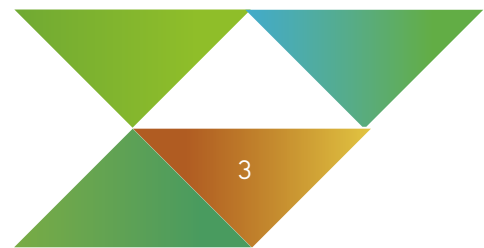
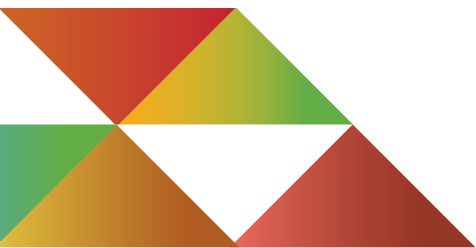


17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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## 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**”.

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

1 UN General Assembly Resolution 52/13 of 1998

2 Charter of African Cultural Renaissance, African Union, 24 January 2006



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 24th 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:**

- **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.
- **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;
- **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.

3 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.

4 <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

## PARTNER'S FORUM

### **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).

## PARTNER'S 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
- 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

## FORUM OF IDEAS

### 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

## YOUTH FORUM

### 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 – International Day of Peace

## WOMEN'S FORUM

**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 d'une culture de la paix : le rôle des organisations de femmes

### 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**



# Programme

## Day 1

## Wednesday 18 September 2019

### I - OPENING CEREMONY

 *Centro de Convenções  
Talatona – CVT*

Masters of Ceremony  
**Ms. Kinna SANTOS**  
**Mr. Ladislau SILVA**

9h30  
**Angola National Anthem**  
**AU Anthem**

9h40  
**Welcome Addresses**

- **Mr. Sérgio Luther RESCOVA**, Governor of the Province of Luanda, Angola
- **H. E. Ms. Maria da Piedade DE JESUS**, Minister of Culture, Angola

9h55  
**Keynote Address**

- **Mr. Denis MUKWEGE**, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

10h05  
**Launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Biennale of Luanda  
Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace**

- **H. E. Mr. Moussa Faki MAHAMAT**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- **Ms. Audrey AZOULAY**, Director-General of UNESCO
- **H. E. Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves LOURENÇO**, President of the Republic of Angola

10h30  
**Interventions by Heads of State**

- **H. E. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar KEÏTA**, President of the Republic of Mali, African Union Champion for Culture and Heritage
- **H. E. Mr. Denis SASSOU NGUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo, Chairperson-in-Office of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
- **H. E. Mr. Hage Gottfried GEINGOB**, President of the Republic of Namibia

### II - PARTNERS' FORUM

**A multi-stakeholder movement to build peace and development in Africa**

10h50  
**Introduction**

- **Mr. Firmin Edouard MATOKO**, Assistant Director-General, Sector for Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO
- **Message from H. E. Ms. Rachel Annick OGOULA AKIKO**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Gabon to UNESCO, Chairperson of the UNESCO Africa Group

11h00  
**Commitment pledges**

- National Doctoral Training Programme in Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola
- Phoenix TV, Hong Kong, China

11h20  
**Cultural event**  
Symbolic handover of Peace Flower by children to the High Table

12h30-14h00 **LUNCH BREAK**

 *Memorial Dr. Antonio  
Agostinho Neto (MAAN)*

**III - PARTNERS' FORUM**

A multi-stakeholder movement to build peace and development in Africa



Memorial Dr. António Agostinho Neto (MAAN)

Tent

14h00-15h30

**Engagement and testimonies of institutional partners**

*United Nations, International Organizations, Development Banks*

Interviews by **Ms. Audrey PULVAR**, Journalist, Founder and CEO of African Pattern

- **H. E. Ms. Emanuela Claudia DEL RE**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- **Mr. Chang JAE-BOK**, Deputy Minister for Protocol Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
- **H. E. Mr. Khalifa Bin Jassim AL-KUWARI**, Managing Director of the Qatar Development Fund
- **Représentant de S.E. Mr. Bandar Mr. H. HAJJAR**, President of the Islamic Development Bank Group
- **H. E. Mr. Tomas ULICNY**, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Angola
- **H. E. Mr. Yang SHEN**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the People's Republic of China to UNESCO
- **H. E. Mr. Ibrahim ALBALAWI**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO
- **Mr. Dominique ROLAND**, Director of the Arts Centre, *Enghien les bains*

**IV - PARTNERS' FORUM**

A multi-stakeholder movement to build peace and development in Africa

15h30-17h00

**Engagement and testimonies**

*Private Sector, Foundations, and Media*

Interviews by **Ms. Audrey PULVAR**, Journalist, Founder and CEO of African Pattern

- **Mr. El Medhi Yahya GOUGHRABOU**, Executive Direction and Communication, OCP Foundation, Morocco
- **Mr. Fahad Al-SULAITI**, CEO Education Above All Foundation, Qatar
- **Mr. Guido BRUSCO**, Executive Vice President for Sub-Saharan Region, ENI
- **Mr. Wang DUANRUI**, CEO of Weidong Group, China
- **Mr. Samba BATHILY**, Founder of the Africa Development Solutions Group
- **Mr. Didier DROGBA**, Vice President of Peace and Sport
- **Ms. Stephanie GOTTWALD**, Judge XPRIZE and Professor of linguistics and literacy, Tufts University
- **Mr. Mario PALHARES**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Banco BNI, Angola
- **Mr. Olivier JUNY**, Chief Executive Officer of Total, Angola

**V - PARTNERS' FORUM**

A multi-stakeholder movement to build peace and development in Africa



Mausoleum Hall

16h30

**Presentation of projects and initiatives to be funded in Africa**

Exchanges with Directors and Programme Specialists from UNESCO Field Offices and HQs Programme Sectors

**VI - FESTIVAL OF CULTURES**

13h00-22h00



Fortaleza São Miguel de Luanda (FSML)

17h00-18h30

Visit of high personalities to the Festival of Cultures (reserved)

**I - PARTNERS' FORUM**

A multi-stakeholder movement to build peace and development in Africa

Memorial Dr. Antonio Agostinho Neto (MAAN)  
**Auditório**

9h00–10h30

**Engagement and testimonies**

*Civil society networks – Cultural Festivals – Culture and sports organizations*

Interviews by **Ms. Audrey PULVAR**, Journalist, Founder and CEO of African Pattern

- **H. E. Mr. Anar Karimov**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO
- **Mr. Yacouba KONATE**, General Manager of the Abidjan Performing Arts Market (MASA)
- **Mr. Ardiouma SOMA**, General Delegate of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO)
- **Mr. Seidnaly SIDHAMED «Alphadi»**, UNESCO Artist for Peace - President of the International Fashion Festival in Africa (FIMA)
- **Mr. A'SALFO**, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador - Commissioner-General of the Anoumabo Urban Music Festival (FEMUA)
- **Mr. Frédéric JACQUEMIN**, Managing Director AFRICALIA
- **Mr. Jean Noël LOUCOU**, Permanent Secretary of the Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace
- **Mr. Ekene Johnpaul IKWELLE**, President of the Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace
- **Mr. Francisco MAKIESSE**, Director of the Agostinho NETO Foundation

**II - FORUM OF IDEAS**

Education, Science and Culture for the Culture of Peace in Africa

Tent

9h00–10h30

**Prevention of violence and conflict resolution through Education and Culture**

Moderator: **Mr. George PAPAGIANNIS**, Chief of the Media Relations Section - UNESCO

- **Ms. Mbaranga GASARABWE**, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Ms. Safira MAHANJANE**, Director of the Alphabetization Department of the Ministry of Education and Human Development, Mozambique
- **Mr. Hassan CHOUEIKH**, Director Professional and Vocation training, Ministry of Tourism, Air transport and Social Economy, Kingdom of Morocco
- **Mr. Simon TCHENGUELE**, Inspector General of Letters, Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Literacy Education, Central African Republic
- **Mr. Antonio TSILEFA**, Chair Coordination Committee of Regional Group of Technical and Vocational Training Institutions, Madagascar
- **Mr. Filipe ZAU**, Rector of the Independent University, Angola

10h30–11h00

**COFFEE BREAK**



**III - PARTNERS' FORUM**

A multi-stakeholder movement to build peace and development in Africa

 **Mausoleum Hall**

11h00

**Presentation of projects to be funded in Africa**

Exchanges with Directors and Program Managers from UNESCO Field Offices and Programme Sectors

**IV - FORUM OF IDEAS**

Education, Science, Culture and Communication for a Culture of Peace in Africa

 **Tent**

11h00-12h30

**Prevention of conflicts over natural resources**

**Moderator:** **Mr. Jean-Pierre ILBOUDOU**, Head of UNESCO Kinshasa Office and Representative to the Democratic Republic of Congo and interim Head of the UNESCO Brazzaville Office

- **H.E. Ms. Josefa Lionel CORREIA SACKO**, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- **Mr. Ousmane DORE**, Director-General - African Development Bank Centre Department
- **Mr. Adama TONDOSAMA**, Director-General of the Ivorian Parks and Reserves Office, Ivory Coast
- **Prof. Amadou BOUREIMA**, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey, Niger
- **Ms. Theresa PIRKEL**, Head of the Political Department of the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region
- **Mr. Vladimiro RUSSO**, Executive Director of the Kisama Foundation, Angola

**V - CLOSING OF THE PARTNERS' FORUM**

12h30-13h00

**Closing**

**Master of ceremony:** **Ms. Audrey PULVAR**, Journalist, Founder and CEO of African Pattern

**Synthesis and next steps:**

- **Mr. Mohamed DJELID**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO

**Closing remarks:**

- **Mr. Firmin Edouard MATOKO**, Assistant Director-General, Sector for Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO
- **H.E. Ms. Amira EL FADIL**, Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commissioner
- **H. E. Mr. Manuel NETO da COSTA**, Secretary of State for Economy and Planning, Angola

13h00-14h30 **LUNCH BREAK**

### VI - YOUTH FORUM

Youth and Culture of peace

 Tent

14h30-16h30

#### Youth, Peace and Security

**Moderator:** Mr. Djerabe Djatto **BONHEUR**, Expert in Information and Communication Technologies / Early Warning and Conflict Prevention (ECCAS)

- **Ms. Mfrekeobong UKPANA**H, Head of African Union Youth Team for Peace and Security
- **Mr. John Paul Ekene IKWELLE**, Chair at the Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace
- **Mr. Achaleke Christian LEKE**, Local Youth Corner Coordinator, Cameroon
- **Mr. Noemio Dylan MUKOROLI**, Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa of the Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of the Peace
- **Ms. Fathia HASSAN MOUSSA**, Country Coordinator for World Peace Initiative Foundation, Djibouti
- **Mr. Massangano DOMINGO**, Vice-President of the National Youth Council, Angola

### VII – PARALLEL SESSION

14h00-16h30

#### SESSION A : Addressing literacy challenges of disadvantaged children through advanced technology and smart partnerships

 Sala de Aula 1

**Moderator:** Mr. Yao **YDO**, Director of UNESCO's Regional Office for West Africa, Abuja

- **Prof. Stephanie GOTTWALD**, Linguistics and Literacy Tufts University and Content Director, Curious Learning
- **Mr. Creesen NAICKER**, Director Partnership Distribution, Curious Learning
- **Ms. Zulmira RODRIGUES**, Chief Section for Cooperation with Regional Organizations in Africa, Africa Department, UNESCO
- **Ms. Rokhaya DIAWARA**, Programme Specialist Early Childhood Education, UNESCO

## VII – PARALLEL SESSIONS

14h30-16h00

## SESSION B : State of Peace and Security in Africa

 *Auditório*

**Moderators:** **Ms. Ana Elisa SANTANA AFONSO**, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office with the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and UNESCO Representative to Ethiopia and **H.E. Mr. Afonso Eduardo INGUILA**, Ambassador and Director of the Africa, Middle East and Regional Organizations Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Angola

- **Ms. Michelle NDIAYE**, Director of the Programme «Peace and Security in Africa» of the Institute of Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University
- **Prof. Samuel KALE EWUSI**, Director of the Africa Regional Programme, United Nations University for Peace
- **Ms. Shewit HAILU DESTA**, Head of the Department for Conflict, Early Warning and Preventive Diplomacy of the African Union Commission
- **Mr. Ibrahim CEESAY**, Executive Director and Founder of the African Artists for Peace Initiative

14h30-16h00

## SESSION C : Sustainable financing of Biosphere reserves in Africa - AfriblioFund

 *Sala de Aula 2*

**Moderator:** **Mr. Khaled SALAH**, Director of UNESCO's Multisectoral Office for Central Africa, Cameroon

- **Mr. Ousmane DORE**, Director General of the Regional Office for Central Africa of the African Development Bank Group
- **Prof. Adeshola OLATUNDE ADEPOJU**, Director General, Nigeria Forest Research Institute (FRIN), President of the Man and the Biosphere Programme
- **Ms. Noëline RAONDY RAKOTOARISOA**, Chief Section, Network of Biosphere Reserves in Africa and Capacity Building, UNESCO

## VIII - FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

10h00-22h00

 *Fortaleza São Miguel de Luanda (FSML)*



**I - FORUM OF IDEAS**

THEME OF THE YEAR OF THE AFRICAN UNION:

*Refugees, returnees, and displaced persons in Africa:  
Towards sustainable solutions to forced displacement.*

9h00-10h30

**Leaving no one behind: promoting the integration of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants in Africa****Moderator: Ms. Zeinab BADAWI**, journalist at BBC and producer of the series on the General History of Africa

- **Mr. AHMED SKIM**, Director of Migration Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in charge of Moroccans Residing Abroad and Migration Affairs, Morocco
- **Mr. Bakouan FLORENT**, Permanent Secretary of the National Advisory Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation, Burkina Faso
- **H.E. Ms. Rebecca OTENGO**, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda and Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Refugees, IDPs and Returnees
- **H.E. Mr. Jean Leon NGANDA**, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Ethiopia
- **Ms. Santa ERNESTO**, Director of the Ministry of Social Action, the Family and the Advancement of Women, Angola

10h30-11h00

**COFFEE BREAK****II - FORUM OF IDEAS**

Education, Science and Culture for the Culture of Peace in Africa



11h00-12h30

**Global Africa: Exploring the African presence in the world****Moderator: Ms. Zeinab BADAWI**, BBC journalist and producer of the series on the General History of Africa

- **Mr. Hilary BECKLES**, Vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies
- **Mr. Augustin HOLL**, President of the International Scientific Committee for the new volumes of the General History of Africa
- **Mr. José CHALA CRUZ**, Executive Secretary for Afro-Ecuadorian Development Cooperation – CO-DAE, Ecuador
- **Mr. Abdi KUSOW Professor**, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University, USA
- **Mr. Jason THEEDE**, Senior Specialist on Labour Mobility and Human Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- **Mr. Ziva DOMINGOS**, National Director of Museums and Angola's representative on the World Heritage Committee

13h00-14h30

**LUNCH BREAK**Memorial Dr. Antonio  
Agostinho Neto (MAAN)

### III - YOUTH FORUM

Youth and culture of Peace



14h30-16h30

#### Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

**Moderator:** Mr. Marius TCHAKOUNANG, Head of the French-speaking digital campus AUF, Cameroon

- **Ms. Fadwa GMIDEN**, Pan-African Youth Network for Culture of Peace, Tunisia
- **Mr. Zié DAOUA KONE**, Incubation and Innovation Centre of the National Commission for UNESCO, Ivory Coast
- **Ms. Dora MASSOUNGA**, Entrepreneur in the field of tourism WARISSE Project
- **Ms. Yvette ISHIMWE**, General Manager of IRIBA WATER GROUP LTD
- **Mr. Maxwell KATEKWE**, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer of Restless Development, Zimbabwe
- **Mr. Jofre Euclides DOS SANTOS**, Director General of the Youth Institute, Angola

Presentation of the African Leadership Programme by **Dr. Rascha RAGHEB**, Executive Director of the National Training Institute in Egypt.

### IV – PARALLEL SESSIONS

14h00–18h00

#### SESSION A : Coastal vulnerability in Central Africa



##### Welcome remarks

- **Ms. Francisca DELGADO**, Focal Point of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of Angola (IOC)
- **H. E. Mr. José DIEKUMPUNA SITA N'SADISI**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Angola to UNESCO, Chair Central African Sub-Group at UNESCO

14h30-16h10

#### Panel I : Actions to minimize the negative impact of climate change on the blue economy

**Moderator:** Dr. Giza MARTINS, MINAMB and Dr. Teresa MARTINS, MINPESMAR

- **Pier Paolo BALLADELLI**, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, Angola
- **Ms. Francisca DELGADO**, Focal Point of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of Angola

16h10-17h45

#### Panel II : Coastal vulnerability in Central Africa

**Moderator:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Petroleum

- IOC Regional Liaison Officer, UNESCO
- Ministry of Fisheries and the Sea
- Ministry of Mineral Resources and Petroleum,
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Land Use Planning and Housing

14h00–18h00

#### SESSION B : Reflections on current policies for the integration of people of African descent and contemporary migrants



**Moderator:** Mr. Luis KANDJIMBO, Director General of the Higher Institute of Metropolitan Polytechnics, Angola

- **Mr. Edizon Federico LEON CASTRO**, Professor and Researcher on the African Diaspora, Ecuador
- **Ms. Susana MATUTE**, Director of Afro-African Public Policies, Ministry of Culture, Peru
- **Prof. Abdi KUSOW**, Department of Sociology, Iowa State University, United States
- **Mr. Cornélio CALEY**, Adviser to the Ministry of Culture, Angola

### V - FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

10h00-22h00



## I - WOMEN'S FORUM

### Women and the Culture of Peace



9h00-9h30

#### Opening ceremony of Women's Forum

##### Opening remarks

- **Mr. Moez CHAKCHOUK**, Assistant Director-General, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO
- **Ms. Aissatou HAYATOU**, Head of Unit «Silencing the Guns», Office of the President, African Union Commission
- **H.E. Ms. Emanuela Claudia DEL RE**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- **S.E. Ms. Carolina CERQUEIRA**, Minister of State for Social Action, Angola

9h30-11h00

#### Vulnerability of girls and women to violence / Women as peace agents

**Moderator: Ms. Georgia Calvin-Smith**, Journalist of France 24

- **Ms. Loise Danladi MUSA**, Executive Secretary of the Bauchi State Agency for Mass Education, Nigeria
- **Ms. Askah Buraci OTAO**, Educator for the Gionseri Girls Highschool, and beneficiary of the "UNESCO Mentorship Programme for unlocking the potential of Girls in STEM", Kenya
- **Dr. Carmel MATOKO MIABANZILA**, Director of Bacongo Base Hospital, Republic of Congo
- **Dr. Iqbal EI-SAMALOTY**, Secretary General of the Arab Network for Literacy and Adult Education, Egypt
- **Ms. Elisa RAVENGAI**, National Coordinator of Federation of Organization of Disabled People, Zimbabwe
- **Ms. Veronica SAPALO**, Executive Director of the Women and Action Platform, Angola

11h00-11h30

#### COFFEE BREAK

11h30-13h00

#### Women's networks for the Culture of Peace in Africa

**Moderator: Ms. Ana Elisa SANTANA AFONSO**, Director of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa UNESCO Liaison Office and UNESCO Representative to Ethiopia

- **Ms. Victoire LASSENI-DUBOZE**, President of the Pan-African Women's Network for the Culture of Peace, Gabon
- **Ms. Mukondeleli MPEIWA**, FemWise Network - Coordinator of the Africa Secretariat Traore, former President of the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States, Burkina Faso
- **Ms. Awa NDIAYE SECK**, Coordinator Women Leaders Network UN-Women Representative in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Ms. Jeanne KANAKUZE**, Executive Secretary of Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe
- **Dr. Yemisi AKINBOBOLA**, Co-founder, African Women in the Media Network (AWIM)
- **Ms. Coumba FALL VENN**, Administrator of the Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development - FAS

13h00-14h30

#### LUNCH BREAK



## II – CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

14h30-16h30

### Climate Action for Peace Planting of Peace Tree

## III – SESSIONS PARALLELES

14h00-16h30

### SESSION A : Promotion of the inclusion and protection of people with albinism within the framework of the regional action plan

 *Auditório*

**Moderator: Mr. Abdourahamane DIALLO**, Head of the UNESCO Accra Office and Representative to Ghana

- **Mr. B. Djaffar MOUSSA-ELKADHUM**, Head of the UNESCO Windhoek Office, and Representative to Namibia
- **Ms. Al-Shaymaa J. KWEGYIR**, Former Member of Parliament, Tanzania
- **Ms. Zulmira RODRIGUES**, Chief of Section for Cooperation with Regional Organizations in Africa, Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO
- **Joel TCHOMBOSI**, CEO and founder and Executive Director of Albinism Society of Angola

14h00-16h30

### SESSION B : The Baku Procedure: Promoting intercultural dialogue for human security, peace and sustainable development - Lessons and perspectives

 *Sala de Aula 1*

**Moderator: Mr. Vasif EYVAZZADE**, Secretary of the International Working Group, «The Baku Procedure», Deputy Head of Administration, Head of Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- **H. E. Mr. Anar KARIMOV**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO
- **Prof. Mike HARDY**, Executive Director, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, University of Coventry, Advisor to the Government of Azerbaijan
- **Mr. Hugue Charnie NGANDEU NGATTA**, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, Abuja Regional Office, UNESCO

## III - FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

10h00-22h00

 *Fortaleza São Miguel de Luanda (FSML)*

### I - FORUM OF IDEAS

Education, Science and Culture for the Culture of Peace in Africa

 Tent

9h30-10h30

#### Free, independent and pluralistic media to promote Peace and Development in Africa

**Moderator: Ms. Georja CALVIN-SMITH**, journalist at France 24

- **Mr. Jérôme TRAORE**, former President of the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States, Burkina Faso
- **Ms. Al-Shaymaa J. KWEGYIR**, former Member of Parliament, Tanzania
- **Mr. Nouri LAJMI**, Director of the Independent High Authority for Audiovisual Communication, Tunisia
- **Professor Laurent Charles BOYOMO ASSALA**, Director of Information and Communication Technology Sciences at the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences, Cameroon
- **Mr. Teixeira CÂNDIDO**, Secretary General of the Union of Angolan Journalists, Angola

10h30-11h00

COFFEE BREAK

### II – CLOSING CEREMONY

11h30-12h30

#### Presentation and adoption - Edition 2019 : Call for Action for a Culture of Peace Biennale of Luanda

- **Mr. Enzo FAZZINI**, Head of Office UNESCO Libreville Office and Representative to Gabon and International Coordinator of Biennale of Luanda
- **Ms. Alexandra APARÍCIO**, National Coordinator Biennale of Luanda, Director of National Archives, Ministry of Culture, Angola
- **Ms. Angela MARTINS**, Head of the Culture and Social Affairs Division, African Union Commission

12h30-13h00

#### Closing remarks

- **Mr. Moez CHAKCHOUK**, Assistant Director-General, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO
- **H. E. Ms. Josefa Lionel CORREIA SACKO**, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- **H. E. Mr. João MELO**, Minister of Social Communication, Angola

**Biennale 2019:** Luanda Call for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa

13h00-14h30

LUNCH

### III - FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

10h00-22h00

 *Fortaleza São Miguel de Luanda (FSML)*

### IV - FINAL CONCERT

19h00-00h00

 *Baía de Luanda (Marginal)*

# Description of sessions



## PARTNERS' FORUM

The Partners' Forum is in line with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 and the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The Partners' Forum is the highlight of the 2019 edition of the Biennale of Luanda. It marks the commitment, at the level of nations, of the relevant stakeholders mobilized around a common cause: the future of the African continent.

The diversity of partners underscores the extent of international commitment to peace in Africa. The Forum aims to demonstrate in a tangible manner the crucial importance of consolidating existing partnerships and creating new ones to ensure UNESCO's viability, vitality, visibility and relevance in the 21st century.

UNESCO's programmes offer a range of strong partnership opportunities that bring mutual benefits in areas where the Organization is a leader, thanks to its recognized expertise and comparative advantage.



## FORUM OF IDEAS

The Forum of Ideas is a platform for reflection on the future of Africa focusing on the sharing of best practices and innovative solutions.

The Forum of Ideas is mainly dedicated to the theme of “**Building and perpetuating peace in Africa: A multi-stakeholder movement**». It will consist several thematic sessions focusing on:

- Prevention of Violence and Conflict Resolution through Education and Culture
- Prevention of Conflicts over Natural Resources
- Promoting the Integration of Refugees, Returnees, Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa
- Global Africa: Exploring African Presence in the World
- The Role of Media in the Promotion of Peace - Free, Independent and Pluralistic Media to Foster Peace and Development in Africa

### Prevention of violence and conflict resolution through Education and Culture

The majority of current outbreaks of violence and conflict on the African continent arise within States and are less and less the result of clashes between States.

In this new map of violence and conflict, this session will showcase how UNESCO, in the context of its global priorities, supports countries in their efforts to provide local stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, behaviors and values that support resilience necessary to live and work together. This session will focus on efforts undertaken to face the contemporary challenges including community conflicts, the migrant crisis, and countering religious fundamentalism, among other important issues.

Specifically, the interventions will focus on two axes:

- Educate a generation of African youth as agents for peace, stability and development.
- Harness the power of Creativity and Cultural Heritage – in its numerous facets – to build a sustainable peace in the African continent.

### Conflict Prevention over Natural Resources:

The management of natural resources and the prevention of their overexploitation have been difficult when there is free access to these resources. Free access promotes competition and often leads to a devastation of the common goods. In addition, we see also an exponential increase in the demand for natural resources.

This Forum will focus on sharing experiences of successful cooperation and case studies of projects and initiatives of UNESCO’s flagship projects that contribute to conflict prevention in the management of domestic and transboundary natural resources in Africa.

Specifically, the session will highlight UNESCO’s Man and Biosphere Programme and World Heritage Convention and the challenges and opportunities related to the transboundary cooperation for regional integration. In that regard, the focus lies in reinforcing the synergy between conservation and development. The session will provide as well the opportunity of exchanging points of view of keys partners in the political arena (African Union), financial (African Development Bank), research (University of Niamey), site Managers (OIPR, Côte d’Ivoire), UN agencies (Special Envoys Office to the Great Lakes Region) and national partners (Angola).

## **Leaving no one behind: promoting the integration of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants in Africa**

An estimated 68 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide and more than a third of these people are in Africa. This includes as well 6.3 million refugees and asylum-seekers and 14.5 million displaced persons.

In this context, the African Union has chosen 2019's AU Theme as Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa. With this choice, African leaders recognize the need for comprehensive and inclusive responses to major migration trends and their dynamics and challenges on the continent and abroad.

The high scale of the displacement crisis is compounded by the risks of trafficking, human rights violations, lack of adequate humanitarian assistance, sexual and gender-based violence, detention of asylum-seekers, deportation, xenophobia and overall discrimination of refugees.

The session will focus on best practices of countries identified by the African Union that could inspire others in improving their policies in support of refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and migrants.

## **Global Africa- Exploring African Presence in the World :**

Africa and its Diasporas, have often been presented as distinct groups, separated by oceans that have had only sporadic contacts during brief historical moments. UNESCO, in line with the elaboration of the General History of Africa, seeks to challenge this binary and simplistic perspective of relations between Africa and its Diasporas by introducing the concept of a global Africa. This concept makes it possible to understand the history of relations between Africans and people of African descent as an interconnected and continuous process, including the circulation of people, knowledge, know-how and cultural productions, and whose matrix is the African heritage.

The session will highlight the African influence in the world and the diversity of contributions of people of African descent to modern societies. It will examine the legacy of slavery and colonialism faced by people of African descent and their capacity to resist in the fight against racial prejudice, racism and discrimination. This thematic session will also focus on how the African diaspora participates in the development of the continent, and how they are a key actor to contribute to the Culture of Peace.

The session will as such enable to:

- Explore the ties that bind Africa and its diaspora around the Globe.
- Exchange of best practices for the support African diaspora, and how they in turn partake in the development of the continent

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

The media has a crucial role to play in promoting peace, justice and sustainable development throughout the world and as such also in the African continent. A dynamic, free, independent and pluralistic media landscape ensures that citizen's access to quality and unbiased information, encouraging people to express their opinions and promoting therefore greater political participation.

The media also serve as an accountability mechanism, raising important issues that might otherwise not be publicly debated or addressed, such as corruption, political wrongdoing or human rights violations, thereby strengthening the rule of law and good governance. These essential contributions of the media are essential to fostering peaceful societies and resolving conflicts. With the advent of new media, there is a need for Africa to exploit technological innovations to empower people through media and information literacy to promote a climate of peace in Africa. In this regard, combating hate speech, promoting freedom of expression, protecting press freedom, ensuring the safety of journalists and promoting conflict sensitive and gender responsive dialogue are all relevant themes that will be explored during this session.

- Role of Media in Violence and Conflict Prevention: African Perspectives
- Mobilizing Justice systems in Africa in support of Freedom of Expression and Journalist's Safety.



## YOUTH FORUM

The **Youth Forum** is a privileged space for reflection and exchanges for **African youth from the continent** and the **Diasporas**. It will also provide African youth with an opportunity to speak out and affirm its role in the development of the continent.

The Youth Forum will be divided into two thematic sessions:

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

### Youth, Peace and Security:

The role of the youth in achieving peace and security now remains a major aspect of the global agenda. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Egypt on 8 November 2018, called on «all Member States to urgently implement resolution 2250, remove all structural obstacles to the effective participation of young people, mobilize the necessary resources and develop long-term national action plans for the effective involvement and participation of young people in the promotion of peace and security and in national development processes. »

UNESCO has been promoting youth engagement and dialogue for more than 3 decades and as such Youth has always been a central theme in the various Culture of Peace that the organization has been promoting in the last 30 years. In this 1st Edition of the Biennale of the Culture of Peace in Luanda, the Youth Forum will address answering three main issues: What is the level of popularization and ownership of Resolution 2250 in the Member States of the African Union? What are the best domestic practices for the implementation of this resolution? Is it possible to consider the creation, at the continental level and in partnership with the African Union, of a Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security to accelerate the implementation of Resolutions 2250 and 2419?

### Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation:

Africa has the youngest population of the world and while this in itself can be considered an advantage, to yield the so-called youth dividend, the potential of this young people will need to be cherished and stimulated for Africa to reach the goals of Agenda 2063. Countries in Africa however are battling with challenges in identifying policies and resources to serve adequately its youth. One of the main areas of concern is the creation of meaningful and decent (self-) employment.

By necessity or choice, more and more of young people in Africa are embracing entrepreneurship either to create wealth and make profits or to create social value and ensure their financial autonomy. This creative and innovative entrepreneurial spirit of young people is deployed and manifested in almost all areas of the social and economic life of the continent's countries.

Based on «success stories», this 2nd session of the Youth Forum will highlight not only all the concrete solutions and good practices of young people themselves in terms of entrepreneurial innovation for their economic empowerment and job creation including the use of Artificial Intelligence, but also the challenges (in terms of financing, matching training/employment and support, etc.) that they are facing on a daily basis as economic or social entrepreneurs.

Concretely, this session will focus on young people answering the following questions: what are the inclusive public policies that promote the development and empowerment of African youth in African countries for the Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation of young people? Can Entrepreneurship be used to help address the problem of youth unemployment?





## WOMEN'S FORUM

During the 21<sup>st</sup> September, International Day of Peace, the Biennale for the Culture of Peace of Luanda will reflect on the nexus between women and peace through the **Women's Forum** of the event.

Concretely, this Forum will provide an opportunity to share best practices focused on reducing girls and women's vulnerability to violence in all its forms as well as highlight the role of women **as agents of peace and development in Africa.**

### **Vulnerability of girls and women to violence / Women as agents of peace**

As a result of stereotypes, discrimination and societal norms and stigma on the basis of their gender, girls and women are generally the ones who pay the heaviest toll in societies both in times of peace and in times of conflicts. While situation among countries in the continent vary, generally, compared to other parts of the world, Africa is the continent where progress in combating violence against women and girls is slowest.

This session will focus on projects and initiatives of UNESCO, the African Union in the African continent, and in Angola, on how to counter gender-based violence, and empower women and girls to be active and become key players in the decision making process and efforts to shape their society to the best.

It will also focus on the efforts of notable women and organizations that are involved in promoting gender equality, and their contributions to mainstreaming the culture of peace in Africa.

# Practical Information

## Moderators and Panelists

Information about the moderators and panelists are available here :  
<https://en.unesco.org/biennaleluanda2019>

## Sites of the Biennale of Luanda

- Centro de Convenções Talatona (CVT)
- Memorial Dr. Antonio Agostinho Neto (MAAN)
- Fortaleza São Miguel de Luanda (FSML)
- The Marginal

## Webcast

Follow the Biennale from home by watching it live via UNESCO's YouTube pages :  
<https://fr.unesco.org/biennaleluanda2019>

## Biennale of Luanda's Official Contacts

- [LuandaBiennale@unesco.org](mailto:LuandaBiennale@unesco.org)
- [bienaldapaz@mincult.gov.ao](mailto:bienaldapaz@mincult.gov.ao)

## Biennale of Luanda's Official Websites

- <https://en.unesco.org/biennaleluanda2019>
- <https://bienaldeluanda.gov.ao>

## Social Media

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# Security Information

## **UNOC – United Nations Operations Centre**

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**Police emergency numbers: 113, 117**

**Fire brigade: 115**





Official Partner of the Luanda Biennale



Official Partner of the Luanda Biennale



Official Partner of the Luanda Biennale



Official Carrier of the Luanda Biennale



## A.ii Partners and Sponsors of the Biennale

The Biennale of Luanda was also an opportunity to create and develop partnerships with international and national companies that have supported the activities of the first edition, thus providing a good basis for ensuring the sustainability of future editions.

Different categories of partnership and sponsorship were mobilized both by the Angolan entities and by UNESCO.

UNESCO was able to benefit from the contribution of the following partners:

- **ENI** (Official Partner - sponsorship contract: contribution of 500,000 euros);
- **Royal Air Maroc** (Official Carrier - sponsorship contract: 70 free tickets in economy and business class);
- **TAP Air Portugal** (Sponsor Carrier: 10 free economy class tickets);
- **Ethiopian Airlines** (Sponsor Carrier: 15 free economy class tickets and 20% discount on other tickets);
- **Aceria de Angola** (Gold Sponsor: 150 rooms offered in Hotel Diamante and 22 rooms offered in Hotel Presidente).

Angola was able to benefit from the contribution of the following partners:

- Official partners: **BNI** and **Total**;
- Sponsor Carrier: **TAAG**;
- Gold Sponsors: **Multievents, Unitel, Boavida Group, Noble Group, Niodior, Refri-ango, NCR, Kikovo, Arena Group, Credit Cooperative, Tegma-Su, Kinu Plateau.**

### A.iii Visibility and Media Coverage

The programmes and events from the Biennale were broadcast widely by local, national and international media outlets, as well as on various social media platforms:

#### UNESCO

- **UNESCO website** in:
  - French: <https://fr.unesco.org/biennaleluanda2019/>;
  - English: <https://en.unesco.org/biennaleluanda2019/>;
  - Portuguese: <https://pt.unesco.org/biennaleluanda2019/>;
  - Arabic: <https://ar.unesco.org/biennaleluanda2019/>.
- **Flyers** presenting the Biennale of Luanda in EN, FR, PT:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S2gUQ9Mj-\\_LXGtJx7k6TVQNw1kQpjRUP](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S2gUQ9Mj-_LXGtJx7k6TVQNw1kQpjRUP);
- **International press tools** in EN, FR and PT:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1sjgN9Hr91Arjxj8IyCMIh8Y7svjM7enF>  
sent to more than 150 media and cultural institutes such as the Alliances Françaises, British Councils, Belgian Cultural institutes and Instituto de Camões).
- **Official Teaser** of the Biennale of Luanda:
  - French: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsaVIW6zlyI&feature=youtu.be>;
  - English: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgx\\_7emIBGU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgx_7emIBGU&feature=youtu.be);
  - Portuguese: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP2dR\\_YNLGM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP2dR_YNLGM&feature=youtu.be).
- **Eight thematic videos** introducing the Forum of Ideas and the Youth Forum in English, Portuguese and French:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WlNMcmB9esRUuQk4P-87U99CivJDTs0k>.  
The videos are also available in a short version for use in social media networks.
- **Promotional video with Mr Forest Whitaker**, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=423735314937899>;
- **Promotional video with Mr Alphadi**, UNESCO Artist for Peace:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=470270490437155>.
- **Video interview with Eni CEO Mr Claudio Descalzi**:  
[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/unesco\\_globalgoals-biennaleluanda2019-activity-6582352810241859584-R08w/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/unesco_globalgoals-biennaleluanda2019-activity-6582352810241859584-R08w/);
- **Promotional video with Mrs Awa Meite**, Senegalese fashion designer:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2450686838535157>;
- **Video celebrating the International Day of Peace with young African panelists**:  
[https://twitter.com/UNESCO\\_fr/status/1175439545677910016](https://twitter.com/UNESCO_fr/status/1175439545677910016);
- **2850 copies of the reprint of the UNESCO Courier “Culture: the bedrock of peace”** in English, French and Portuguese were distributed during the event;
- **Campaign** in social media networks.

#### Overview of the campaign on social media networks

The campaign was carried out from 27 June to the 30<sup>th</sup> September. The video content was in English, French and Portuguese 134 messages were created in addition to the 16<sup>th</sup> Instagram stories (eight in English and eight in French).

The **hashtags** used:

- #BiennaleLuanda2019;
- #UNESCO4Peace;
- #Africa4Peace.



## Angola

- **Angola website** in Portuguese: <https://bienaldeluanda.gov.ao/>;
- **Video teaser**: <https://zh-cn.facebook.com/lisrepublicano/videos/496594971134937/>;
- **Video teaser**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zh0B1sIAO7c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zh0B1sIAO7c;);
- **Video teaser**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZigAP33NNk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZigAP33NNk;);
- **Video teaser**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7QMan3m1L8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7QMan3m1L8;);
- **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/platinaline/photos/junte-se-a-n%C3%B3s-participe-na-bienal-de-luanda-um-evento-de-promo%C3%A7%C3%A3o-da-paz-cultur/3109767615704492/>;
- A communication campaign on **social networks and public signage** was undertaken;
- **Mini-buses** of the Biennale were covered with the Biennale logo and slogans;
- **ATM machines** were dressed in the Biennale slogan.

## Written Press

**387 articles** were published on the Biennale in national and international press: Angola - 150, Egypt - 53, Portugal - 32, Morocco - 31, Austria - 25, United States - 24, South Africa - 18, Canada - 12, France - eight, Cuba - seven, Mozambique - six, China - five, India - four, Iraq - three, Cabo Verde - three, United Arab Emirates - three, Brazil - three.

An **article signed by the Director-General of UNESCO** was published in the:

- Jornal de Angola:  
<https://www.pressreader.com/angola/jornal-de-angola/20190918/282144998054285>
- Marie-Claire (the French magazine)  
<https://www.marieclaire.fr/biennale-luanda-unesco,1323992.asp>

In addition, several **TV reports** were recorded and published on YouTube:

- Euronews:
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXX6AHL\\_MLM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXX6AHL_MLM);
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWA3PEKjHSc>;
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGBqYtcu9iw>.
- ONU News:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzXTYK9jkbC>
- Angolan public television:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU6iveZKFqo>;
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrKlfOAvkxs>;
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_hNccrFyvI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_hNccrFyvI);
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMiLeP3MjZE>.
- Platina line:
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79wiD\\_VLaYo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79wiD_VLaYo);
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX6iPSamJUK>;
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3Eo9pmAlcY>.

## Social Media

**1,840,000 people** were reached across all platforms with more than **28,000 likes**.

## A.IV Organizing Teams

### Steering Committee

**Mr Firmin Edouard Matoko,**

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations;

**H.E. Ms Amira El Fadil,**

Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission;

**H.E. Ms Maria da Piedade de Jesus,**

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### Coordination Team

**Mr Vincenzo Fazzino,**

Coordinator International team, Head of the UNESCO Office in Libreville and UNESCO Representative to Gabon;

**Ms Zulmira Rodrigues,**

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**Ms Alexandra Aparício,**

Angola Coordination for the National Response and Coordinator of the Festival of Culture, Angola;

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## COORDINATOR

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## THEME

*The Role of Women  
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Girls & Women's Vulnerability  
to Violence*

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<b>Libreville</b> <i>National Office</i>	<b>Mr Juste Tindy-Poaty,</b> Consultant SHS, UNESCO Libreville Office



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Minister of Culture

### Coordinator:

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**Ms Alexandra Aparício,**  
Director General of National Archives.

### Deputy coordinators of the Technical Support Group to the Inter-ministerial Commission

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**Mr Paulo Eugênio Kussy,**  
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### Officials, members of the Technical Group

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**Mr Pedro Chissanga,**  
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**Ms Tânia Ifika Fançony e Silva,**  
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**Mr João Inglês,**  
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**Ms Elisa Silva,**  
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**Ms Helena Bole,**  
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**Ms Isabel Patrícia Bwanga,**  
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**Ms Juracy Avelina Rodrigues,**  
Angola National Archive;

**Mr Fernandes Dias dos Santos,**  
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**Ms Jasmin Zimbo,**  
Information and Technology

## A.V Additional resources

- **Official Speeches:**

[https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/official\\_speeches.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/official_speeches.pdf)

- **Biographies and Papers of the Panelists:**

- Forum of Ideas:

[https://en.unesco.org/system/files/forum\\_of\\_ideas\\_bios\\_0.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/system/files/forum_of_ideas_bios_0.pdf)

- Youth Forum:

[https://en.unesco.org/system/files/youth\\_forum\\_bios.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/system/files/youth_forum_bios.pdf)

- Women's Forum:

[https://en.unesco.org/system/files/women\\_forum\\_bios.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/system/files/women_forum_bios.pdf)

- **List of Participants:**

[https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/list\\_of\\_participants\\_en\\_27.04.pdf](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/list_of_participants_en_27.04.pdf)







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