

Biennale of
Luanda

2021 Pan-African
Forum for
the Culture
of Peace

27 November to
2 December
Luanda, Angola



**Issue NOVEMBER 2021 Biennale of Luanda
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

The Cabinet of the Chairperson
Office of the Chairperson

Managing Editor:
Mrs Ebba Kalondo

Publishing Director:
Mrs. Leslie Richer (Director DIC)
Amb. Osman Keh Kamara (Director PSD)
Mr Calixte Mbari (Director PA)

Editorial Team:
Dr Emmanuel Akeh
Mr Jacob Nyono
Mr Gamal Karrar
Ms Lulit Kebede
Dr Vicensia Shule
Ms Precious

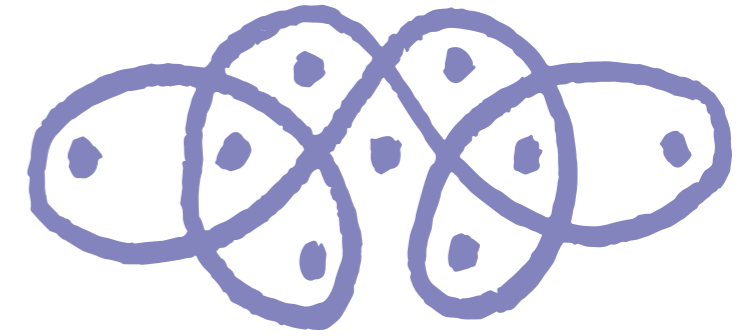
Chief Editors:
Mrs. Christiane Yanrou-Matondo
Mr. Henok Ayele

Layout and Design:
Mr. Ndiack Gueye

Acknowledgements

The African Union Commission would like to express its gratitude to the Republic of Angola and to UNESCO for their cooperation and support in the production of this publication, in particular Amb. Sita José and Mr. Fazzino Vincenzo for their commendable coordination as well as Ophélie Kukansami-Leger, Sara Bouleis, Lou Palin and Gino Sita, who assisted in editing the texts.

Outline



- | | |
|---|--|
| 5 Word of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission | 20 Intergenerational Dialogue |
| 6 Word of UNESCO ADG PAX | 22 Festival of Cultures |
| 9 Word of the Minister of State of Angola | 24 Alliance of Partners |
| 10 State of Peace in Africa | 26 Scientific Committee |
| 13 Presentation of the AU Theme of The Year 2021 | 27 Conclusions of the RECs meetings on the Biennale 2021 |
| 14 Presentation of the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda 2021 | 28 Inspiring Quotes on the Culture of Peace |
| 16 Thematic and Good Practice Forums | 30 Photos of the first Edition of the Biennale of Luanda (2019) |



© African Union Commission

Word of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission

H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat

The quest for peace on the continent remains a critical subject matter, which is at the core of the establishment of both the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and its successor, the African Union. To that extent, the theme of the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda affords yet another opportunity to advance the course of peace, and to institutionalize peace as Africa's culture and way of life.

Over the years, the African Union has taken steps to advance peace through the establishment and consolidation of relevant normative frameworks, tools, institutions, and agencies, aimed at forging and advancing the frontiers of peace as an integral part of the African culture. In this regard, the continent has achieved remarkable success in spite of the emerging socioeconomic challenges brought about by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, and the global economic downturn which has severe ramifications for economies across the world.

Conscious of the nexus between peace and development, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union adopted Decision 558/XXIV during its 24th Session of the Assembly in 2015, mandating the Republic of Angola to organize a biennial of culture for peace, to further give impetus to the implementation of Goals 16 and 17 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 7 Aspirations of the Africa's Agenda 2063, in particular its "Silencing the Guns by 2033" initiative.

This second edition of the Biennale of Luanda is another signpost that the Angolan Government is fully committed to the advancement of peace in the continent, as amplified during the January 2021 AU Summit. The continued collaboration of UNESCO in this enterprise for peace, is a further

affirmation that peace is a sine qua non for development and the integration of the continent.

Furthermore two important aspects characterize this second Luanda biennial, which differs from the first edition by the initiative taken to extend it to other important peace actors for ever greater cohesion and efficiency. The first aspect is embodied in the involvement of the Regional Economic Communities in the Steering Committee of the Biennale, a decisive implication regarding the central role that these RECs play in building the unity of the continent and specifically in the quest for peace. The second aspect is illustrated in the strong mobilization of the African diaspora, which formalized its participation by registering as a member of the Alliance of Biennial Partners.

It is worth noting that this edition of the Biennale of Luanda provides yet another opportunity for the celebration of the AU's 2021 theme, "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want." This continental declaration is a clarion call for member states to invest in African culture and heritage as a vehicle for promoting and achieving the national economic and social development goals outlined in the AU's Agenda 2063.

On this note, I wish the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda every success and call upon member states, citizens, civil society and the Diaspora, working in concert with Africa's strategic partners, to support the enthronement of peace as a veritable culture for Africa's socioeconomic development and integration.

Long live Peace in Africa!



Word of UNESCO ADG PAX

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

The second edition of the **Biennale of Luanda – “Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace”**, which will take place from 27 November to 2 December 2021, will be a privileged meeting bringing together actors and partners involved in the prevention of violence and conflicts and the consolidation of peace for a sustainable and inclusive development of Africa.

On behalf of Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, I would like to express to His Excellency, Mr João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, our deep gratitude for his country’s renewed hosting of this important world event, and to His Excellency, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, our commitment to the renewed and strengthened partnership between UNESCO and the African Union in the implementation of the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda.

This second edition coincides with the celebration of the theme of the Year 2021 of the African Union: *“Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want”*. By reclaiming their arts, culture and heritage, Africans in Africa and the Diaspora are invited to reconcile with their history in order to promote a new narrative for Africa by Africans themselves.

An important and innovative moment of this second edition of the Biennale of Luanda will be the official launch of the Alliance of Partners for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence in Africa, as a necessary instrument for the development of the Pan-African Movement for a Culture



of Peace and Nonviolence and to ensure the sustainability and transformative impact of the Biennale initiative.

To paraphrase UNESCO’s Constitution, we can do no better than to encourage the enthusiastic and long-term commitment of peoples and citizens to the culture of peace by making them stakeholders in the implementation of concrete activities and projects that respond to their educational, cultural and socio-economic needs. This is the interest and the *raison d’être* of this Global Alliance of Partners whose aim is to support flagship initiatives for Africa by developing on a larger scale projects and activities that have proven to be successful at the local, national or sub-regional level.

On 12 August, in her message on the occasion of the celebration of International Youth Day, the Director-General of UNESCO recalled that *“we have [...] the responsibility to act on behalf of [young people], who carry within them the future of the world. To do so, we can rely on their tremendous inventiveness, because very often, young people are the first to invent solutions to the problems that concern them.”*

Since the first edition of the Biennale of Luanda in 2019, we all believe in this resilience of young women and men from the continent and the Diaspora. That is why, this year again, a special place is reserved for young people and their organizations. The future of the Pan-African Movement for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence is youth!



© UNESCO/ Luis Abad-Banda



© Angola

Word of the Minister of State of the Republic of Angola

H.E. Mrs Carolina Cerqueira



In a difficult global context, where African countries are facing a slowdown in their economic growth and profound social transformations, Angola is pleased to organise the 2nd Biennale of Luanda on the Culture of Peace from 27 November to 2 December 2021.

As a joint strategic initiative of UNESCO, the African Union and the Angolan government, the theme of this year's event highlights arts, culture and heritage as essential levers for a dialogue promoting a true Culture of Peace in Africa and sustainable development for the whole continent.

Arts and culture, as expressions of human creativity and manifestations of concrete ways of life, are mechanisms through which the minds of people can be directly and efficiently influenced in all directions. In this perspective, the Biennale of Luanda brings together a large number of different actors – from government, civil society, and the scientific, artistic and athletic communities – as well as partners from the private sector and international organisations, including the African Diaspora, for a wide-ranging dialogue with an African matrix, which aims to provide African responses to the transformations affecting their economies and societies, without closing themselves off to global cooperation.

Since arts, culture and heritage entrench beliefs, values, knowledge and practices that crystallise identities, all spaces that promote the interaction of diverse identities, such as the Biennale of Luanda, contribute to building respect for diversity and the rejection of the negation of others; to strengthening tolerance, solidarity and human rights; to facilitating diverse entrepreneurial and creative options that certainly contribute to the construction of a culture of peace and the promotion of non-violence.

In this sense, the Biennale of Luanda, oriented towards youth, asserts itself as a space for intergenerational dialogue on cultural diversity and heritage, for the implementation of thematic forums of reflection for the cooperation and sharing of good practices about the prevention of violence and conflicts, for the celebration of the arts and cultural heritage of Africa in the world and, above all, for the facilitation of alliances between various

partners for the promotion of the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace in Africa.

Thus, the Angolan Government reaffirms, once again, its commitment to dialogue that promotes peace, reconciliation and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, facilitating the context and environment for negotiations that are taking place for the formation of a Global Alliance promoting the culture of peace in Africa, in line with the expectations of our African leaders.

Furthermore, we are well aware of the scope of the desired accession of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as a whole in the decision-making process and in the implementation of the flagship projects that will constitute the Action Plan of the Biennale of Luanda's Agenda for the period 2022/2023.

There is still a long way to go to contribute to the achievement of Objectives 16 and 17 of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda on sustainable development and the specific Aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063, in connection with the Culture of Peace and non-violence, but this new paradigm of working together in the spirit of a consolidated alliance between all actors and partners will be the guarantee of the success of the challenge to be taken up during the successive editions of the Biennale of Luanda for the Culture of Peace and non-violence in Africa.

The Biennale of Luanda is positioned as a global platform of understanding for solidarity, cooperation and intergenerational tolerance in Africa and its diaspora. We therefore send a very clear message to the President of the Republic of Angola, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, for his support in holding the first two editions of the Biennale in Luanda.

We express our pleasure as your hosts to welcome you in person or virtually for the accompanying Agenda from 27 November to 2 December and more specifically to the Launch of the Global Alliance of partners for the promotion of the Culture of Peace in Africa.

State of Peace in Africa

H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye
Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and
Security - African Union Commission

The African Union (AU)'s campaign on Silencing the Guns in Africa aims to achieve a conflict-free Africa, prevent genocide, make peace a reality for all, and rid the continent of wars, violent conflicts, human rights violations, and humanitarian disasters. This year's AU theme, which focuses on African arts, culture, and heritage, plays a crucial role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa. There is a growing body of evidence both in the academic literature and practice suggesting that arts, culture, and heritage can and have benefited conflict prevention, management and resolution.

Across the African continent, the importance of arts, culture and heritage in conflict and post-conflict settings, in reconciliation and forgiveness, in post-conflict reconstruction and development, and in conflict prevention is increasingly being recognised. For instance, arts and culture have been used to prevent conflict in divided communities by creating trust, encouraging empathy, raising awareness and inspiring tolerance around societal differences. Arts and culture have also thrived in conflict zones even when basic needs have not been met. In fact, art in the form of music in such situations is usually vibrant. It is a way of looking beyond the pain and suffering that surrounds people. On the other hand, cultural heritage, as an important part of human identity, plays an important role in inducing tolerance, acceptance and understanding of cultural differences. Further, cultural engagement helps in transforming conflict by transforming perceptions, that is, how people look at each other and the whole process of re-humanisation of societies, which is a cornerstone of conflict transformation. It is through these measures that formalisation of the community organisation and the cooperation between different groups are realised. These can be perceived as building blocks contributing to sustainable peace, stability and democratic development. For example, in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and elsewhere, music has been powerfully used to dissipate inter-ethnic conflict, and transmit positive messages of good citizenship and civic responsibility.



Despite the significant role played by arts, culture and heritage in pre- and post-conflict contexts, in the bigger scheme of things, as catalysts for silencing the guns in Africa, they are not a priority for most AU Member States. They are often underestimated in the development of peacebuilding strategies, which are mostly top-down approaches. Notwithstanding this, it is important to note that, artistic expressions are not always positive. Arts and culture can be used to heal the wounds of war as much as they can be used as political weapons. For instance, in some African countries artistic expressions have been used to incite violence. This raises important questions that needed deeper probing: Who owns the artistic process? Whose voice do they claim to represent? Whose agenda do they intend to implement? And whose notion of peace do they seek to achieve?

These seemingly contradictory aspects of arts, culture and heritage, warrant the need to deepen understanding of their specific role or status in contemporary peace-making and peacebuilding efforts in Africa. Cultural understanding needs to be brought to the negotiating table to build trust. Much more intelligent thinking about culture, arts and heritage is necessary to fully realise their potential in conflict prevention management and resolution. As it is increasingly accepted that sustainable peace is now more broad-based and encompasses multiple dimensions, it is important that arts, culture and heritage be part of broader contemporary peacebuilding strategies and agendas. Therefore, there is a need for fresh thinking that encourages more dialogue between members of the cultural and artistic sector and representatives of other sectors (youth, women, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders) working in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict prevention. It is also crucial to maximise communication and collaboration with policymakers so that arts, culture and heritage can assume a more prominent role in pre- and post-conflict nation-building contexts, along-side security, governance and development. Since cultural differences are so often at the heart of conflict, cultural practices



need to be at the heart of conflict resolution as well. Culture also needs to be introduced in negotiations and mediation processes to foster mutual respect, better knowledge and effectively resolve conflict and build social cohesion.

Going forward, there is a need for the compilation of a comprehensive set of case studies on the application of arts, culture and heritage-based

projects to peacebuilding processes and how they have influenced local, regional, national and international policies. This should include both positive and negative case studies and lessons learnt from them for their applicability to other conflict situations, keeping in mind the difference in contexts.



© African Union Commission

Presentation of the AU Theme of the Year 2021

H.E. Amira El Fadil
Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs &
Social Development - African Union Commission



Every year, during the African Union Assembly, the Heads of State and Governments propose and approve a theme for reflection in the following year. The theme guides the activities to be organised by the AU Policy Organs and AU Member States. At the 33rd Session of the Assembly, held in February 2020, the Heads of States and Governments endorsed the proposal by H.E. Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, the former President of the Republic of Mali, to declare 2021 AU Year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage.

The Assembly stressed the importance of Culture, Arts and Heritage in the achievement of the objectives of African Union Agenda 2063 as well as those of its Flagship Projects and declared that the African rich and diverse heritage is an essential asset to profile the continent in the global arena and bring about sustainable development, integration and peace in Africa. In that context the theme for 2021 was approved to be 'Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want'.

The proposed theme draws inspiration from the African Union's Agenda 2063, as a shared strategic framework and blueprint for inclusive growth and sustainable Development. From the onset, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and, thereafter its successor the African Union (AU), has placed culture at the top of their agenda. The African Union (AU) has recognised the role arts, culture and heritage can play as catalysts for the socio-economic development and integration of the African continent.

Following the launch of the AU theme of the year for 2021 by H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Chairperson of the African Union during the 34th African Union Assembly held from 06th to 7th February 2021, the AU Commission embarked on the implementation of activities and programmes

outlined in the roadmap of the Concept Note of the year of arts, culture and heritage. The activities and programmes implemented were aimed at popularizing the theme of the year within the AU Member States, arts, culture and heritage partners including with Pan-African Cultural Institutions, on the international level and the African citizenry at large.

Despite the major challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AU Commission in collaboration with Member States and partners were able to successfully implement a number of activities inscribed in the roadmap of the theme of the year for 2021.

The roadmap has about 60 activities. Some of the activities carried in line with the roadmap of the theme of the year were: the launch of the entry into force of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance of 2006; the recognition of H.E. Kenneth David Kaunda, former President of Zambia for his contribution to African cultural renaissance and the spirit of Pan-Africanism; the validation of the revised AU Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries; the renewed commitment by Member States through ministries responsible for arts, culture and heritage and partners on galvanizing the sector using the golden opportunity presented by the AU year of arts, culture and heritage.

Other activities carried were training of thirty-five young people in entrepreneurship and heritage sustainability; popularization of the African World Heritage Day; awarding six children in the dictation and promotion of African Languages competition; validation of the draft Statute of the Centre for Linguistic Studies and History by Oral Tradition (CELHTO) among others.

Presentation of the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda 2021

What is the Biennale of Luanda?

Organised in partnership between UNESCO, the African Union and the Angolan government, the Biennale of Luanda - "Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace" aims to promote the prevention of violence and conflict resolution, by encouraging cultural exchanges in Africa and dialogue between generations. As a space for reflection and dissemination of artistic works, ideas and best practices related to the culture of peace, it brings together representatives of governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, and international organizations. It participates in the implementation of the "Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace in Africa/Make Peace Happen" adopted in March 2013 in Luanda, Angola, during the Pan-African Forum "Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace."

Objectives of the Biennale

The aim of the Biennale is to work towards a daily and sustainable individual and collective appropriation and implementation, on the continent, of the concept of a culture of peace which consists of "values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and promote conviviality and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, which reject violence and are inclined to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes and to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation, and which guarantee to all people the full enjoyment of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society."

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's Agenda 2063, in particular its "Silence the Guns by 2033" initiative.



The Biennale 2021

The Biennale 2021 is a major opportunity to celebrate the African Union's 2021 theme, "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want" and to extend the 2020 theme, "Silencing the Guns in Africa". It will be held from 27 November to 2 December 2021.

This second Biennale of Luanda will combine face-to-face and online events, all of which will be streamed on the "Biennale TV", freely accessible from the Biennale's website with interpretation in English, French and Portuguese. This second Biennale of Luanda will be organized in a hybrid format, mixing face-to-face and digital elements. The whole event will be entirely streamed on the "Biennale TV" with interpretation available in English, French and Portuguese.

The programme will be organised around the following axes:

- Intergenerational Dialogue of Leaders and Youth;
- Thematic and Best Practice Forums;
- Festival of Cultures;
- Launch of the Alliance of Partners for a Culture of Peace;
- Partnership sessions (private sessions held from 1 to 2 December that will not be streamed on the "Biennale TV").

Thematic and Good Practice Forums



The Thematic Forums of the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda will focus on proven solutions and good practices and will inspire the development of flagship initiatives around which committed partners will meet, on the local, national and regional levels, in the promotion of the culture of peace.

These Thematic and Good Practice Forums will focus on the following themes:

- (i) The contribution of arts, culture and heritage to sustainable peace;
- (ii) Engaging young people as actors of social transformations for conflict prevention and sustainable development;
- (iii) Africa and its diasporas in the face of conflicts, crises and inequalities;
- (iv) Harnessing the potential of the oceans for sustainable development and peace.

I - The Contribution of arts, culture and heritage to sustainable peace

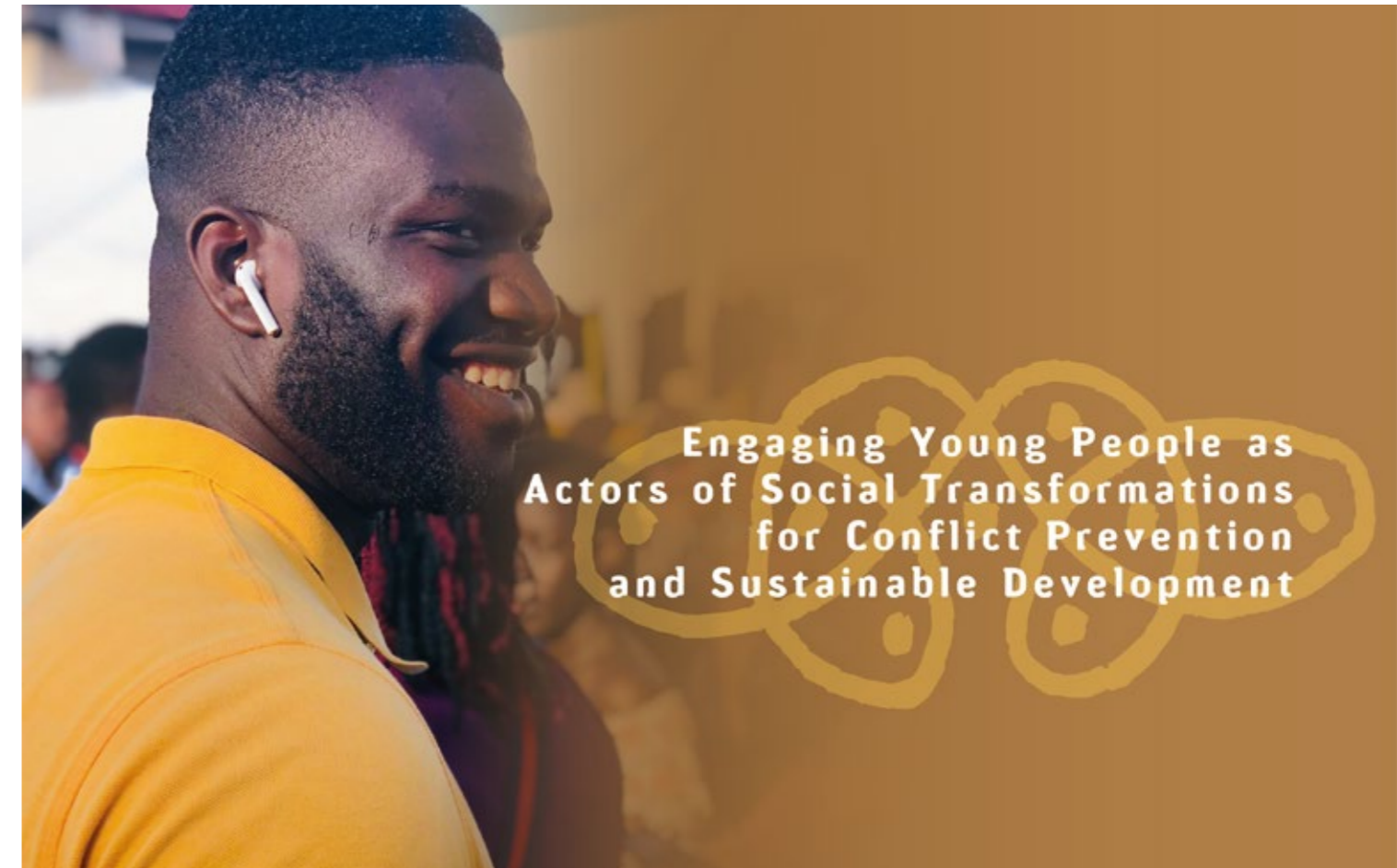


This theme echoes, celebrates and accompanies the theme of the Year 2021 of the African Union: “Arts, culture and heritage: Levers for building the Africa we want.” It also refers to Aspiration 5 of the Agenda 2063 and to the 2021 International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. It explores recent knowledge on how artistic culture and heritage interact with conflict, reconciliation and efforts to build more peaceful societies. It also highlights the ways in which artists, creators and heritage practitioners are helping to prevent, mitigate and support recovery from the effects of conflict, inequality and the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Forum is made up of the following sub-themes:

- Supporting African artists, cultural and creative industries for an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery;
- Preventing conflicts, reducing risks and building peace through African Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- Reengaging with history, arts and cultural values in education to promote a new narrative for Africa;
- Protecting and promoting African cultural and natural heritage.

II - Engaging young people as actors of social transformations for conflict prevention and sustainable development



Contribution to the implementation of the UNESCO Operational Strategy for Youth, the African Youth Charter, the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth, and Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063, this Forum intends to demonstrate that there is an alternative narrative to that which depicts young people as perpetrators or victims of violence, featuring alternative stories which highlight the lived experiences and daily efforts of young women and men engaged as actors of social transformations for conflict prevention and for sustainable development, through various activities and projects at community, national, regional and continental levels. It also echoes Security Council resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535 on youth, peace and security and the United Nations Youth Strategy.

This Forum focuses on the following sub-themes:

- Promoting and Encouraging Youth Civic Engagement: Education for Peace, Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development;
- Youth Employability, Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment, Including Cultural/Creative Industries and Green/Blue Economies;
- Introduction to Youth Foresight and Social Innovation for Sustainable Development and Social Cohesion;
- Youth and the Role of Sport for Social Cohesion and Peace.

III – Africa and its diasporas in the face of conflicts, crises and inequality



Despite enormous assets that can create positive conditions for a sustainable culture of peace and prosperity, Africa still maintains a persistent vicious cycle of insecurity, social inequality, and natural and human disasters. This Forum therefore aims to explore and present the efforts and catalyst initiatives that can fight against inequalities and violence, reduce poverty and prevent conflicts by exploiting the strong strategic potential (in terms of demography and natural resources) of Africa in building sustainable peace and development.

Contribution, among others, to the implementation of SDG 1 and Aspiration number 1 of Agenda 2063, and highlighting the positive impact of the diaspora for the development of the continent, this third Forum will address the following sub-themes:

- Contribution of African Women to Peace and Security;
- Fight Against Social Inequalities, Xenophobia, Stigmatisation and Discrimination;
- Science, Technology and Innovation to Fight Against Crisis and Pandemics;
- African Descents, Diasporas, and the Future of Peace in Africa.

IV – Harnessing the potential of oceans for sustainable development and peace



Africa's coastal and ocean waters occupy three times its land mass and are growing in importance as a potential source of economic growth and jobs for the region. In connection with the African Decade of Seas and Oceans (2015-2025) and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), this fourth Forum offers the opportunity to mobilise stakeholders in the ocean to ensure that Africa harnesses ocean science and research to make the best use of its blue economy potential and prevent potential conflicts. It will also explore progress in the implementation, by Member States, of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001).

Its implementation will revolve around the following sub-themes:

- Oceans of Peace and Opportunity: Resources, Demographic Dividend, Gender Parity, Blue Economy, Scientific Cooperation and Diplomacy, South-South Cooperation;
- New Experiences Towards Sustainable Development: Coastal Tourism and Underwater Heritage, Waste Management;
- The Ocean, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Challenges for Adaptation to Climate Change.

Intergenerational Dialogue



The intergenerational dialogue of leaders and youth and the engagement of youth in favor of the pan-african movement for the culture of peace and non-violence

The Biennale of Luanda was held for the first time from 18 to 22 September 2019, with a place for youth as part of the Youth Forum (19-20 September). The Forum was held under the general theme “Youth and Culture of Peace” and the two sub-themes “Youth, Peace and Security” and “Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation”. It saw the participation of 377 young people, including 330 young Angolans, and 77 representatives from 40 African countries. As a prelude to the holding of the Forum itself, an online discussion platform on the sub-themes of the Forum had mobilised, over a period of three weeks, more than 3,500 young people from 18 countries.

Eager to once again reserve a place for young people and their organisations, the second edition of the Biennale will open, on 27 November 2021, the Intergenerational Dialogue on the theme: “*Cultural and heritage diversity of Africa and its Diasporas: source of conflicts or breeding ground for peace?*”

The objective of the Intergenerational Dialogue of leaders and young people is to allow participants (i) to discuss how to promote, in African States and the Diaspora, with the involvement of young people and their organisations, respect for cultural and heritage diversity for a peaceful coexistence of the multiple cultural identities of Africa; (ii) and to highlight activities testifying to the daily commitment of young people and their organisations in favour of intercultural and interreligious dialogue for living together and for peace.

To interest young people in participating, a call for applications was launched on June 30, 2021 and ended on July 26, 2021. Among more than 250 applications, 114 exceptional young leaders were selected. This group (made up of 54 women and 60 men) will participate not only in the dialogue, but also in all four (4) Thematic and Good Practice Forums.

The young people selected come from 63 countries - 50 from Africa and 13 which are home to Diasporas.

The Biennale of Luanda (and the Dialogue accordingly) will take place in a hybrid format, that is to say partly face-to-face and partly virtual.

Among the 114 selected, 6 young leaders will travel to Luanda for participation in person. They will be joined by the President of the Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace (PAYNCoP), a youth representative from the World Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), the Special Envoy of the United Nations for Youth and the former Special Envoy of the African Union for Youth. In addition, the Angolan government will also mobilise a number of local young people.

All other young people will also be able to participate in all activities virtually wherever they are, as well as through decentralised participation, scaling up efforts through digital platforms such as social media. These should be facilitated by UNESCO Field Offices, AU liaison offices, National Commissions for UNESCO, in partnership with universities and schools, University Agency digital campuses de la Francophonie, the French institutes and any other interested entity.

Under the coordination of the African Union Commission and in close partnership with UNESCO and ICESCO, preparatory sessions for effective and massive participation in the Intergenerational Dialogue and Biennale activities will be organised during the previous weeks. These sessions will also allow young people to define and develop by themselves a programme whose objective will be to mobilise, within the continent and the diasporas, young people and their organisations with a view to strengthen, in the medium and long terms, the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence.

The said programme, which will thus contribute to the implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas for peace and sustainable development, will be presented by the young leaders at the conclusion of the Intergenerational Dialogue.



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda

Festival of Cultures

Biennale of
Luanda
2021 Pan-African
Forum for
the Culture
of Peace

The 2021 Biennale of Luanda – “Pan African Forum for the culture of peace” is one of the main events implementing the African Union’s Theme of this year “Arts, Culture and Heritage: levers for building the Africa we want”. Among the different components of the Biennale of Luanda, the Festival of Cultures is a space for exchange between the cultural identities of Africa and its Diasporas, a privileged meeting place for arts, cultures and heritages as instruments of dialogue, mutual understanding and tolerance.

During the first edition of the Biennale of Luanda in 2019, 16 countries participated in the Festival of Cultures (among which 10 African countries), with the presence of 200 artists and more than 15,000 visitors on the site of the *Fortaleza São Miguel (Museu da História Militar)* in Luanda. It was a unique opportunity to gather diverse cultural expressions from all over Africa and its diasporas.



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda

Recently, the health crisis caused by COVID-19 has thrown the global economy into recession. While billions of people around the world turned to culture as a source of solace and connectivity, the impact of COVID-19 has not spared the cultural sector, finding us now in a cultural emergency. In line with the ResiliArt movement

launched by UNESCO in 2020, the Biennale of Luanda will address this unprecedented situation by offering a space for the international and African artistic community to express themselves.



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda

This year, the Festival of Cultures will mostly be enjoyed in digital format through the Biennale of Luanda’s website, where a number of cultural resources dedicated to the heritage and traditions of the countries participating in the Festival of Cultures are available. The public will be able to enjoy this cultural content by navigating through the virtual Pavilions proposed by the different countries participating in the festivities.

The ambition of the 2021 edition of the Festival of Cultures is to showcase different artistic expressions: music, cinema, dance, visual arts, photography, fashion, and traditional rituals in an interactive and innovative way.



Towards a Global Partnership: The Alliance of Partners for a Culture of Peace

The Biennale of Luanda aims to create an **Alliance of committed partners** that contributes to the promotion of the culture of peace in Africa around a common cause: the future of the African continent.

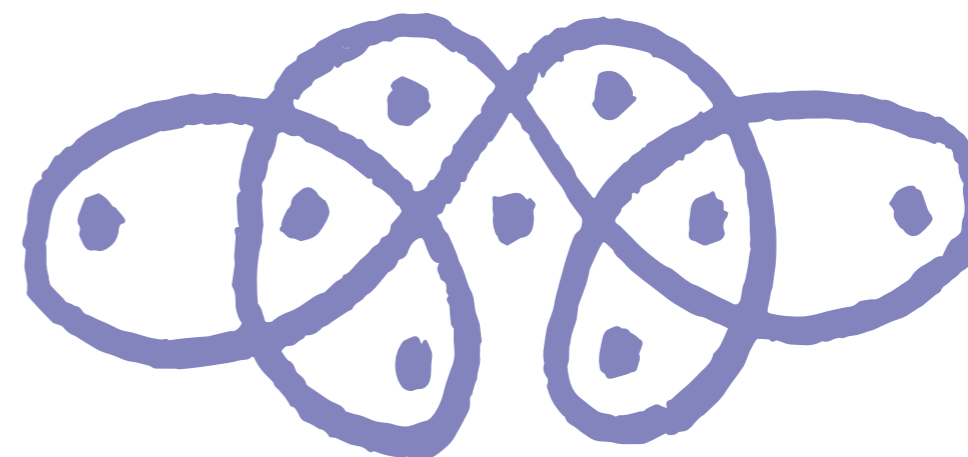
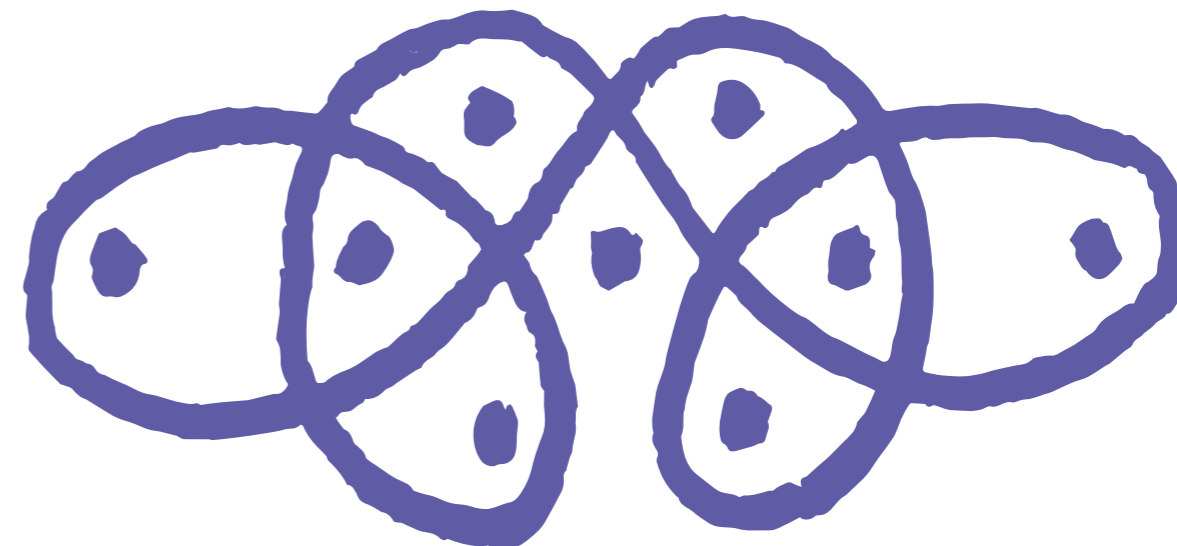
The Alliance is a major opportunity to create a global partnership through the development of needs-based **flagship programmes for a culture of peace** on the African continent together with the contribution of its diasporas around the globe.

Together with the three co-organisers of the Biennale, UNESCO, the African Union and Angola, the **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** will join the Alliance and play a central role in the coordination of the Alliance of Partners.

The Alliance intends to federate the different partners involved in the culture of peace, by positioning the Biennale as the main intersectoral platform for the culture of peace for the African continent; to identify and showcase flagship programmes for Africa and give them greater visibility; and to mobilise resources of various kinds, being in-kind contributions, technical assistance, expertise or financial contributions, to enable the realisation of these programmes and ensure the sustainability of the Biennale.

The actors of the Alliance are multisectoral: Member States, public and private sector companies, foundations, development banks, the United Nations system, committed personalities, etc.

Partners who join this global partnership will be recognised as long-term partners committed to promoting a culture of peace in Africa, and will be able to co-create, fund and implement flagship initiatives for a culture of peace in Africa. They will have access to information, expertise, and resources made available by all Alliance members for the benefit of joint initiatives and they will commit to pursuing medium and long-term partnership objectives with other peacebuilding partners according to a common roadmap.



Scientific Committee

Biennale of
Luanda
2021 Pan-African
Forum for
the Culture
of Peace



Created within the framework of the Biennale of Luanda, the Scientific Committee for the Culture of Peace brings together experts, scientists, academics, writers, screenwriters and more, from the 5 regions of the African Union and the Diaspora. Together with UNESCO, the African Union, and the Angolan government, these prominent individuals are wholly committed to the culture of peace in Africa.

The Committee plays an advisory role and offers guidance on the programme of the Biennale, as it develops academic reflection, contributing to the identification of good practices, and to the creation of an Alliance of partners for the promotion of the culture of peace in Africa.

Based on proposals from the Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace, this Committee has a total of 21 representatives from the 5 African regions and the Diaspora, and 3 observer members (UNESCO, the African Union and the Angolan government).

- Meetings of the Scientific Committee ahead of the Biennale of Luanda
- First meeting – 10 June 2021

The first meeting of the Scientific Committee was held on 10 June and allowed experts to discuss issues that affect the continent, including the links between peace, security, and culture.

This discussion marked a first stage of reflection in preparation for the 2021 Biennale, where the experts insisted on the importance of making an assessment of the first edition of the Biennale, in order to draw lessons for the second edition to be held from 27 November to 2 December 2021. The meeting also addressed the issue of migration, education for peace, the strong link with culture and creativity, illicit trafficking and the return of cultural goods or the problems affecting youth in Africa. On this occasion, the group affirmed its willingness to promote African cultural diversity and to give a more important place to the diaspora as actors of peace.

The discussions focused on the need to link peace, security, and cultural institutions on the continent and elsewhere. This subject will be at the heart of the work of 3 institutions: the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCA), the Institute for Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia (IPSS), and the Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa.

The Committee agreed to prepare, with the support and expertise of the members, a publication devoted to the link between culture and education, particularly the contribution of culture to peace education through African epistemology, with a particular focus on endogenous African knowledge and philosophies and the creation of its own narrative. This work will be based on contributions from members of the Scientific Committee, and a working group established by the Committee will be responsible for developing and refining its content.

Finally, through the Alliance of Partners, the Committee will launch a call for the mobilisation of partners engaged in the promotion of a culture of peace on the continent, in the various academic fields and research networks.

- Second meeting – 19 August 2021

This meeting aimed at discussing and contributing to the 2021 Biennale programme and more broadly to continue the members' intellectual contributions on the priority issues affecting the African continent.

The group reaffirmed their profound commitment to continue contributing to the promotion of the culture of peace in Africa.

All the biographies of the Members of the Scientific Committee are available on the official website of the Biennale of Luanda.

Conclusions of the RECs meetings on the Biennale 2021

Biennale of
Luanda
2021 Pan-African
Forum for
the Culture
of Peace



To follow up with his visit in October 2020 to H.E. Mr João Gonzalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Mr Sir Gilberto Da Piedade Verissimo, President of the Regional Economic Community (RECs), decided to take an active part in the Biennale of Luanda and involve the other Regional Economic communities (RECs) as well.

Determined to make the other RECs aware of the cause of this event, the Commission of ECCAS worked so the interested parties – including the panel accompanying President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo's term of office as President of the African Union – understand the importance of the project's efficacy and sustainability.

In this position, the Commission of ECCAS offered, planned, and held a series of meetings aiming to mobilise the continent on 12 and 13 August 2021, with two last high-level multilateral consultations which personalities from the RECs, continental organisations, and UN agencies attended.

During these meetings, it was underlined that the culture of peace and non-violence is a concept that was born on the African continent. The call for the creation of a “continental and sustainable movement for peace” was included in the “Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace in Africa/Make Peace Happen” which was adopted at the end of the Pan-African Forum “Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace” in Luanda, 2013. The objective of the Forum was “to rely on the sources of inspiration and on the potential of the continent's cultural, natural and human resources to identify avenues and concrete actions to build a lasting peace as the cornerstone of endogenous development and pan-Africanism.” In this context, the decision was taken to create a Biennale on the culture of peace.

“All of us must join hands together to promote the culture of peace for development to thrive. It is only when peace for a thousand years thrives, that we can all build a successful Africa.”

- H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, African Union

The RECs, pillars to the African Union, and as one of the members of the Steering Committee of the Biennale of Luanda, alongside the African Union, UNESCO and the Government of Angola, will participate in the 2021 edition and will sign a **Common Declaration in favour of a collective action to maintain and develop the culture of peace and of non-violence in Africa.**

Inspiring Quotes on the Culture of Peace



A few inspiring quotes by the personalities that shaped the History of the Culture of Peace

“

As a privileged space for the promotion of cultural diversity and African unity, the Biennale of Luanda is a unique platform for governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, the private sector and international organisations to debate and define strategies for the prevention of violence and conflicts with a view to building sustainable peace.”

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

“

Young people are the essence of Africa's future: investing in them, providing them with opportunities to learn, work and contribute to Africa's development is essential to promote the culture of peace in Africa.”

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

“

My wish is that this Forum, which brings together great minds from different backgrounds, makes an analysis without complacency of African concerns in the appropriation of the promotion of the culture of peace in the Continent.”

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

“

And if we have learned anything over the past thirty years, it is that resilience and sustainable peace protection can only be achieved by societies themselves. Mechanisms to protect peace through security alone have shown their limits. These security mechanisms are necessary but never sufficient.”

Ms Audrey Azoulay,
UNESCO Director-General

“

A culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes and behaviors that reflect in depth respect for equal human dignity and human rights.”

Mr Federico Mayor,
President of the Culture of Peace Foundation
and ex-UNESCO Director General 1987-1999

“

Force is never enough to strengthen confidence and resilience, which are the surest foundations for lasting peace.”

Ms Irina Bokova,
Ex UNESCO Director-General (2009-2017)

“

We promote a culture of peace by generating understanding of different cultures and protecting our precious heritage. Art and culture enable us to express and share fundamental truths about our common humanity.”

Mr António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General

“

Peace is not a word, it is a behaviour.”

Mr Félix Houphouët-Boigny,
President of Cote d'Ivoire (1960-1993)

“

Women are working for change in Africa. Women are working for change throughout the world. I will be with them, and one of them, forever.”

Ms Ellen John Sirleaf,
First Elected Female
Head of State in Africa (Liberia),
Nobel Peace Prize 2011

“

All peace processes should involve women.”

Ms Bineta Diop,
African Union Special Envoy for Women,
Peace and Security

“

Peace is the daughter of coexistence, education and dialogue. Respect for millenary cultures gives birth to peace in the present.”

Ms Rigoberta Menchú Tum,
Nobel Peace Prize 1992

“

When there is no peace in country, mothers will be frustrated. Therefore, we need to work on peace for the sake of our mothers”.

Ms Sahle-work Zewde,
President of the
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

“

Let us draw together on our values, our traditions, our culture to find the path to prosperity and peace.”

Dr Denis Mukwege,
Nobel Peace Prize 2018

“

I dream of an Africa which is in peace with itself.”

Mr Nelson Mandela,
President of South Africa (1994-1999)

“

Peace comes when you talk to the guy you most hate. And that's where the courage of a leader comes, because when you sit down with your enemy, you as a leader must already have very considerable confidence from your own constituency.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu,
Nobel Peace Prize 1984

“

In a few decades, the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace.”

Ms Wangari Muta Maathai,
First African Woman Nobel Peace Prize 2004

“

Our most ardent desire is that peace and non-violence, which we want to promote from Luanda, not be an act of resignation of the peoples of Africa and the world, but an art of living.”

H.E. Mr Gilberto Da Piedade Verissimo,
President of the ECCAS Commission

Photos of the first Edition of the Biennale of Luanda (2019)



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda



© UNESCO / Luis Abad-Banda

Twitter: @_AfricanUnion, #Agenda2063
Facebook: AfricanUnionCommission
Email: agenda2063@africa-union.org
Website: <http://agenda2063.au.int>
Tel: +251-115-517700 Ext.: 2918
Fax: +251 11 551 78 44
P.O. Box: 3243
Roosevelt Street (Old Airport Area)
W21K19 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Disclaimers

This Newsletter may contain advice, opinions, and statements of various content providers. The African Union does not represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement or other information provided by any content provider, or any user or other person or entity. Reliance upon any such advice, opinion, statement material, or other information shall also be at User's own risk.

Neither the African Union nor its affiliates or partners, nor any of their respective agents, employees, information providers or content providers shall be liable to any User or anyone else for any inaccuracy, error, omission, interruption, delay, incompleteness, completeness, deletion, defect, failure of performance, computer virus, communication line failure, alteration of, or use of any content herein, regardless of cause, for any damages resulting there from.

Printed by: Printing Unit/DCMP