



**Road to the 2021
Nanjing Peace Forum
African Regional Dialogue**

**Positive Peace in Africa –
The Environment We Need**

Friday, 22 October 2021
09h00 – 13h00 Central Africa Time
10h00 – 14h00 East Africa Time



Outcome Document

In Africa there will not be a quick “beyond” after climate change. Climate change will not be over even if all world economies achieved to reach the target of carbon net zero by 2050. At less than 1.5 degrees Celsius average global warming, climate change has already arrived with a vengeance in Africa in the disruption of the daily lives of growing numbers of people because of unprecedented droughts, floods, hurricanes, heatwaves and failing crops. These are serious disruptions of the quality of life and the human relationship with the environment, which will inevitably have consequences on social cohesion, governance and justice, and peace.

These conditions will continue in Africa for a very long time still after 2050. We will have to prepare, physically, economically, politically, but above all, also mentally, spiritually and ethically. Systems thinking is necessary to open new ways of understanding relationships and flows between economic, ecologic, social, and political factors, beyond focusing only on events. In order to enact the concept of Eco-civilisation, it is essential to look at the multidimensional concept of Positive Peace as a holistic framework. In this context, we shall submit the following observations:

1. It is encouraging to note that debates before COP 26 pay attention to fairness and justice in the transitions needed to achieve carbon net zero economies by 2050: fairness between countries and fairness within countries. It is highly unfortunate, though, that fairness is used in certain circles to block strategies and plans for these transitions. Fairness should never be reduced to a political conditionality; it rather is an imperative to strategize smarter and plan more profoundly.
2. It is a legitimate concern to ask what the transitions to net carbon zero economies will cost, and who will pay for it. It is unethical, though, to use costs as a political conditionality to block this transition, while growing numbers of people in Africa already pay for climate change in currencies hardly imaginable in affluent parts of the world: thirst, hunger, displacement from homes, loss of livelihoods, loss of security and health, loss of life.
3. It is of vital necessity to deepen our understanding of the linkages between the ecological threats and the key conditions for Positive Peace in Africa. To this end, existing gaps and opportunities must be identified and analysed, the peoples’ expectations and realities must be understood and inform policies, and a systems thinking must be exercised at all level of decision making and social dialogue.

4. Inclusion and local ownership will remain critical factors in determining how peaceful Africa would be, the extent of the environment's fitness for economic, political and social stability and development, and how to cultivate a healthier link between the environment and peace within the African context.
5. In Africa, just like in all parts of the world, respect and codification of customary and traditional principles and practices must form part of a holistic approach in environmental management. Voicing up grassroots stories and efforts in fighting climate change is essential, while also providing more tools and technology to the communities.
6. There is an urgent need to develop and implement inclusive governance policies to drive citizen conservation agenda to safeguard biodiversity, as an essential condition to ensure inclusive, sustainable, and ethical development.