

Establishment of a Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa

At the initiative of the UNESCO and the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research, representatives of 26 foundations and African peace research institutes met on September 20th and 21st, 2013, at the African Union Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. These organizations, which are located in more than 20 African countries, decided to establishment a network for the promotion of a culture of peace in Africa in order to coordinate their respective operations and to implement joint projects.

The meeting, organized by the UNESCO, the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research and the African Union, coincided with the observance of the International Day of Peace (21st September). The meeting was part of a follow-up to the Pan-African Forum on “Sources and Resources for a Culture of Pace” held in Luanda (Angola), in March 2013. This Forum adopted an Action Plan for a Culture of Peace in Africa and launched a continental Movement for a culture of peace in order to raise awareness and mobilize campaigns at national level under the motto “Make peace happen”.

One of the key conclusions of the Luanda Forum was the launch of a multi-stakeholders’ partnership for the implementation of the Luanda Action Plan through a series of coordinated actions at national, sub-regional and regional level.

In this context, the participants decided to create a “Network of Foundations and Research Institutions Promoting a Culture of Peace in Africa” aiming at achieving the following objectives:

- Coordinate our actions in order to ensure a common understanding and community of practices in pooling our resources in the implementation of our actions;
- Strengthen the visibility of our organizations and our activities among citizens and institutions at national and international level;
- Contribute to the implementation of the Luanda Action Plan by the elaboration and implementation of joint programs;
- Endeavor to implement the AU 2063 Agenda and the UNESCO Intersectoral Programme on Culture of Peace;
- Expand the network to African and non-African organizations with similar objectives.

Participants decided to form an Interim Secretariat composed of the following organizations:

1. Eduardo Dos Santos Foundation – **Angola**
2. Centre international de recherche et de documentation sur les traditions les langues africaines (CERDOTOLA) - **Cameroon**
3. University of Peace (UPEACE) – Africa – **Costa Rica / Ethiopia**
4. UNESCO chair for the culture of peace – University of Cocody, Abidjan - **Cote d’Ivoire**
5. Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research - **Cote d’Ivoire**
6. UNESCO chair for the culture of peace, conflict resolution, human rights, democracy and good governance – **Democratic Republic of Congo**
7. Centre régional de recherche et de documentation sur les femmes, le genre et la construction de la paix dans la région des Grands Lacs, Kinshasa – **Regional Headquarters in Democratic Republic of Congo**
8. Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peace Keeping in Africa - **Egypt**
9. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) – **Regional Headquarters in Ethiopia**
10. Counseling and Youth Development Center for Africa – **Malawi**
11. Center for Peace and Development Studies – **South Sudan**
12. Peace Research Institute (PRI) – Khartoum University - **Sudan**

The interim Secretariat, coordinated by the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research, shall be responsible for:

- Elaboration of the report of the meeting on the establishment of the Network;
- Elaboration of appropriate legal instruments for the establishment of the Network;
- The preparation of the first meeting of the Network;
- Mobilisation of resources and funding for the Network;
- The establishment of a web page;
- Establishment of a roster of specialists in the field **of culture of peace and of network’s potential members.**

The following are among the presentations made during the meeting: a research-action program on endogenous mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa (University of Peace / Africa and UNESCO Chair for a Culture of Peace / University of Cocody, Abidjan); the implementation of a web platform for the creation of a community of practices among members of the network (UNESCO Chairs for a Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development, Florence University, Italy); and the launch of an initiative for African youth and the culture of peace (Omar Bongo Ondimba Foundation).

Founding members :

1. Agostinho Neto Foundation - **Angola**
2. Eduardo Dos Santos Foundation – **Angola**
3. Centre international pour l'éducation des Filles et des femmes en Afrique (CIEFFA) - **Burkina Faso**
4. Centre international de recherche et de documentation sur les traditions les langues africaines (CERDOTOLA) - **Cameroon**
5. West African Institute – **Cape Verde**
6. UNESCO chair for the culture of peace – University of Cocody/Abidjan - **Cote d'Ivoire**
7. Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research - **Cote d'Ivoire**
8. Centre régional de recherche et de documentation sur les femmes, le genre et la construction de la paix dans la région des Grands Lacs, Kinshasa – **Regional Headquarters in Democratic Republic of Congo**
9. UNESCO chair for the culture of peace, conflict resolution, human rights, democracy and good governance – **Democratic Republic of Congo**
10. Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peace Keeping in Africa - **Egypt**
11. University of Peace (UPEACE) – Africa – **Costa Rica / Ethiopia**
12. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) – **Ethiopia**
13. Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) – **Ethiopia**
14. Omar Bongo Ondimba Foundation / National Commission for UNESCO – **Gabon**
15. West Africa Center for Peace Studies (WACPS) - **Ghana**
16. UNESCO Transdisciplinary Chair for Human Development and Culture of Peace – **Italia**
17. Counseling and Youth Development Centre for Africa - **Malawi**
18. UNESCO chair for the culture of peace and human rights - **Mali**
19. Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) - **Mozambique**
20. The Society For Peace Studies and Practice - **Nigeria**
21. Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) – **Senegal / Switzerland**
22. Conseil pour le développement de la recherche en sciences sociales en Afrique (CODESRIA) – **Senegal**
23. UNESCO "Oliver Tambo" Chair of Human Rights – **South Africa**
24. Center for Peace and Development Studies – **South Sudan**
25. Peace Research Institute (PRI) – Khartoum University - **Sudan**
26. Fondation Pax Africana – **Togo**

Organizations which did not participate in the meeting but wishing to join the network:

1. Ki-Zerbo Foundation – **Burkina Faso**
2. Amilcar Cabral Foundation – **Cape Verde**
3. The African Center for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) – **South Africa**
4. « Cultura de Paz » Foundation – **Spain**
5. Association pour le développement de l'Education en Afrique - **Tunisia**
6. UNESCO Chair in African Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Bradford – **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**
7. The Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative – **United States of America**
8. International Institute for Peace – **United States of America**