Luanda Biennale
Pan-African Forum for a Culture of Peace in Africa
Concept Note
1. Context

The idea of launching a Biennale for a culture of peace draws its inspiration from the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance\(^1\), which advocates that culture is the most effective means for enabling Africa to increase its share of worldwide scientific production and overcome the challenges of globalization. It is designed as a platform to promote cultural diversity and African unity. As a place for promotion of inter and intra African cultural exchanges, a biennale for a culture of peace in Africa shall be a privileged opportunity to gather a variety of actors representing governments, civil society, arts, the scientific community and international organizations with the aim of preventing and resolving conflicts and supporting the regional integration.

As an interaction platform, involving various public and private stakeholders, in particular the youth, the Biennale aims also to be a contribution to the United Nations Secretary-General on conflict prevention and peacebuilding by highlighting the transformative value of citizenship education. This approach underlines the importance of education in understanding and resolving global social, political and cultural issues, especially the role of education in promoting African values, peace, human rights, equity, acceptance of diversity and sustainable development. As a forum on non-violence and social inclusion, the Biennale aims at offering a space for intercultural, intergenerational dialogue and for the promotion of gender equality.

Such a multi-sectorial and interdisciplinary event provides spaces for reflections, presentation and dissemination of artistic creations, good practices, ideas, and knowledge related to the culture of peace. The concept of the “Culture of Peace” was born in Africa, at the International Congress on “Peace in the Spirit of Men”, organized by UNESCO in 1989 in Yamoussoukro (Côte d’Ivoire). Inspired by the same concept, UNESCO’s actions in favor of the culture of peace in Africa can be positioned within the framework of UNESCO’s Medium-term Strategy (2014–2021), which identifies “the building of peace by the edification of inclusive, pacific and resilient societies” as one of the two main domains of action for Africa and the implementation of the flagship program “Promoting a culture of peace and non-violence” of the Priority Africa (Brochure “Africa - culture of peace”).

In this dynamic context, creating synergies of cultural heritage to contemporary creation, traditional knowledge to scientific output, past and current experiences, the Biennale shall be a forward-looking Pan-African rendezvous, as a source and space for the stimulation and creation of national and sub-regional policies and plans for sustainable development and peace. As future-oriented, the Biennale is based on the African Union 2063 Agenda\(^2\), which provides a unique opportunity “to recreate the African narrative by putting it into perspective to enthuse and energize the African population and to use their constructive energy to set and implement an achievable agenda for unity, peace and development in the 21st century”. Additional to the solemn declaration adopted in the African Union

\(^1\) Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, African Union, 24 January 2006
\(^2\) [http://agenda2063.au.int/](http://agenda2063.au.int/)
Summit in May 2013, the Heads of States are devoted to the mission “of not leaving the heavy burden of conflicts for the future generations and to end all wars in Africa by 2020”.

Moreover, this Biennale is fully in line with the Action Plan for a Culture of Peace in Africa, which was adopted in Luanda (Angola) following 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, helped to raise awareness and mobilize campaigns at a national level under the African Union campaign “Silencing the guns by 2020”.

Following the adoption of this Action Plan in March 2013, many initiatives have emerged at the 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 in Gabon in 2017. 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. Awareness 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 and Burundi. In other African countries, numerous projects and initiatives in the field of peace building and global citizenship have been implemented (see Africa Brochure - Culture of peace in annexed).

The 4th axis of the Luanda action plan advocates to “Promote reflection forums to involve all stakeholders at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, to review the actions already undertaken, questioning the fundamental concepts – often a source of misunderstanding and manipulation – and contribute to the identification of possible innovative actions for a culture of peace in Africa”.

It is in this context that the 24th ordinary session of the African Union Summit adopted in January 2015 the Decision 558/XXIV, that requests the African Union Commission “to take all the appropriate measures in consultation with UNESCO and the Government of Angola for the organization of the Pan-African Biennial Forum for a culture of peace in Africa, “Biennale of Luanda”.

Recently, during the official visit to UNESCO Headquarters by His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves LOURENÇO, President of the Republic of Angola, on May 28 2018, the Angolan Government reaffirmed its willingness to host the “Pan-African Forum for a culture of peace in Africa, Biennale of Luanda” in partnership with UNESCO and the African Union.
In this regard, the President of the Republic of Angola has established a multi-sectoral Commission, in close collaboration with UNESCO, in charge of preparing the conditions for organizing the first edition of the Biennale of Luanda in September 2019, coordinated by the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Angola. The Commission also includes the following entities:

- Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation - Deputy Coordinator;
- Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technologies;
- Director of the Executives Office of the President of the Republic;
- Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Angolan Communities.

The multi-sectoral Commission is supported by a Technical Group coordinated by the Director of the Executives Office of the President of the Republic.

In order to initiate the activities related to the organization of the first edition of the Luanda Biennale in September 2019, UNESCO and the Government of Angola signed a Funds-in-Trust Agreement on 18 December 2018, which will remain in force until 31 December 2022 to cover the realization of two editions of the Biennale of Luanda in 2019 and 2021. It may be extended by mutual agreement between the two Parties.

2. Concept

In order to involve African citizens in the elaboration and implementation of «a sustainable program for unity, peace and development in the 21st century» and to ensure the sustainability and development of a Pan-African Movement for a culture of peace, it is envisaged to launch a recurring event, on a biennale basis.

Objectives:

The principal objective of this recurring event is to institutionalize and sustain the Pan-African Movement for a culture of peace by implementing a multi-partnership involving all stakeholders:

- Governments
- Civil society
- Artistic and scientific community
- Private sector
- International organisations

The specific objectives are summarized by the following six keywords: Report – Action – Forward – Exchange – Creation – Communication:

- REPORT – Review the actions taken to implement the Luanda Action Plan for a Culture of Peace in order to contribute to a management system, knowledge sharing, and best practices;

3 http://agenda2063.au.int/
• ACTION – Engage government and non-governmental organizations as well as partners in the development and implementation of plans for a culture of peace in Africa;

• FORWARD – Develop a forward-thinking holistic vision, as part of the African Union’s 2063 Agenda to contribute to the identification of obstacles, engines, and factors of change toward peaceful and resilient societies as well as innovative trends and tracks for the culture of peace in Africa;

• EXCHANGE – Create a space for discussion and dissemination of artistic and cultural expressions that contribute to the promotion of African values relating to the culture of peace: cinema, photography, music, visual arts, performing arts, fashion and design, video games, literature, craft and heritage industries;

• CREATION – Fostering artistic creation and contributing to the development of cultural and creative industries generating employment for young people in the vision of peace and sustainable development of the continent;

• COMMUNICATION – Enhance the contribution of sports to a culture of peace by associating the Biennale with sporting events. In addition, value the contribution of the media and journalists with the participation of the Biennale in media actions and campaigns in favor of the culture of peace in Africa.

Formats:

In order to place this Biennale on as high a level as the “African Davos for Peace”, it is proposed a format of 5 days and the development of a program of activities around 4 poles:

- The Pole of Reflection
- The Pole of Festival of Cultures
- The Pole of Events
- The Pole Mobilization of Resources and Partners

3. Organization/Venue

Following the outputs of the Pan-African Forum “Sources and resources for a culture of peace” jointly organized by UNESCO, the African Union and the Angolan Government, his Excellency Mr João Manuel Gonçalves, President of the Republic of Angola, informed the Director-General of UNESCO about the availability of Angola to set-up in Luanda (Angola) on a biennale basis, from September 2019, the Pan-African Forum for a culture of peace. This offer received the consent from African States during the Summit in January 2015.
Organizers:
- UNESCO
- The African Union
- The Government of Angola

4. Actors / Partners

Several key actors and partners were identified:

- **Regional Economic and Monetary Communities**: they play a crucial role in the mobilization of actors and resources at the level of the 5 African regions.

- **United Nations Agency**: An especially important role could be played by the Economic Commission of the United Nations for Africa (Youth and employment/cultural industries themes).

- **Development Partners**: Such as: the IOF, the Commonwealth, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, ALECSO, ISESCO, OECD…

- **Private Sector**: The mobilization of economic actors is very important for the implementation of the Biennale and for ensuring its sustainability. A plan on the mobilization of private sectors and large groups that are associated with the sustainable development of Africa and SMC will help to assure the visibility and the financial contribution to the activities of the Biennale. A network of «Entrepreneurs for a Culture of Peace»/Business Alliance for a Culture of Peace, similar to what has already been created for the PANWISE, youth, and foundations, should also be proposed. Among the most important sectors: tourism (airline companies, hotel groups…), factors in bringing people together, cultural industries (press, production of film, audio, video and music…) and sustainable development (biodiversity, renewable energy, ecosystems…).

- **Political Leaders/Decision Makers and Traditional Leaders**: A process of involvement of these key actors, before and after the first edition of the Biennale, should be envisioned among the network of The African Union’s Pan African Network of the Wise (PANWISE).

- **Media and Journalists**: Advocacy work with the media and journalists should be done so that they are included before, during, and after the Biennale. It was proposed, that during the Biennale, journalists and media patrons could commit, by way of a charter for example, on the treatment of information and use of images that should never be used as agitators for violence and hate (Media Alliance for Peace).

- **Intellectual and Scientific Community**: consideration should be given to the strengthening of the endogenous intellectual and scientific productions and also the link between decision-makers and researchers. Programs like MOST (Management of Social Transformations) UNESCO and organizations like CODESRIA should be included in the implementation of the
Biennale in particular, to develop a forward-looking vision of Africa in the "Futures Literacy Laboratories" and "New World Laboratories / Young People Imagine Cities by 2030 project".

- **Teachers and Educators**: Aiming to reach youth and children, schools, education and training contexts both formal and informal are, in general, the ideal places to target. During the Biennale, a particular role will be devoted to educators, teachers and innovative methods of peace and non-violence education.

- **Artists and Sports Figures**: Recognized as key role models, especially for young people. They must be identified and engaged either on an individual basis (see Champions of the culture of peace), or in the context of musical/artistic festivals or existing sporting events.

- **Diaspora**: Among the actors / partners of the Biennale of Luanda, must be included organizations, institutions and members of civil society of the sixth region of Africa, the Diaspora.

- **Other Member States**: Apart from Angola, other member states are engaged in different levels in the culture of peace: organization of forums, advocacy campaigns and national programs. They will be able to play a major role in the Biennale as participants in the Festival of Cultures, as champions of cultural diversity and resilience to conflict and violence.

5. **Mechanism of mobilization: “Building Ownership”**

The Biennale represents a unique opportunity to engage all actors in the Pan-African movement in favour of the culture of peace. However, this requires the building frameworks and conditions for this kind of commitment.

- **Networks for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace**: existing networks and those being formed: “Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa”, “Women and a Culture of Peace” and “Youth and a Culture of Peace” should be included in the conception, implementation and follow-up of the Biennale. The African Union’s Pan African Network of the Wise (PANWISE) and the regional economic communities, uniting important figures in the area of politics, media, conflict resolution, as well as traditional and religious leaders, would be directly involved in the creation of the Biennale like other networks.

- **Champions / Ambassadors of the Culture of Peace in Africa**: artists and athletes with international reputation could serve as «champions of the culture of peace» by accepting to implement a specific action of program.

- **Labelling Initiatives and Events**: The Biennale should be able to attribute a label to initiatives and projects on the culture of peace that would then be made visible thanks
to the Biennale and would then have access to support systems (Business alliance for peace.)

- **Sponsoring Mechanisms and Involvement of the Private Sector:** The Biennale should also be able to attribute a specific label to companies interested in being included and then be able to benefit from communication and visibility devices. «side events» and exposition spaces (showcase) would complete this device.

- **Media and Journalists:** Through the establishment of a charter, for example, on the treatment of information and use of images that should never be used as agitators for violence and hate (Media Alliance for Peace). Special attention should be paid to the Biennale’s participation in media actions and campaigns for the advocacy of the culture of peace.

- **Festivals and Existing Sporting Events:** The Biennale must be given the opportunity to live on through other events during the time between the two editions. Large-scale African festivals should be contacted, and agreements of partnerships should be signed to be able to show, at Luanda, African wealth and creativity in music, dance, theatre, photography, cinema, sculpture, etc. In addition, consideration should be given to the impact that they might have on all classes of African population. It is also important to link the Biennale with sporting events, such as the Pan-African Games, the African World Cup, the Paralympic Games, cycling tours, etc.

6. **Organizational Structures:**

- **Pan-African Steering Committee:** The primary institutions to be represented in this committee would include: UNESCO, African Union, ADB, RECs, Member States (on the basis of a regional representation)

- **Scientific Committee:** Members of existing networks would be a part of this Committee

- **Organization Committee:** Angola, UNESCO, and the African Union

- **Structure in charge of the follow-up of the Pan-African Movement in favour of the Culture of Peace and the implementation/organization of the Biennale:** This structure should be composed of an international team (UNESCO and the African Union) and a national team in Angola.

7. **Expected Results after the First Edition of the Biennale:**

1. A number of actors representing the 5 African regions and the Diaspora: governments, civil society and the private sector (at least 20 per region) are committed to the Pan-African Movement in Favour of a Culture of Peace.
2. A permanent monitoring and evaluation mechanism to study the results of the Biennale and the advancement of the Pan-African Movement in Favour of a Culture of Peace is put in place and is made accessible by its own website.

3. The resources and funds for the realization of the first edition of the Biennale are mobilized and the “business plan” of following editions is established.

4. Innovative initiatives for the promotion of a culture of peace are launched: Media alliance for Peace, Business Alliance for Peace…

8. Biennial of Luanda - Preliminary proposals of the 2019 edition

Proposed dates: September 18-22, 2019

Intellectual Pole

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)
- The role of culture and education in conflict prevention and conflict resolutions
- Building a common cultural heritage policy
- Developing Early Warning Systems for crises prevention
- Civil Society Movements and the role of women and youth in a prevention culture
- Development of artificial intelligence for peace
- Cross-boundaries management of natural resources
- The notion of Global Africa, in the General History of Africa

Objectives:

- To take stock of the actions undertaken
- To promote the exchanges of good practices
- To develop a forward-looking approach to the future of Africa

A communication / information dissemination system:

- Multi-sites live
- Webcast
- Radio / TV studios
- Social networks
- Media Room for Journalists / Bloggers

A commitment of journalists and media owners:

- **Media Alliance for Peace**: signing a charter for the treatment of information and the use of images that will not instigate violence and hatred

A privileged space for youth:

- **New World Laboratories**: Young people imagining the future of cities by 2050.

A special moment to launch:

- Public Awareness Campaigns on the 21 September - World Day of Peace
Festival of Cultures Pole

Partners: African Regional Economic Communities and 12 « Champions » Countries

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
- 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: 12 Countries invited to each edition of the Biennial of Luanda in the 6 regions of Africa:

- 2 in North Africa
- 2 in West Africa
- 2 in East Africa
- 2 in Central Africa
- 2 in Southern Africa
- 2 of the Diaspora (America & Caribe, East and West Europe, Asia & Middle East,...)

Other partners: The Luanda Biennale is associated with other Festivals of arts, music and heritage:

- Cartago Cinema Biennale – Tunis (Tunisia)
- Gnaui and Fez Sacred Music Festivals – Fez/Essauira (Morocco)
- Bamako Biennale of African Photography – Bamako (Mali)
- FESPACO/ African Cinema Festival – Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)
- Festival of Black Arts/ Plastic arts – Dakar (Senegal)
- FIMA/ Fashion – Niamey (Niger)
- FEMUA/ Festival of Urban Music of Anoumabo (Ivory Coast)
- MASA/ Performing arts – Abidjan, Bouaké, Bassam (Ivory Coast)
- FESPAM/ Music – Brazzaville (Congo)
- FEST’HORN/ Music (Djibouti)
- FESTAD/ Dance – Kigali (Rwanda)
- Harare Book Fair (Zimbabwe)
- DOCKANEMA – Documentary film – Maputo (Mozambique)
- KORA/ Music (South Africa)
- ...

Pole of events

AfricanCultures4Peace / Cultures africaines pour la Paix


Objective: highlight the contribution of African cultures to peace in the world through a great diversity of cultural expressions from the 5 regions of Africa and the Diaspora: visual and plastic arts, music, dance, theatre, storytelling, proverbs, poetry, literature, cinema, ...

Full version Opening: September 18, 2019 in Luanda

Traveling exhibition: full version in Paris, New York, Rome

Traveling exhibition: reduced version in UNESCO Offices around the world, Embassies, ...
Africa - Rest of the world
*A historic football match between glories of world football*
Kick-off by Edson Arantes do Nascimento, said Pelé

**Objective:** Raising awareness of the public at large to peace and non-violence and Fundraising

**Opening day Biennale:** September 18, 2019

**Location:** Luanda Stadium (Angola)

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World Day of Peace - 21/09/2019

**Objective:** Mobilizing African women for a culture of peace - This day will be an opportunity to launch the: *Pan-African Women’s Network for a Culture of Peace*

In association with the 2 existing networks:
- Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace
- Pan-African Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace

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Peace Live Aid - African Artists and Friends
*A mega-concert for peace*

**Objective:** Raising awareness of the public at large to peace and non-violence and Fundraising

**Closing day of the Biennale:** September 22, 2019

**Location:** Memorial Agostinho Neto, Luanda (Angola)

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**Partners and Resources mobilization Pole**

**Partners:** United Nations Global Compact

**Objective:** Raising funds and resources for projects and actors of the culture of peace in Africa

**A quality label for initiatives and projects:** “Biennale of Luanda for the culture of peace” Selected by the United Nations on the basis of quality management and effectiveness criteria

**A commitment of business owners from Africa and the Diaspora:**
“Business Alliance for Peace”: Funding and support mechanisms for selected initiatives and projects.
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