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## ***Final communiqué of the 2nd edition of the Biennale of Luanda - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace***

Luanda, Republic of Angola, 30 November 2021

The Government of the Republic of Angola, the African Union and UNESCO organised the second edition of the **Biennale of Luanda - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace from 27 to 30 November 2021**.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this second edition of the Biennale of Luanda was held in an innovative hybrid format, partly face-to-face and partly virtual.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, the following participants attended in person and online:

- **Opening Ceremony and Presidential-level Intergenerational Dialogue:**

The Presidents of Angola, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and Portugal, the Vice-Presidents of Namibia and Costa Rica, the Ministers of Defence of Mozambique and Kenya, representing their Presidents, as well as the Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the African Union, the Minister of State for Social Affairs of Angola and UNESCO Special Envoy Forest Whitaker;

- **Ministerial-level Intergenerational Dialogue session:**

Ministers and Deputy Ministers from the same countries, as well as from Angola, Cuba and Kenya, with the Director-General of ICESCO and the Deputy Assistant Director-General for Human and Social Sciences, for the ministerial level intergenerational dialogue session;

- **Inaugural Lesson:**

The Director of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) in Addis Ababa and the Director-General of the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) for the inaugural lecture;

During four days the following participants attended in person and online:

- Senior officials from the African Union, UNESCO, ICESCO, the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), technical and financial partners as well as representatives of the United Nations system;
- 150 participants acting as speakers, moderators, session chairs, from over 60 countries;
- 120 young leaders, from all African countries and representatives of the Diaspora, of which 9 were present in Luanda;
- 65 partners from institutions, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and international organisations in Africa and its Diaspora, and other regions of the world;
- More than 20 personalities and artists committed to the Culture of Peace, from different continents

A dedicated [Biennale](#) web site containing 43 national virtual pavilions showcasing rich content on cultural diversity and examples of national initiatives, as well as partners and associated personalities.

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Acknowledging the efforts made, in the challenging pandemic context, for the organisation of this event, the participants of the Biennale of Luanda wish to thank the organisers and their partners and congratulate them for the success of the event.

Taking note of the above, the participants of the second edition of the Biennale:

1. Encourage the organisers, for the holding of future editions of the Biennale, to consider the benefits of this innovative hybrid format in terms of the opportunity for a more widescale participation and thus appropriation of this event, the objective of which is to strengthen the **Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence** for the peace and sustainable development of Africa;
2. Welcome the official launch, during this 2021 edition, of the **Alliance of Partners for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence in Africa**, as a necessary instrument for the strengthening of the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, as well as for ensuring the sustainability and transformative impact of the Biennale of Luanda Initiative;
3. Encourage academic institutions and professional associations, youth and women's organisations and associations, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, philanthropists and influential personalities within the continent and the Diaspora to join the **Alliance of Partners for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence in Africa**;
4. Welcome the strengthening of cooperation between the **Government of Angola, the African Union Commission and UNESCO** and call upon them to take the necessary steps, including within the framework of the Steering Committee of the Biennale, for the establishment of a permanent Secretariat to ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the **Roadmap of this second edition of the Biennale**;
5. Welcome the full participation and involvement of the **Regional Economic Communities** throughout the four days of the conference, as reflected in the Joint Declaration of the High Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence (Annex 1); declaration by which the RECs acknowledge their role, responsibility and commitment in the process of perpetuating the culture of peace and non-violence in Africa, which also includes the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Angola, ECCAS and UNESCO (Annex 2);
6. Request the support of the **governments of African Member States and countries of the African Diaspora** to contribute, from one edition to the next, to the sustainability of the Biennale of Luanda initiative, including by taking appropriate measures and implementing activities and projects for the culture of peace and non-violence at national and local levels to be progressively included in the roadmap;
7. Express their gratitude to their Excellencies, the **Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Ministers** who took part in the Opening Ceremony of the Biennale in Luanda;
8. Welcome the major role played by His Excellency, **Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola**, who once again hosted the event and mobilised the Heads of State and Government for this purpose, and request his support for the future editions of the Biennale of Luanda.

This 2nd edition of the Biennale was structured around four main focuses: the Intergenerational Dialogue of Leaders and Youth; the four Thematic and Good Practice Forums, the launch of the Alliance of Partners and the Festival of Cultures.

The participants appreciate the holding of restricted access online partnership sessions, which will take place 01 to 02 December. These restricted online sessions aim to finetune the **4 flagship initiatives for the African**

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**continent** and will be chaired by representatives of the Regional Economic Communities. The flagship initiatives, together with the projects and events planned by the partners, will be part of the **Roadmap 2021-2023**.

### **INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE OF LEADERS AND YOUTH**

With a view to once again giving a voice to young people and their organisations, the second edition of the Biennale opened on 27 November with an Intergenerational Dialogue on the theme: *Cultural and Heritage Diversity of Africa and its Diasporas: Source of Conflict or Ground for Peace?*

The objective of this intergenerational dialogue was to allow participants to: (i) brainstorm on how to promote, in African states and African Diaspora communities, and with the involvement of youth and their organisations, the respect of 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 towards intercultural and interreligious dialogue for living together and in peace.

The participants were pleased that the dialogue provided an opportunity for the youth representatives to present a draft programme entitled "Youth committed to the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence". The objective of this programme is to mobilise young people and their organisations within the continent and its Diaspora to contribute to the implementation of the roadmap of the second edition of the Biennale and to strengthen the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence in the medium and long term (Annex 3).

### **THEMATIC AND BEST PRACTICE FORUMS**

In its role as a global cooperation platform for the elaboration of strategies for the prevention of violence and conflicts and the dissemination of initiatives and good practices, with a view to building sustainable peace and development in Africa, the 2nd edition of the Biennale was structured along four thematic and good practice forums, namely:

- (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 conflict, crises and inequality;
- (iv) Harnessing the potential of the oceans for sustainable development and peace.

Bringing together a variety of committed actors and partners, these forums highlighted solutions and good practices that have proven successful at local, national and regional levels.

The participants thank the speakers who shared their experiences. Gathered in a catalogue of good practices, these experiences have inspired the drafting of the four Flagship Initiatives. Partners and stakeholders are invited to support the implementation of the Flagship Initiatives throughout the period 2021-2023.

### **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."* Referring to Aspiration 5 of the Agenda 2063 and to the 2021 International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, this forum explored recent knowledge on how arts and heritage interact with conflict, reconciliation and efforts to build more peaceful societies. It also highlighted the ways in which artists, creatives and heritage practitioners contribute to preventing, mitigating and supporting recovery from the effects of conflict, inequality and the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Engaging young people as actors of social transformation for conflict prevention and sustainable development**

This thematic forum contributed to the implementation of UNESCO's Operational Strategy on Youth, the African Youth Charter, the African Union Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth, and Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063. It showed that there is an alternative narrative to the one that portrays young people as perpetrators or victims of violence. This alternative narrative highlights the lived experiences and daily efforts of young women and men committed as actors of social transformation for conflict prevention and 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 UN Youth Strategy.

## **Africa and its diasporas in the face of conflicts, crises and inequality**

Despite enormous assets that could create the base 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 explored and presented 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. This forum builds on the implementation of SDG 1 and Aspiration number 1 of Agenda 2063.

## **Harnessing the Potential of Oceans for Sustainable Development and Peace**

Africa's coastal and ocean waters occupy three times its land mass and are becoming increasingly relevant as a source of economic growth and employment in the continent. In connection with the African Decade of Seas and Oceans (2015-2025) and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), this fourth forum offered the opportunity to mobilise stakeholders to ensure that Africa harnesses ocean science and research to make the best use of its blue economy potential. It also presented an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), and to discuss the Strategy for Blue Economy in Africa.

The participants thank all the actors and partners represented at these Thematic and Good Practice Forums for their strong commitment, which allowed the definition of **four flagship initiatives** for the construction of a culture of peace on the African continent.

## **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

Created in the framework of the Biennale of Luanda to play an advisory role, to offer advice on the programme of the Biennale and to develop academic reflection for the promotion of the culture of peace in Africa, the Scientific Committee participated in a session on the theme "African identities, cultures and science for a culture of peace". This was an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to present to the participants the draft publication entitled "Identities, Cultures, Science and Shared Values for an African Epistemology on Peace". This publication, which will be introduced in the roadmap of the Biennale, aims to rethink the notion of peace in Africa, to reflect on African citizenship and the construction of Africanity as well as to discuss the strategic role of education systems in the African cultural renaissance.

## **FESTIVAL OF CULTURES**

The Festival of Cultures gave the opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity of Africa and other parts of the world, promoting interaction between cultures, artists and the public.

The Festival included a live part in Luanda with a dance, fashion, and music performance on 27 November, the opening of the ResiliArt Angola exhibition - organised by the Biennale partner American Schools of

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Angola, on 28 November, and the final concert on 30 November. The embassies of the 9 countries present in Luanda, as well as the Portuguese, German and Brazilian cultural centres and the Alliance française played a very active role in organising exhibitions, theatre, dance and music performances on the themes of the Biennale. Angola was physically represented by a national pavilion bringing together the various forms of Angolan culture between tradition and modernity, with a presentation of national projects to be included in the roadmap.

During the Biennale, an original musical creation was presented, a pan-African song, produced within the framework of the cultural agenda of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in his capacity as current President of the African Union, with the participation of great artists from the continent under the direction of Lokwa Kanza and Souzy Kaseya.

The Festival was broadcast on the Biennale website as part of the “Biennale TV”. 43 countries’ virtual pavilions were hosted on the Biennale web site, featuring an incredible richness and diversity of cultural expressions and bringing together artists and musical groups of African inspiration.

### **CLOSING / CONCLUSION**

The closing ceremony, on 30 November, was marked by the adoption of a **Declaration of the Regional Economic Communities** and the official launch of the **Alliance of Partners for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence in Africa**.

In order to ensure continuity and sustainability of the Alliance of Partners, we invite UNESCO to continue to assist and accompany the leadership of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), in the framework of a permanent Secretariat with a dedicated team, until the third edition of the Biennale of Luanda in 2023.

The participants of the second edition of the Biennale would like to thank all the official sponsors who made this important event possible, namely:

- Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI)
- American Schools of Angola (ASA)
- BNI (Banco nacional de investimento)

As well as local sponsors: Porto de Luanda, Namibe and Soyo, Regulatory Agency of Load Certification and Logistics of Angola (ARCCLA), National Institute of Road Transport (INTR), Collective and Urban Transport of Luanda (TCUL) and Special Economic Zone (ZEE).