Theme 3 Flagship Initiative:

'Africa and its Diasporas in the Face of Conflicts, Crises and Inequality'

1. Encourage Women's Initiatives for Peace Resolution in Africa
2. Diaspora and Reduction of Inequalities
3. Promote Endogenous Knowledge

Title	Africa and its Diasporas in the Face of Conflicts, Crises and Inequality
Thematic and best practices forum	Theme 3: "The Contribution of Africa and its Diasporas to the Resolution of Conflicts, Crises and Inequality"
UNESCO Regional office focal points	Edmond MOUKALA (UNESCO Bamako) & Phinith CHANTALAGSY (UNESCO Harare)
Geographical scope	Africa, LAC
Synopsis and objective	Africa has been experiencing greater levels of economic growth and well-being over the past years; but insecurity, widening inequalities in different aspects of life, natural and human-made disasters still persist in many parts of the continent. As many countries on the continent take an active part in, and benefit from, the globalization of the economies, the modernization of societies and norms, as well as the development and dissemination of the news ICTs, poverty and social injustice continue to affect people. This creates discontent within communities, especially the marginalized groups, and distrust between people and their government institutions, causing significant obstacles for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as well as various impacts of climate change, have also deepened the social divides between the haves and the have-nots. This is partly due to preexisting limitations of institutional and governance frameworks which have hindered the national responses to these crises. According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, by 2050, climate change is estimated to create up to 86 million additional migrants in sub-Saharan Africa.[1] This represents key challenges to peace and development in Africa. In addition, national and ethnic tension, as well as identity politics and exclusionary ideas of citizenship, continue to influence political, economic and social policies in many parts of the continents. A growing number of groups are increasingly discriminating against others because of differences in origin, race, ethnicity, gender and physical abilities. In West Africa, particularly in the Liptako-Gourma area, insecurity, as well as social and economic inequalities, have reached a crisis level. This region's instability is also due to the multidimensional crisis that Mali has been experiencing since 2012, triggered by various armed groups in the north of the country.

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[1] https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/GPI_2020_web.pdf

Axes of intervention and theory of change	**Axis 1: Encourage Women's Initiatives for Peace Resolution in Africa**
	The Support of African Artists, Cultural and Creative Industries for an Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Recovery
	Throughout the developed and developing world, conflict is a constant threat to one's psychological and physical well-being. Many aspects of war affect women and girls disproportionately. Poor women and their children lose health, housing, education and welfare services as a consequence to conflicts. To reduce these negative outcomes, a greater inclusion and representation of women in post-conflict initiatives can enhance their role in peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. The African Union (AU) advocates for the meaningful participation and leadership of women and their efforts towards the silencing of guns, the enhancement of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law to promote a peaceful and secure Africa as outlined in Agenda 2063. In recognition of African women who have exceptionally advanced the peace, security and women's agenda in Africa, the African Union and the United Nations will publish a commemorative book to celebrate the contribution of women in achieving Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063 and as part of the activities for the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.
	Key outputs of axis 1: 1.1. The reinforcement of government efforts on women, peace and security 1.2. The involvement of women as Peace Ambassadors for a more sustainable, positive peace process 1.3. The encouragement of more appointments of women to peacekeeping programmes in Africa **Key partners of axis 1:** ▪ AU ▪ REC ▪ Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) ▪ Women's organisations and UN-Women ▪ Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation in Namibia ▪ Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare in Namibia ▪ Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security in Namibia ▪ Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs in Namibia ▪ UNDP ▪ UNESCO

Axis 2: Diaspora and Reduction of Inequalities

Reducing inequalities for sustainable development is a big challenge faced by developing countries. To truly understand how inequalities have evolved, we must first analyze living-standards gaps across different countries and those within a specific country.

The diaspora of developing countries can be a driving force for development for their countries of origin, through investments, innovation, knowledge, and technology transfers. It is part of the 3rd Article of the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union that recognizes the important role to be played by the African Diaspora in the development of the continent and states that the Union "invites and encourages the Diaspora, as an essential part of our continent, to participate fully in the construction of the African Union".

Key outputs of axis 2:

2.1. The mobilization of the skills of the diaspora to develop better opportunities for youth

2.2. The improvement of youth employment though the contribution of the diaspora

2.3. The support and improvement of vocational training institution performance

Key partners of axis 2:

- UNESCO Headquarters
- Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training of Mali
- UNFPA Regional Office in Dakar and its National Office in Mali
- IOM Regional Office in Dakar, and its National Office in Mali
- Embassy of the People's Republic of China
- MINUSMA, United Nations System in Mali
- Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC)
- Gouvernements de la sous-région, CEEAC, UNOCA, OIF, BAD et UE
- Government, Organisations of Women with Disabilities, UNDP, and UNFPA
- AU, OHCHR, UNESCO, other UN Agencies, EU, African Albinism Alliance and various PWA Associations

Axis 3: Promote Endogenous Knowledge for Peace Keeping and Peace Building
Enhancing the Positive Contributions of African Culture in Peacebuilding and Development
In Africa, many indigenous peace-building traditions emphasize the importance of social solidarity. The KURUKAN FUGA Charter in West Africa is an example of an Endogenous Governance Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, and the 'UBUNTU' philosophy, followed by communities in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa promotes that all humans are interdependent. The UN tradition of peacebuilding has been expanded and adapted to fit the circumstances and demands of post-conflict settings in Africa. According to CODESRIA, the endogenous knowledge of "joking alliances" can be used to leverage building and consolidation of peace.

Key outputs of axis 3:
 	
    3.1. Promote the role of indigenous approaches to peace-building in post-conflict reconstruction in Africa
 	
    3.2. Enhance public participation in peace-building process
 	
    3.3 Strengthen indigenous structures of peace, and securing territorial integrity
 	
Key partners of axis 3:
 	
• Ministries of Culture, Administration, Higher education and Research
• UNESCO National commissions; UNESCO Chairs; Universities; Specialized institutions
• Afro-American Program and UNESCO Chair for Intercultural Dialogue of Casa de las Americas, José Antonio Aponte Commission for fighting against racism, Nicolas Guillen Foundation, National Committee of Slave Route, Nelson Mandela Chair, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences FLACSO Cuba
• OSG-AUC, ESTI, Youth and Gender Department, IPSS, IPATC