Strengthening the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence: Towards a Global Partnership

General presentation note
INTRODUCTION

The Biennale of Luanda - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace is a joint initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the African Union (AU) and the Government of Angola, which is part of the implementation of the "Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace in Africa/Let's Move for Peace" adopted in March 2013 in Luanda, Angola, at the Pan-African Forum "Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace".

The Biennale was established by Decision 558/XXIV, adopted in 2015 at the 24th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, requesting the African Union Commission (AUC) to work towards its organization, in consultation with UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Angola.

This initiative reinforces the implementation of Goals 16 and 17 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 7 Aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063, in particular its "Silence the Guns by 2020" initiative, which has been extended for ten years (2030) and the implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. The Biennale also contributes to the implementation of UNESCO's "Operational Strategy for Priority Africa (2014-2021)", aimed at providing African responses to the transformations affecting the continent's economies and societies.

The African Union has always placed culture and culture of peace at the top of its agenda which affirms the commitment of the African Union Member States to ensure the coordination and harmonization of their policies to strengthen the African cultural identity and shared values. The AU theme of year for 2021 is “Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want” and it offers a golden opportunity for the African Union to renew this commitment and enhance the promotion of the concept of a “Culture of Peace” across the African continent through the Luanda Biennale.

The aim of the Biennale of Luanda for the Culture of Peace in Africa is to work towards a daily and sustainable individual and collective appropriation and implementation, on the continent, of the concept of a culture of peace which consists of "values, attitudes and behaviors that reflect and promote conviviality and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights tolerance and solidarity, which reject violence and are inclined to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes and to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation, and which guarantee to all people the full enjoyment of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society."

The overall objective of the Luanda Biennale is to strengthen the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence through the creation of:

- A global cooperation platform for the elaboration of strategies for the prevention of violence and conflicts and the dissemination of initiatives and best practices, with a view
to building sustainable peace and development in Africa (Thematic and Best Practices Forums);

• A space for exchange between the cultural identities of Africa and its Diasporas, a privileged meeting place for the arts, cultures and heritages as instruments of dialogue, mutual understanding and tolerance (Festival of Cultures);

• A multi-actor partnership between governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, the private sector and international organizations. A major opportunity to support Flagship initiatives for Africa by scaling up projects and initiatives that have proven successful at local, national or sub-regional level (Alliance of Partners for the Culture of Peace in Africa).

FIRST EDITION 2019

Organized jointly by UNESCO, the AU and the Government of the Republic of Angola, from 18 to 22 September, the first edition of the Biennale was organized around three main axes:

1. Partners' Forum - an alliance for Africa
2. Thematic Forums: Ideas Forum, Youth Forum and Women's Forum
3. Festival of Cultures

The opening ceremony was honored by the presence of H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, in the presence of H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali and African Union Champion for Arts, Culture and Heritage, and H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Dr. Denis Mukwege, winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Biennale also welcomed official delegations from the governments of Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Other international and UN organizations were also represented at the Biennale: European Union (EU), African Development Bank (AfDB), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), UN Women, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Ethiopia, the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Angola, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mali, the United Nations University for Peace, and the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region.
Many other representatives from the world of sport, music and the arts were also present, in particular: Mr Didier Drogba, Vice-President of the Peace and Sport Association; Mr Salif Traoré, known as A’Salfo, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and General Commissioner of the Anoumabo Urban Music Festival (FEMUA) in Côte d’Ivoire; Mr Seidnaly Sidhamed Seidnaly Sidhamed, known as Alphadi, UNESCO Artist for Peace, President of the International Festival of African Fashion (FIMA) in Niger, as well as Mr Ardiouma Soma, General Delegate of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) and Mr Frédéric Jacquemin, Director General of AFRICALIA.

The following representatives of the private sector were the official partners of the Biennale: ENI, Banco BNI and Total Angola, the official carrier Royal Air Maroc, the Phoenix TV Multimedia Group, the Weidong Group and the Africa Development Solutions Group. Carrier Sponsors: TAP Air Portugal, TAAG and Ethiopian Airlines and other Sponsors (Gold category) also supported the event: Aceria de Angola, Multieventos, Unitel, Grupo Boavida, Grupo Noble, Niodior, Refriango, RCN, Kikovo, Grupo Arena, Cooperativa de credito, Tegma-Su and Planalto do Kinu.

This first edition of the Biennale saw the participation of:

- **Opening ceremony**: about five hundred (500) people, with retransmission on the Memorial site (about 400 people);

- **Partners' Forum and Thematic Forums**: about six hundred (600) people per day, half of whom came from countries other than the host country, and the mobilization of one hundred and sixteen (116) panelists and moderators from sixty-two (62) countries, of which forty-five (45) were African countries and seventeen (17) non-African countries

- **Festival of Cultures**: 16 countries (Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, Mali, Morocco, Portugal, Rwanda and South Africa) with the presence of more than 200 artists and musical groups and 15,000 visitors

- **Closing concert**: more than 50 artists from Angola, Egypt, Namibia and South Africa and an audience of about 7,000

According to data from the Angolan immigration services, about 500 people disembarked at Luanda airport, in the framework of this first edition of the Biennale, between 16 and 23 September 2019.

The Final Report of the first edition of the Luanda Biennale is available at the following links:

SECOND EDITION 2021

A major opportunity to celebrate the theme of the year 2021 for the African Union, "Arts, culture and heritage: levers for building the Africa we want" and to extend, during the same year, the theme of the year 2020, "Silencing the guns in Africa", the second edition of the Biennale will innovate in terms of its format, the inclusiveness of the actors and its calendar.

Through Presidential Decree 164/20 of 16 November 2020, the President of the Republic of Angola has taken steps to put in place the conditions for the realization of this second edition of the Luanda Biennale in collaboration with UNESCO and the African Union, notably through the creation of a multi-sectoral Commission and a National Management Committee for the Biennale.

The African Union, during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held on 3rd and 4th February 2021, adopted Decision EX.CL/1625(XXXVIII), which "instructs the Commission, working with Angolan Government and UNESCO, to create the conditions for the Second Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa - the Biennale of Luanda". The 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), held on 6th and 7th February 2021, also adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.796(XXXIV), calling upon all AU Member States to support and participate in the 2nd Luanda Biennale.

UNESCO has also taken steps, including strengthening its presence in Angola and creating a permanent Secretariat for the organization of the second edition with the participation of focal points in its Field Offices in Africa and in the Diaspora countries.

In addition, efforts were also made to strengthen the ownership of the Biennale at the level of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) so that they can help encourage their respective member states to actively participate in the process leading to the holding of the Luanda Biennale. In this case, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), through its Commission in Libreville (Gabon), will cement its membership of the group of organizers of the Biennale through a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the Angolan State. This membership and the MoU will serve as a model and emulation for other RECs.

Given the international health situation, this edition of the Biennale is to be considered in a hybrid format: virtual and face-to-face.

A series of national and regional events (taking place between April and December 2021) will be labelled "Biennale of Luanda" and included in its calendar to address the main themes and encourage the emergence of partnerships around major initiatives and projects for Africa.
The central event of the second edition of the Biennale will take place from 4 to 8 October 2021 in Luanda, Angola, partly in person and with the virtual participation of the largest number of countries and partners.

The five-day programme will be organized around the following axes:
- Intergenerational dialogue of leaders and youth
- Thematic and best practice forums
- Alliance of Partners for a Culture of Peace in Africa
- Festival of Cultures

INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE OF LEADERS AND YOUTH

As a space and moment of discussion between leaders and young people, this dialogue, at the opening of the second edition of the "Biennale of Luanda - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace" on October the 4th, intends to give participants the opportunity to exchange on the following theme: “The cultural and heritage diversity of Africa and its Diasporas: a source of conflict or a breeding ground for peace?”

In line with the theme of the year of the African Union, the participants will assess the state of peace and security through the prism of the coexistence of Africa's multiple cultural identities and question the relationship of young people to their culture and how they construct their cultural identity in their relationship with others.

The participants in this intergenerational dialogue, in person or virtually, will be:

- Heads of State and Government
- The ministers responsible for youth/culture issues
- Commissioners of the AU and regional economic communities in charge of youth
- Representatives of the United Nations, international organizations and technical and financial partners invited to the Biennale

As far as the youth are concerned, one hundred and fifty (150) young people (from all AU countries and the diaspora) will be invited to take part in this dialogue, with 50% of them being young girls and 50% being young boys. These young people will be selected from among members of national youth councils, national coordinating bodies of the Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace (PAYNCOP), networks of young volunteers from the RECs (ECOWAS young volunteers, ECCAS young weavers, etc.) and other youth leaders and organizations, through a call for applications.

Apart from the one hundred and fifty (150) young people who will participate at the Biennale, other young people will also participate virtually from their respective countries; decentralized participation, scaled up through digital platforms such as social networks, will be facilitated by
UNESCO field offices, AU Liaison Offices, RECs Liaison Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO.

THEMATIC AND BEST PRACTICES FORUMS

The thematic and good practice forums will be organized around four (4) thematic days, on 5, 6, 7, and 8 October.

These forums will bring together Best Practices and partners interested in peace and sustainable development in order to develop, on a larger scale, projects and initiatives that have proven to be successful on the African continent, at the local, national or sub-regional level.

They intend to stimulate the implementation of Flagship Initiatives for Africa and will culminate on the last day with the launch of the **Alliance of Partners for the Culture of Peace in Africa**. It is proposed that the RECs play a leading and coordinating role in this alliance.

The proposed structure of the thematic days is as follows:

5 October: **The contribution of arts, culture and heritage to sustainable peace**

- Supporting African artists, cultural and creative Industries for an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery
- Preventing conflict, reducing risks and building peace through African Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Reengaging with history, arts and cultural values in education to promote a new narrative for Africa
- Protecting and promoting African cultural and natural heritage

6 October: **Engaging young people as actors of social transformations for conflict prevention and sustainable development**

- Promoting and encouraging youth civic engagement: education for peace, global citizenship and sustainable development
- Youth employability, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, including cultural/creative industries and green/blue economies
- Introduction to youth foresight and social innovation for sustainable development and social cohesion
- Youth and the role of sport for social cohesion and peace

7 October: **Africa and its diasporas in the face of conflicts, crises and inequalities**

- Role of African women for peace and security (empowerment, leadership, fight against gender-based violence and implementation of UNSCR 1325)
• Fight against social inequalities, xenophobia, stigmatization and discrimination (including in times of crisis) and promotion of the social inclusion of people with disabilities and vulnerabilities
• Research and innovation in science, technology, artificial intelligence and endogenous knowledge to fight against pandemics and crises
• Contribution of Afro-descendants to the future of Africa - South-South cooperation, including return movements

8 October: **Harnessing the potential of the oceans for sustainable development and peace**

• Oceans of Peace and Opportunity: resources, demographic dividend, gender parity, blue economy, scientific cooperation and diplomacy, South-South cooperation
• New experiences towards sustainable development: coastal tourism and underwater heritage, Waste management
• The Ocean, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Challenges for Adaptation towards Sustainable Development

**ALLIANCE OF PARTNERS FOR AFRICA: TOWARDS A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PANAFRICAN MOVEMENT FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE**

The "Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace in Africa/Action for Peace", adopted in 2013 at the Pan-African Forum on "Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace", called, among other things, for the creation of a "Continental and Sustainable Movement for Peace".

To follow up on this call, networks of civil society organizations from Africa and the Diaspora were established under the aegis of UNESCO and the AU, with the support of a number of Member States:

(i) In September 2013: **The Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa**, which now comprises more than 50 organizations, including UNESCO Chairs. The Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research oversees the permanent secretariat of the said network and its head office is therefore based in Côte d'Ivoire, more precisely in Yamoussoukro.

(ii) In December 2014: **The Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace**, consisting of about 60 organizations, including National Youth Councils. The Permanent Secretariat of this youth network is hosted by Gabon.

(iii) In June 2018 (through the creation in Gabon of a national organization called "Pan-African Women's Network for the Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development") and in September 2019 (through the holding of a women's forum at the first edition of the Luanda Biennale), the
idea of creating a network of research organizations on women and the culture of peace in Africa and the Diasporas was launched.

This second edition intends to concretize the fundamental objective of the Biennale of Luanda, which is to strengthen the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence; a movement whose existence have been initiated by the creation of the above-mentioned networks of civil society organizations in Africa and the Diaspora.

Beyond these continental networks, the Pan-African Movement for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence should necessarily take root locally and nationally. This local and national rooting could be done through the Member States and their National Commissions for UNESCO, by federating, within the Member States, all entities and parties interested in the fields of competence of the culture of peace. At the sub-regional level, the Regional Economic Communities will play a coordinating role within this Movement.

The role of the Biennale is thus to be a showcase for the organizations and movements that are already working for a culture of peace and non-violence in Africa and elsewhere, to federate them and make them feel part of a great continental Movement. Civil society organizations or international organizations shall meet institutional and financial partners willing to accompany the processes of social transformation underway in the continent by supporting projects and initiatives that have shown their impact at regional, national, and local levels.

The instrument to make this meeting possible is the Alliance of Partners for a Culture of Peace in Africa, set to be launched during the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda. It will create partnerships between:

- Member States
- Regional Economic Communities
- Public and private sector companies
- Foundations / Philanthropic organizations
- Development Banks
- International organizations
- Civil society
- Leaders and personalities

All these partners will be involved in the construction and implementation of initiatives and programmes for Africa. It is envisaged that each of the 4 Thematic and Best Practices Forums will generate at least one Flagship initiative for the Culture of Peace in Africa.

Objectives of the Partners’ Alliance

The Partners’ Alliance aims to achieve the following objectives of the Biennale of Luanda 2021:
1. **To federate the different partners committed to the culture of peace**, positioning the Biennale as the main cross-sectoral platform for the culture of peace across the African continent.

2. **Identify and showcase Flagship initiatives for Africa** and offer them the highest visibility, participation and commitment of the Alliance members.

3. **Mobilize resources of various kind**, whether in-kind contributions, technical assistance, expertise or financial contributions, to enable the realization of these programmes and ensure the sustainability of the Biennale.

Through the Alliance, **partners will benefit from the following opportunities**:

- **To be recognized by the international community as a partner committed to the promotion of a culture of peace in Africa** (Partners’ Alliance label)
- **Be part of a broad and inclusive global community** of individuals and organizations
- **Present their projects and innovative solutions and develop joint initiatives**, creating synergies with other Alliance members already working for a culture of peace across the continent
- **To have access to information, knowledge, expertise and resources** made available by all members of the Alliance for the benefit of common initiatives

As a result of the Thematic and Best Practices Forums, the Flagship initiatives will be presented at the **launch of Partners’ Alliance** on the closing day of the Biennale 2021. A joint Declaration and a Road map on the implementation of these Flagship Initiatives will be adopted at the closing ceremony.

Some examples of Best Practices by theme are:

**Theme 2: Youth engagement as actors of social transformation for conflict prevention and sustainable development.**

Project: **Youth Weavers of Peace in the cross-border regions of Gabon, Cameroon and Chad**

Funded by the United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBFO) for a period of 24 months, this project aims to create a network of **1,800 young Weavers of Peace**, to make them actors in the consolidation of peace in the cross-border regions of the three countries and the prevention of instability linked, in particular, to illegal trafficking, on the one hand; and the training of **160 young people with social enterprise projects**, on the other. This project has the potential to be extended to Central Africa and other sub-regions. The ECCAS Commission plans to gradually expand the network of young weavers to all its member states, starting with Angola, the Republic of Congo, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and to make it a key pillar of its sub-regional peace architecture.
Project: *Laboratories of the New World: in the face of crises and pandemics, young people imagine resilient, peaceful and sustainable African cities by 2063.*

Continental scale implementation of a pilot experiment conducted in 2019 in Gabon around the conceptual triptych: the future of cities - a prospective vision - youth, this project aims to strengthen the anticipatory capacities of young people while allowing them to contribute to the construction of a prospective vision of their city resilient to epidemics and natural disasters, peaceful and sustainable by 2063.

Theme 4: **Harnessing the potential of the oceans for sustainable development and peace**

**Regional project on coastal erosion and vulnerabilities in Central Africa** and their national components in Angola, Congo, DRC, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon (under development).

A monitoring and evaluation system will be developed to measure the impact of the Flagship initiatives and to report to the next Biennial in 2023.

**FESTIVAL OF CULTURES**

In the first edition of the Biennale of Luanda, which was held from the 18th to the 23rd of September 2019, 16 countries (Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, Mali, Morocco, Portugal, Rwanda and South Africa) participated in the Festival of Cultures, with the presence of more than 200 artists and musical groups and 15,000 visitors counted at the Fortaleza São Miguel. This was a unique opportunity for the cultural expressions of 10 African countries (2 from each sub-region) to meet, with a large popular participation from Angola.

Given that the second edition of the Biennale of Luanda will be a major opportunity to celebrate the theme of the year 2021 of the African Union, "**Arts, culture and heritage: levers for building the Africa we want**", a larger opportunity of participation in the Festival of Cultures will be provided to Member States, through the Biennial virtual platform.

While billions of people around the world turn to culture as a source of solace and connectivity, the impact of COVID-19 has not spared the cultural sector. Nevertheless, Culture makes us resilient and gives us hope. It reminds us that we are not alone. The second edition of the Luanda Biennale will also focus on this very important aspect, giving to Artist a chance to perform and promote their art.

This year, the Festival of Cultures will welcome the All Africa Music Awards 2021 (also known as AFRIMA), to reward and celebrate musical works, talents and creativity across the African continent while promoting African cultural heritage, in collaboration with the African Union (AU).
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES OF THE BIENNIALE

**Organizing Committee** in charge of the overall coordination and planning. Composition: the International Coordinator at UNESCO, the National Coordinator of Angola, the Coordinators of the African Union and the Ambassadors representing Angola at the African Union and UNESCO, and the RECs.

**Steering Committee** providing overall guidance and monitoring of results. Composition: the Minister of state for social affairs, as Coordinator of the multisectoral commission for Angola, the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for external relations and Priority Africa of UNESCO, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs and Peace and Security and the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development.

**Scientific Committee** giving advice on the proposed programme and develop academic reflection. Composition of the committee is based on proposals from the Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace with representative of the 5 African regions and Diaspora.

**Angola**: Multisectoral commission and National Management Committee of the Biennale.

**UNESCO Coordination team**: UNESCO Angola Antenna and the Permanent Secretariat (sector and Field Office focal points).

**African Union**: Focal points of Political Affairs /Peace and Security, Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Human Resources, Science and Technology and Rural Economy and Agriculture Departments, along with Women, Youth and Gender and Civil Society and Diaspora Directorates.

**Regional Economic Communities**: Departments in charge of security and social issues.
ROADMAP

January-April: Establishment by UNESCO of the Permanent Secretariat of the Biennale and the coordination team in Luanda/ Establishment by Angola of the Intersectoral Commission and the National Management Committee

January/ March: Consultation between regional offices/ clusters in Africa and Diaspora on the themes/ initiatives and events of the second edition

February: Adoption Decision 1265 (XXXVIII) by the African Union Summit on the Biennale of Luanda

April 4: Celebration of the Day of Peace in Angola / Online Seminar on the “Role of Angolan Diplomacy in Promoting the Culture of Peace”

April: UNESCO/UAC/Angola Consultations

April 30: Celebration of International Jazz Day/ Announcement of the Second Edition of the Biennale


May 27: Information session to Member States during the Africa Week (UNESCO/UN/UAC)

May 31: First Meeting of the UNESCO/UAC/Angola Organizing Committee

June 10: Meeting of the Biennale Scientific Committee

June 30: Launch of Intergenerational Dialogue call for applications for youth

July: Meeting of the UNESCO/UAC/Angola Steering Committee

July: Meeting with the Regional Economic Communities

July/September: Communication campaign/ mobilization of partners and resources

September 21: Press conference to officially launch the second edition of the Biennale

October 4-8: Biennale of Luanda
## Annex I. Program for the second edition of the Biennale from 4 to 8 October 2021

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| **9h-12h30** | Opening ceremony with high-level participation  
Inaugural Lesson:  
“The state of peace and security in Africa in relation to cultural and identity diversity” | Thematic and good practice forum:  
“The contribution of arts, culture and heritage to lasting peace” | Thematic and good practice forum:  
“Youth engagement as actors of social transformations for peace and development” | Thematic and good practice forum  
“Africa and its diasporas in the face of conflict, crisis and inequality” |
| **14h - 17h30** | Intergenerational Dialogue of Leaders and Youth  
“The cultural and heritage diversity of Africa and its Diasporas: a source of conflict or a breeding ground for peace?” | Partnership session:  
“The contribution of arts, culture and heritage to lasting peace” | Partnership session:  
“Youth engagement as actors of social transformations for peace and development” | Partnership session:  
“Africa and its diasporas in the face of conflict, crisis and inequality” |
| **14 h - 22h00** |  |  |  |  
*Cultures Festival* |