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**PAN-AFRICAN FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE**  
***(Item proposed by The Republic of Angola)***

## **BRIEFING ON THE FIRST PAN-AFRICAN FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE IN AFRICA - BIENNALE OF LUANDA**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted Decision 558 / XXIV in January 2015, which requested the Commission to “take all appropriate measures, in consultation with UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Angola, for the organization of the Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa - Biennale of Luanda ”, in line with the Action Plan for a Culture of Peace in Africa, approved in Luanda, Angola, at the 2013 Pan-African Forum on “Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace”.

2. In this context, the Government of Angola and UNESCO agreed on the 18 December 2018 to hold the First Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa - Biennale of Luanda, in September 2019, in order to strengthen the Pan-African movement towards a culture of peace and non-violence, through the establishment of a multilateral partnership between governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, the private sector and international organizations.

### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE BIENNALE OF LUANDA**

3. The Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa – Biennale of Luanda has the strategic objective of promoting a peaceful and prosperous Africa through the defence and encouragement of actions to:

- Prevent conflicts in the management of national and cross-border natural resources on the African continent;
- Educate a generation of young Africans as agents of peace, stability and development;
- Benefit from the power of Creativity and Cultural Heritage (in its multiple facets) to build sustainable peace on the African continent;
- Prevent violence and defend conflict resolution through culture and education;
- Prevent conflicts arising from natural resources;
- Leave no one behind - refugees, returnees and displaced people - towards sustainable solutions for forced displacement in Africa;
- Reflect on the African presence in the world;
- Encourage a free, independent and pluralist media to promote peace and development in Africa.

## VISION OF THE BIENNALE OF LUANDA

4. The First Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa - Biennale of Luanda took place within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030, including the Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the aspirations of the African Union Agenda 2063 and its initiatives, *“The Agenda for Peace”* and *“Silencing the Guns”*.

5. This first edition was based on three main axes:

- Partners Forum - An Alliance for Africa;
- Thematic Forums: Forum of Ideas, Youth Women’s Forum;
- Festival of Cultures.

6. At the Opening Ceremony, in addition to the host, His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, also attended His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, then President of the Republic of Mali and African Union Champion for Culture, His Excellency Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, President of the African Union Commission, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Mr. Denis Mukwegi, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

7. The host country was also represented at the Biennale of Luanda by Her Excellency Carolina Cerqueira, Minister of State for Social Affairs and other members of the Angolan government. As for the African Union Commission, in addition to its President, His Excellency Amira El Fadel, Commissioner for Social Affairs and His Excellency Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, attended.

8. Sixty-two countries from various parts of the world participated in the Biennale of Luanda, with Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Portugal being represented by official delegations, including members of the government.

9. In addition to the African Union and UNESCO, the following international organizations and United Nations agencies were represented: 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), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDC) in Ethiopia, United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Angola, United Nations Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (UNMISMA), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mali, United Nations University for Peace and the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region.

10. In the opening speech of the First Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa - Biennale of Luanda, His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço welcomed the close collaboration of the Angolan Government with the African Union and UNESCO. He considered that as a privileged space for promoting cultural diversity and African unity, the Biennale of Luanda is a unique platform for governments, civil society, the artistic and scientific community, the private sector and international organizations to discuss and define strategies for the prevention of violence and conflict with a view to building lasting peace. As result of this inclusive dynamic, he encouraged the participation of young people from Angola, Africa and the diaspora as a guarantee of the emergence of a force, through the exchange of innovative ideas, for solving the socio-economic problems that faces Africa.

## **SECOND PAN-AFRICAN FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE IN AFRICA - BIENNALE OF LUANDA**

11. Experience has proved, especially in the African context that the preservation of peace depends not only on political, economic or military agreements, but above all on the active, profound and patriotic engagement of the citizens of a country, united in their social, religious, cultural or political diversity.

12. Hence the importance of promoting a culture of peace, of this set of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect respect for life, for human beings and their dignity, which must be disseminated and practiced by each and every one. The culture of peace puts human rights at the forefront, condemns violence in all its forms and promotes adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, solidarity and tolerance, as well as understanding between peoples and individuals.

13. As a country that experienced decades of violence and divisions before reaching stability in 2002, Angola defends peace as a comprehensive and dynamic process that requires non-violent relations not only between States and / or between them and their citizens, but also between individuals, social groups, and between human beings and their environment.

14. In this context, after the successful First Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace in Africa – Biennale of Luanda, the Angolan Government is already creating the conditions for its next edition, having His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of Republic, created a Multi-sectorial Commission for this purpose, so that it takes place within the spirit of celebration of the African Union's 2021 Theme of the Year: “Art, Culture and Heritage: Levers for building an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa in the context of multispectral challenges”, and within the framework of implementation of one of the points in its activities roadmap, according to Decision EX.CL/Dec.1098(XXXVII).

15. As an initiative of the African Union that should bring together actors and partners of a pan-African movement every two years for the prevention of violence and conflicts and for the consolidation of peace, the Biennale of Luanda should deserve the best support from Member States, taking into account that it encourages the promotion of a culture of peace that contributes to the strengthening of national unity and translates into a firm, individual and collective rejection of the divisions and violence that has affected, with serious political, economic and social consequences, many countries in Africa, calling into question the strategic objective of silencing the guns on the continent.

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