

## **THE MEETING REPORT OF THE NETWORK MEMBERS OF FOUNDATIONS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF A CULTURE OF PEACE IN AFRICA**

On Saturday, September 12, 2015, was held at the hotel Nempanzu of Soyo, in Angola, the meeting of the Network members of the Foundations and research institutions for the promotion of a culture of peace in Africa, from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The following organizations participated in this meeting:

- The Eduardo Dos Santos Foundation, Angola;
- The International Centre for Research and Documentation on the traditions and African languages (CERDOTOLA), Cameroon;
- The Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research, Ivory Coast;
- The UNESCO Chair for the Culture of Peace, Ivory Coast;
- The Center for Research and Action for Peace, Ivory Coast;
- The UNESCO Chair for the promotion of culture of peace and human rights, Mali;
- The Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA), Mozambique;
- The Omar Bongo Ondimba Foundation for Peace, science, culture and the environment, Gabon;
- The International Centre for the education of girls and women in Africa, Burkina Faso;
- The International Agency for Research on Culture of Peace, Democracy and Conflict Resolution, Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Women Africa Solidarity, Senegal;
- UNESCO;
- The African Union.

The meeting took place in three stages: the opening ceremony, the results of network activities and modalities of cooperation and development.

After welcoming the participants, the President of the Network, Mr. Joao de Deus Pereira, on behalf of President Eduardo Dos Santos Foundation, thanked all participants. He then recalled that the Network of Foundations and research institutions is an essential organization for the promotion of peace. That despite the absences, moreover justified, at least 1/3 of the founding members is currently present in Soyo to decide the future of the peace mission devolved to the Network.

Mr. Executive Secretary of the Network, Mr. Loucou, having reiterated the sincere thanks to His Excellency Eduardo Dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, to Mr. Governor of the Province of Zaire and those responsible for FESA, authorities of UNESCO and the African Union, recalled the historical context of the Meeting including those of Luanda, Ethiopia, Yamoussoukro, Cotonou. He said that peace is a value that can not defend

themselves grow without the inclusion and participation of all before specifying the objectives of the day namely the review of Network activities, presentation of ongoing projects, development of a new action plan for the coming years and especially the arrangements for cooperation and development of the Network.

In terms of results activities, two points were analyzed in this case the Network activities report for the calendar year running from September 2014 to September 2015 and the presentation of projects initiated by UNESCO Chairs for culture Peace of University Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan and that of the University of Florence on behalf of the Network.

The assessment of the Network's activities at institutional level refers to the elaboration and adoption of statutes and regulations to meet the commemoration of 25 years of the concept of culture of peace, in September 2014, in Yamoussoukro. The balance sheet included in its assets the Youth Forum held in Libreville in December 2014. The Permanent Secretary has mentioned the symposium of Benin relating to interreligious and intercultural dialogue. He also stressed that the Network website is now functional: [www.reseaupaix.org](http://www.reseaupaix.org).

The report was approved by all participants.

Responsible for making the project's progress exploitation of endogenous mechanisms, the head of the UNESCO Chair for the Culture of Peace, Professor Lezou recalled the content of the project adding that activities have been carried out since the meeting on 20 and 21 September 2013, in Ethiopia. He dwelt on the evolution of the Community of Practice should be more inclusive and wished the participation of other members of the Network. Regarding the project for Pan-African competitions mediation in schools and universities, it actually will start this year.

As for the issue of modalities for cooperation and development of the Network, a committee of five people responsible for resource mobilization was established by taking the geographical distribution criteria. So, act as members:

- The President of the Network, Mr Joao de Deus Pereira
- The Permanent Secretary of the Network, Prof Jean Noël Loucou
- Dr Kale Ewusi for East Africa
- Dr Willy Eselebor for West Africa
- Prof Charles Binam Bikoï for Central Africa
- Prof Muyamba for Southern Africa.

The representative of North Africa will be designated later.

In order to increase the visibility and performance of the Network, the following recommendations were proposed:

- Press The permanent secretariat to expedite the legal recognition process of the Network in accordance with the Ivorian legislation;
- Establish A list of experts for the development of projects;
- Increase The accession of Organizations of Civil Society to the Network;

- To Know and bringing the existence of the Network by the National Commissions of Member States with a view to its collective ownership and integration for the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.
- Develop A Network budget.

Soyo, September 12, 2015