

FONDATION FELIX HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY
POUR LA RECHERCHE DE LA PAIX



FELIX HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY FOUNDATION
FOR PEACE RESEARCH

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FELIX HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY'S WORK OF PEACE

Yamoussoukro
R.C.I.
From October 18 to 20 2018

I- Context and justification

1- Context

The Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for the Search for Peace has decreed the year 2018, « Félix Houphouët-Boigny Year » with a view to paying a tribute to Félix Houphouët-Boigny, who chose the peaceful way to lead Côte d'Ivoire to independence and put peace at the heart of its policy to make Côte d'Ivoire a modern state.

The symposium on the theme « The Peace Work of Félix Houphouët-Boigny », which will take place from 18 to 20 October 2018 in Yamoussoukro, is part of these tributes and takes part in the activities of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation. for the search for peace.

From his entry into politics in 1945 to his death in 1993, Félix Houphouët-Boigny transcended peace to build the Ivorian nation. He saw peace as the key to development and harmony among men.

In this case, he declared that « Nothing will change unless statesmen have made the search for peace something other than the dressing up of their policy. Everything will change when this search for peace becomes the essential, real object of their concerns and their second nature. The interests which they defended until then will appear to them at that moment very derisory and perverse. Peace is not a word, it is a behavior¹ ».

2- Justification

Félix Houphouët-Boigny, President of the African Democratic Rally (GDR), party of the decolonization of French-speaking Black Africa and its Ivorian section, the Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI-RDA), first president of the Republic of Ivory Coast from 1960 to 1993, was an exceptional man, builder of modern Ivory Coast and man of peace.

He had made peace, the highest human aspiration, and taught it to his people. He kept saying « there is more merit to peace than to war ».

¹ Extract from his speech delivered at the opening of the first part of the sixty-first session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, on June 30, 1976, in Abidjan. See Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Speeches and Messages, Volume IV 1975-1977, Abidjan, Editions FHB, 2015, pp 286-298.

He is one of the heads of state of the twentieth century who have left in fact and in history the memory of having been one of the most active peacemakers.

His quest for peace is marked by three signatures : the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace of Yamoussoukro, the Félix Houphouët-Boigny International Prize for the Search for Peace awarded by UNESCO, the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Research Peace.

Yet, from 1999 to 2011, peace, social cohesion and development were severely disrupted by a wave of socio-economic and military-political crises.

Today, Côte d'Ivoire is looking for benchmarks, resources and concrete actions to consolidate peace and reconcile Ivorians and Ivorians.

Faced with the permanent weakening of peace, the vulnerability of social cohesion, the upsurge of violence and conflict, and the growing impoverishment, we are entitled to ask ourselves how did it go about to translate peace into behavior to the point of making Côte d'Ivoire a haven of peace under its governance. This is the main question that will be addressed by the participants.

The international symposium on "The work of peace of Félix Houphouët-Boigny" will allow to revisit the actions and the works carried out in the service of the peace, to collect testimonies, to share experiences, to revitalize its modes of management and resolution of social, political, economic, cultural and environmental crises, and to measure their impact on peace, equity, social justice and development.

The meeting proposed at the International Symposium on « Félix Houphouët-Boigny's Peace Work » goes beyond the academic framework because it is here, to build, jointly, a bridge between research and social actors confronted to crises and various conflicts.

II- Objectives

II-1. Main objectives

On the one hand, to promote the scientific approach and the critical reflection on the work of peace of Félix Houphouët-Boigny, on the other hand to explain its political philosophy and the values of peace for a better operationalization of the search for peace (in terms of vision) and the culture of peace (in terms of means of action and implementation strategies).

II-2. Specific objectives

Specifically, this conference has the following objectives :

- 1- To promote the work of peace of Félix Houphouët-Boigny ;
- 2- Explain the values of peace and the ethical standards that guided the actions of Félix Houphouët-Boigny ;
- 3- Define the role played by Félix Houphouët-Boigny in conflict resolution and the search for peace in Africa and in the world ;
- 4- Describe the instruments, modes and strategies for building peace ;
- 5- Identify the difficulties encountered, the limits and the gravities that hinder peace ;
- 6- Propose guidelines to support peace in Côte d'Ivoire and Africa.

III- Participants / Target population / Beneficiaries

This symposium is targeted at : Ivorian and foreign academics (teachers, researchers, doctoral students), politicians, traditional and religious leaders, economic operators, young leaders, NGOs, witnesses of the action of Félix Houphouët -Boigny.

The symposium will bring together a hundred participants.

IV- Expected results

The outcome of this conference gives the following results:

- 1- The promotion of the peace work of Felix Houphouet-Boigny is made ;
- 2- The values of peace and the ethical norms that guided the actions of Félix Houphouët-Boigny are explained ;
- 3- The role played by Félix Houphouët-Boigny in the resolution of conflicts and the search for peace in Africa and in the world is defined ;
- 4- The instruments, modes and strategies for building peace are described ;
- 5- The difficulties, limitations and heaviness that hinder peace are listed ;
- 6- Guidelines to support peace in Côte d'Ivoire and Africa are proposed.

Duration

In order to allow the smooth running of the project, the program will run for three (3) working days. The activities will take place from October 18 to 20, 2018.

Location

The present symposium will be held at the headquarters of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for the search for peace in Yamoussoukro.

Methodology

The interventions will be organized around: - orientation conferences or framing in plenary, - panels / round tables, - oral and displayed communications, - work in committees, - debates, - testimonials, - projection of films, PowerPoint, etc. .

Identified resource persons will act as speakers, panelists or moderators.

Follow-up of the conference : Publication of the acts

Objectives : - To edit the summary reports and proceedings of the conference, - To implement the recommendations of the conference.

A collective work containing the communications and conclusions of the conference on the theme "**The work of peace of Felix Houphouët-Boigny**" will be published by the Felix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for the search for peace editions FHB.

LANGUAGES : English, French

Thematic areas of the conference: conferences, panels / round tables

This conference will focus on the following themes :

AXIS 1 : The peaceful struggle for independence

AXIS 2 : External Peace: Diplomacy, Cooperation, Conflict Resolution and Mediation in Africa and the World

AXIS 3 : Civil peace: rule of law and democratic culture, defense policy, national integration

AXIS 4 : Religious peace: secularism, religious tolerance, interreligious dialogue

AXIS 5 : Economic peace: economic institutions, major works, development strategy

Workshops / Work in committees :

Workshop 1 : Diagnosing obstacles (heaviness) to peace, development and living together

Workshop 2 : Perspectives and Recommendations

1- Scientific Committee:

President : Professor Daniel BAHA BI YOUZAN, Full Professor of Sociology, Dean of UFR Human Sciences and Society, Félix Houphouët-Boigny University Abidjan-Cocody

1st Vice-President : Professor Maurice KACOU GUIKAHUE, Professor Cardiology Holder, former Minister of Health

2nd Vice-President : Professor Denise HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY, Full Professor of Chemistry, Permanent Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire to UNESCO

Members :

- 1- Professor LOUCOU Jean-Noël, Secretary General of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for the search for peace
- 2- Professor Mariatou KONE, Titular Professor of Anthropology, Minister of Women, Child Protection and Solidarity
- 3- Professor NIAMKEY Koffi, Full Professor of Philosophy
- 4- Professor LEZOU Dago Gérard, Holder of the UNESCO Chair for the Culture of Peace
- 5- Professor Jérémie KOUADIO N'GUESSAN, Full Professor of Linguistics, member of ASCAD
- 6- Professor EKANZA Simon-Pierre, Emeritus Professor of History
- 7- Professor Lath YEDO, Associate Professor of Constitutional Law
- 8- Professor Constant ROUX, Full Professor of Medicine

- 9- Professor OUATTARA Tiona Ferdinand, Research Director / Director of the History Department Félix Houphouët-Boigny University Abidjan-Cocody
- 10- Professor René Allou KOUAME, Professor of History
- 11- Dr. Mahomed Boubacard N'GUESSAN, Associate Professor of Contemporary History
- 12- Doctor René-Pierre ANOUMA, Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the FHB Foundation
- 13- Dr. Diénéba DOUMBIA, Director of the Department of Peace Research at the FHB Foundation