



**COMMITMENT OF AFRICAN YOUTH
FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE**

We, young leaders living in Africa and in the diaspora participating in the Youth Forum of the "Luanda Biennial - Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace"; Forum, held in Luanda (Angola), from 19th to 20th September 2019, under the general theme "Youth and Culture of Peace", divided into two sub-themes: "Youth, Peace and Security" and "Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation" ;

Congratulating the Government of the Republic of Angola, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the African Union (AU) on the joint initiative to create a biennial forum for culture of peace in Africa inspired by the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance ;

Thanking the Government of the Republic of Angola and its people for their warm welcome and hospitality; as well as UNESCO and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) for their logistical support ;

Recalling the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 which states that " [...] young people should take an active part in the establishment of lasting peace and work for justice and reconciliation, and that the demographic importance of the youth of today is an asset that can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity" ; reinforced by resolution 2419 which calls on " [...] all relevant actors to consider ways to increase the inclusive representation of youth for the prevention and resolution of conflict, including when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to take into account the meaningful participation and views of youth, recognizing that their marginalization is detrimental to building sustainable peace and countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism" ;

Recalling the call from the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), at its 807th meeting on "Youth, Peace and Security", held on 8th November 2018 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), to "all Member States to urgently implement resolution 2250 of the United Nations Security Council, of, to remove all structural obstacles to effective youth participation, to mobilize the necessary resources and to develop long-term national plans of action". term for the effective involvement and participation of young people in the promotion of peace and security, as well as in national development processes" ;

Considering Article 17 of the African Youth Charter (AYC) recognizing the "important role of youth in the promotion of peace and non-violence" and inviting States Parties to, inter alia, "build capacity youth and youth organizations in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution through the promotion of intercultural education, education for citizenship, tolerance, human rights, democracy mutual respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, and the importance of dialogue, cooperation, responsibility, solidarity, and international cooperation " ;

Recognizing the expertise of the youth living in Africa, and its diaspora, regarding the thematic of Culture, Peace and Security, Entrepreneurship and others ;

Recognizing the increasing need for innovative mechanisms supporting trans and cross-disciplinary approaches for addressing complex governance challenges at local and global scales relating to urbanization, migration, climate change, resource management, gender, and social disparities ;

Recognizing the role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) as an accelerator for innovation while also posing as a threat regarding privacy and security through the manipulation and use of data, and the rapid adoption of such systems at both local and global levels ;

Recognizing the importance of creativity and innovation through the promotion of entrepreneurship, not only economic but also social, as one of the means to build and consolidate the culture of peace, through the creation of wealth and social value, to benefit individuals and communities ;

Confronted, however, by the challenges linked to the access of funding for the actualisation of new entrepreneurship projects or for support for existing entrepreneurs ;

Noting that 42% of the population of the African continent will be aged between 15 to 24 years of age by 2030 and that there is an increasing need for more localized inclusive mechanisms of implementation of resolutions 2250, 2419 and 17 of the AYC in various economies of scale ;

Noting the lack of dissemination and limited knowledge of resolutions 2250, 2419 and 17 of the AYC, and due to the perception that these resolutions only concern countries in armed conflict and post-conflict situations; and the lack of political will of public authorities to implement these international normative instruments relating to youth, peace and security ;

Self-Conscious of the need for us to be proactive and our responsibility for aiding in the implementation of these normative instruments, along with the role of Governments be receptive and open to innovation ;

We are committed, through our associations and organizations :

- 1) to appropriate these normative instruments and popularize them among young people of our different countries ;
- 2) to conduct national studies on the status of implementation of UN resolutions 2250, 2419 and the African Youth Charter ;
- 3) to expand our partnerships with the private sector, to implement projects and programs in respect to these normative instruments, in particular projects and programs concerning youth in general ;
- 4) to assume responsibilities and be trained in the practice of negotiation and lobbying so as to interact in an effective and efficient manner with the public sector, and to encourage a culture of active citizenship and leadership ;
- 5) to encourage a culture of resilience, autonomy, solidarity, and sharing, notably through the creation of platforms and the participation of the youth in forums of entrepreneurship ;
- 6) to engage, monitor and follow up on the maintenance of youth employment and their careers along with their employability ;
- 7) to work towards the inclusion of expertise of the youth from African continent and the diaspora in the public and private sectors ;
- 8) to engage in research, capacity building, and digitalization to measure societal, economic and political impacts of our work and projects ;
- 9) to interact with our respective public authorities to work for the implementation of fiscal mechanisms favouring and encouraging corporate philanthropy in favour of innovation and creativity in the field of economic and social entrepreneurship of the youth ;
- 10) to contribute to the preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, as a means to achieve societal cohesion and the reconciliation of cultures ;
- 11) to support trans-generational dialogue for knowledge exchange and experiences ;
- 12) to work, primarily through our organisations and others, for the realisation of gender equity and the autonomy of women and girls.

We request :

- 1) the Pan-African Youth Network for Peace Culture (PAYNCoP) to coordinate at the continental level, with the support of UNESCO and the AU, the conduct by 2020 of national studies on the state of play of implementation of resolutions 2250, 2419 and the African Youth Charter and to report every four (4) years ;

- 2) the AU to create, with the help of the agencies and organs of the UN, a continental entity for the funding of social and economic entrepreneurship projects for youth;
- 3) the regional economic platforms to establish, with the help of the agencies and organs of the UN, political structures for the promotion of creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation and youth employability;
- 4) the Pan-African Youth Network for Peace Culture (PAYNCoP), in cooperation with other organizations of youth at sub-regional, regional and in the diaspora, to assure the monitoring and follow up of the engagements of these recommendations.