



ICYF

ISLAMIC COOPERATION YOUTH FORUM

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FORUM DE LA JEUNESSE DE LA COOPÉRATION ISLAMIQUE

Concept Note on

The First African Youth Solidarity Forum,

**On the Role of Cultural Dialogue Among Youth in Building
Peaceful Societies**

January 2020.

1. Background

In the prelude of the 4th Pan African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development and the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the African Youth Commission (AYC), which is scheduled to take place from 23-27 March 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya under the theme: "Beyond *All Talks, Youth as Drivers of Africa's Peace, Political and Socio-Economic Development*". The ICYF will organize **The First African Youth Solidarity Forum, on the role of Cultural dialogue among youth in building peaceful societies**. The decision of "African Youth Solidarity Forum" was adopted in the 3rd Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers, held in October 2016 in Istanbul. ICYF was mandated to pursue and implement programs in the domain of intercultural dialogue, cultural rapprochement and diversity including youth solidarity programs.

2. Introduction

African Youth Solidarity Forum is a platform for youth and other partners, to salute the cultural diversity of the Muslim youth in Africa, as well as broadly reflecting on the societal and cultural richness. The main theme of the forum will be "**Cultural dialogue**" that will be conducted and expressed in the spirit of intercultural trust, empathy, respect and understanding the pluralistic societies within the African continent. The platform promotes cultural diversity in Africa and a conducive place for intra-African cultural exchanges and enables African Youth to grasp the meaning of shared beliefs, norms and values which would be use in peace building process and other aspects of development.

3. Aim

The overall aim of this forum is to strengthen inter-cultural dialogue and diversity.

4. Objectives

This forum hopes to achieve the following specific objectives:

- 4.1. To raise awareness and understanding the importance of multi-cultural dialogue on peace-building process in Africa.
- 4.2. To provide a platform for sharing experiences, lessons learned and reflections on the role of the youth in cultural dialogue within Africa.
- 4.3. To celebrate Africa's cultural diversity and promote regional integration across the continent.
- 4.4. To promote and exchange good practices between actors and partners.

5. Methodology

The forum will be based on three axes:

- 5.1. **Youth Forum on Cultural dialogue**; this platform shall focus on the reflection of issues related to cultural dialogue, youth engagement and unity in the African context, then disseminating good practices and solutions to the prevention of conflict. (panel)
- 5.2. **MOIC**; a diplomatic simulation of model OIC in which representatives from each country shall gather to discuss and debate the role of Cultural dialogue in building peaceful societies.

- 5.3. Cultural Exhibition and VR:** aims to showcase the cultural richness of African countries and demonstrate the resilience of the African people in face of ethnic/religious conflict and violence.

6. Profile of participants

The participants will be comprising of youth activists, NGO and opinion leaders, peace makers, experts from the OIC Member States, non-OIC countries, observers and people that have experience working with young people and have a particular interest in cultural dialogue, peace and solidarity. Added to this, the side events shall be organized under the auspices of ICYF experts in different domains and in collaboration with other partners.

7. Possible Topics to be Developed in the Forum and MOIC

- 7.1.** The contribution of African Culture to Dialogue and Reconciliation; languages, traditions, practices and cultural diplomacy.
- 7.2.** Enforcing the links between Education and Culture to build educational curriculum and effective training to promote coexistence in Africa.
- 7.3.** Cultural economies generating employment for the Youth in the vision of Sustainable Development of the continent; arts, creativity, cultural tourism and skills development.

8. Partners and their Roles

“African Youth Solidarity Forum” will be organized by ICYF in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Host Country, the Ministry of Culture of the Host Country, Islamic Development Bank, African Youth Commission (AYC). ICYF will be in charge of implementing the program, while the above-said partners will be in charge of the accommodation, hospitality and local logistical arrangements of the program.

9. Expected Outcomes

- 9.1.** Signing MoU with the partners.
- 9.2.** Establishment of Model OIC Club in the Host Country and other universities in Africa.
- 9.3.** Trainings for trainers’ program for best participants.
- 9.4.** Elaboration of a Plan of Action (recommendations and proposals) for the promotion of dialogue in the face of conflict and violence in Africa, to be submitted to the attention of OIC Head of States and Minister of Foreign affairs Summit.
- 9.5.** The launching of ICYF-African Youth Network for the promotion of youth empowerment and culture of peace.
- 9.6.** To agree on holding this African Solidarity Forum annually.