



Action Document



Theme: "Silencing the Guns by 2020, Role of Youth, Artists and Media"

## Introduction

# **ARTS4PEACE AFRICA FORUM**

**African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI)**, [www.aapiafrica.org](http://www.aapiafrica.org) is a pan African movement of **Artists, ARTivists and Activists**, championing the culture of peace and non-violence across Africa. **AAPI** uses Arts, Media and African Cultural Heritage, as a medium to nurture a culture of peace based on the values and ways of life conducive in the promotion of peace among individuals, groups and communities.

We are excited that the **African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI)** is growing fast. In less than 4yrs, we have emerged as the biggest movement of creatives advocating for social justice and peace, with over 10,000 members across Africa and Diaspora, 80 Celebrity Ambassadors and 45 Country Teams.

Building on the success of the first and second Africa Arts4Peace Forums in 2015 and 2016; AAPI in collaboration with the Ethiopian national coordinating partner - BE Kollektive Creative Consulting organized the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Arts4Peace Africa Forum** from the **25th to 29th January 2017** at the **Mosaic Hotel Addis Ababa**. The theme of the *forum* focused on ‘‘**Silencing the Guns by 2020, Role of Youth, Artists and Media**’’. The forum was endorsed by the African Union Commission, UNESCO and Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The **Deputy Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Getachew Engida**, officially opened the forum with his keynote address. Other prominent speakers at the opening ceremony included; **Mr. Desta Kassa, Director of Cultural Development, Ministry of Culture and Tourism Ethiopia**, **Mr. Joseph Chilengi, Presiding Officer, African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC )**, **Mr. Ibrahim Ceesay, AAPI Executive Director** and **Hon. Patrick Zhuwao, Minister of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment of the Republic of Zimbabwe**

The forum attracted 32 speakers and over 70 participants and stakeholders including; celebrated artists, youth leaders, civil society organizations, media, members of the diplomatic community and UN agencies.

The first two days (**25 and 26 January 2017**) of the forum, focused on strategic actions to strengthen artistic, youth and media leadership skills for the promotion of culture of peace, transparent governance, human rights and democracy, in realization of African Union strategy on "Silencing the Guns" by 2020 in Africa.

On the third day (**27 January 2017**), AAPI launched a new segment of the forum in collaboration with the African Film Consortium - "**CINEMA4PEACE**" (4 films that resonate very well with the theme of the forum was screened and curated to share reel time stories of citizens of Africa by Africans on Peace and social justice. Screened films included: **They Will Have To Kill Us First** (Mali); **Aisha** (Tanzania); **Music Is Our Weapon** (Kenya); and **AKELLO** (Uganda).

The fourth day (**28 January 2017**) of the forum, was a visit to cultural heritage sites in Addis Ababa, and the **#Music4Peace** for concert with **Mr. Sydney Salmon**, AAPI Ambassador from Ethiopia at the Celestal Hotel in Addis Ababa.

A key highlight of the forum was on the fifth day (**29 January 2017**), when the "AAPI Peace-Maker and Humanitarian Award" was conferred on **Madam Bineta Diop** (African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security/President and Founder, Femmes Africa Solidarite) and **Mr Victor Ochen** (Founding Director, Africa Youth Initiative and 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee) in recognition of their endless fight and struggle in peace-building across Africa.

The award is an annual flagship initiative of AAPI, conferred on individuals or organizations that promote and champion a culture of peace, social justice and humanitarian activities across Africa. Roskilde Festival of Denmark was the first recipient in 2015.

***A co-creation workshop for story-tellers, visual artists, painters and graphic designers was held from 25 to 28 to develop icons/symbols for the Africa Agenda 2063.***

The five days forum also provided a coordinated action and mass mobilization of movements of artists and creatives involved in peace building, African Union Agenda 2063 and UN Sustainable Development Goals

**The following are concrete outcomes of the #Arts4Peace 2017 forum;**

- 1. Draft icons developed for each of the (7) aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063, as we have for the UN Sustainable Development Goals.*
- 2. Formulation of A Youth, Artists and Media (YAM) Campaign and action factory strategy for “Silencing All Guns in Africa by 2020”*

The **African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI)**, extends sincerely thanks and acknowledgment to the following organizations/institutions for making the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Africa Arts4Peace Forum** a resounding success;

- 1. Roskilde Festival of Denmark*
- 2. Human Resources, Science and Technology Department of the African Union Commission*
- 3. African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC)*
- 4. African Youth Commission*
- 5. African Youth Panel*
- 6. Mandingmorry Foundation for Performing Arts (MANFOPA)*
- 7. African Film Consortium*
- 8. Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*
- 9. Yedon Film Productions*
- 10. Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC)**
- 11. Africans Rising Movement**
- 12. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

## OUTCOMES AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE THIRD ANNUAL ARTS4PEACE AFRICA FORUM 2017

*Arts4Peace Forum 2017 delegates and stakeholders discussed and prioritized the underlined points throughout the sessions. These include;*

1. **African Union Commission** should accelerate progress towards the implementation of the **AU Border Programme** and adopt the **ONE PASSPORT/ONE CURRENCY** initiative.
2. **African Union Commission** should mainstream the creative community in the implementation of the Africa Agenda 2063 and ensure local ownership by national governments.
3. **African Union Commission** should ensure that the “**AU Youth Envoys Office**” and “**African Youth Development Fund**” is established in 2017, which is the African Union Year of Youth.
4. **National Governments** should report on progress made on the implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance.
5. **National Governments** should create economic ecosystems around the creative and cultural industries as a strategy for youth employment .
6. **National Governments** should support and promote civic education, open data, civic space and youth political participation at all levels.
7. **National Governments** are strongly encouraged to ratify, popularize and domesticate the African Youth Charter and African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance

### Commitments by the African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI)

**African Artists Peace Initiative commits to;**

1. Continue to provide a platform for coordinated actions and mass mobilization of Artists, ARTivists and Activists involved in the campaign for social justice and culture of peace across Africa.
2. Launch the “**Action Factory For Peace Initiative**” in African countries conducting elections in 2017.

3. Organize in collaboration with partners, the **"Peace City Africa"** bi-annual event in 2018, as a flagship initiative in propagating the Culture of Peace concept across African cities and amplifying the African Union 'Silencing All Guns by 2020' campaign.

Peace City Africa activities includes;

- **African Mayors Forum on Peace**
- **Music4Peace Festival**
- **Miss Peace Africa Pageant and Fashion Show**
- **Sports4Peace**

4. Fundraise and Implement in collaboration with partners the Youth, Artists and Media (YAM) campaign strategy on "Silencing All Guns in Africa by 2020"
5. Popularize and promote the African Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals through the arts and mass media communications

