



5TH ARTS4PEACE AFRICA FORUM

Theme: "Rethinking And Acting On The Situations And Needs Of Refugees And Returnees In Africa"

CONCEPT NOTE

23-27 January 2019

Addis Ababa-Ethiopia

AFRICAN ARTISTS PEACE INITIATIVE

RATIONALE

The situations and needs of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa cannot be resolved in a short term, but their rights to life, dignity and access to receive humanitarian and livelihood support should be guaranteed. Therefore, they are genuinely seen as disaster affected populations. It is alarming to note that children and women are the most disadvantaged of these population, which makes them the most vulnerable as well.

Young people constitute more than 60% of Africa's population, most of whom are productive youth. In recent past, many African youth were forced to flee as a result of the inability of their governments to provide jobs, political conditions and unfriendly nature of start-up businesses due to the high rates of tax levied upon them and support to expand youth-led businesses compelled them to migrate through the Mediterranean seas through Libya to Italy in search of better livelihoods. As a result, majority of these youth have faced serious despicable conditions during their stay in Libya, waiting to pass through to Italy. Many in the process died while those who remained alive were remanded in Libyan jails facing tenacious and outrageous conditions. Youth returnees from Libya and Europe find it difficult to integrate back to the society - due to lack of psychological and livelihood support.

The African Union Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa was adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 10th September 1969. The Convention entered into force on 5th 20 June 1974. To date forty-five (45) countries have ratified the Convention. The convention mandated the African Union Commission to establish an Advisory Board; created on 26th May 2009 under Article 7 of The Convention. This organ bases its work on the provisions of this legal instrument and in this regard, it is the unique continental organization mandated by the African Union to deal with the issues of refugees together with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) and related themes in Africa. In a bid to ensure and sustain the level of commitment of making an Africa free of refugees, the Assembly of the African Union declared 2019 as the ***“Year of Refugees, Returnees, and internally Displaced persons in Africa”***. The year will be celebrated under the theme: **‘Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement’**.

Conflicts are mainly derived from political instabilities and weak governance in Africa; it is the main trigger for internally displaced persons in Africa. The complexity of tackling the dynamic issues of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons - requires a pragmatic and strategic intervention at all levels (policy and programmes). Creative alternatives to development and humanitarian actions in Africa should be the new focus in accelerating progress towards the attainment of the Africa Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In company with African Union annual theme; African Artists Peace Initiative (AAPI), intends to make a unique contribution in addressing the situations and needs of refugees and returnees; by supporting youth and women returnees to create a livelihood through cultural entrepreneurship and the creative economy. Notably, AAPI will demonstrate how arts and cultural diplomacy can be applied to re-think and take urgent actions on the rights, dignity and livelihoods of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

On September 19, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**. The New York Declaration reaffirms the importance of the international refugee regime and contains a wide range of commitments by Member States to strengthen and enhance mechanisms to protect people on the move. It has paved the way for the adoption of two new global compacts in 2018: a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

In adopting the New York Declaration, Member States:

- expressed profound solidarity with those who are forced to flee;
- reaffirmed their obligations to fully respect the human rights of refugees and migrants;
- agreed that protecting refugees and supporting the countries that shelter them are shared international responsibilities and must be borne more equitably and predictably;
- pledged robust support to those countries affected by large movements of refugees and migrants;
- agreed upon the core elements of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework; and
- agreed to work towards the adoption of a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Arts and Creative Communications - can strengthen the emotional and psychological appeal of messages and provide a believable and interesting way to explore sensitive issues, particularly refugee and migration related issues. Watching a carefully designed educational show or a piece of arts can change the way a person thinks and possibly the way she or he acts towards refugees and migrants. Using arts as a creative tool for discouraging irregular youth migration; provides an opportunity to debunk brain-drain, present a balanced view, and influence behaviours.

Building on the success of the previous editions of the **Arts4Peace Forums (2015-2018)** - as part of pre-events of the AU January Summits. The Fifth Arts4Peace Africa Annual Forum will be held from the 23 to 27 January 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the theme: **‘RETHINKING AND ACTING ON THE SITUATIONS AND NEEDS OF REFUGEES AND RETURNEES IN AFRICA’**.

OBJECTIVES

The forum and related activities is aimed at creating a platform for critical discourse on re-thinking new and creative strategies in addressing the refugee and migrant crises.

The key objectives of the forum will include the following among others:

- i. Discuss, strategize and co-create means of strengthening comprehensive responses to the situations and needs of refugees and returnees (especially women and youth).
- ii. Propose key recommendations and programmatic actions to African Union, on the theme of the January 2019 Summit **‘Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa; Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement’**.
- iii. Present the AAPI “Humanitarian and Peacemaker” awards 2019
- iv. Develop creative tools and an advocacy manual on the African Union Campaign on Silencing All Guns by 2020.
- v. To develop a conceptual framework for the Africa Alliance For Refugees And Migration (AFRAM)

STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

The forum will serve as a pre-event of the African Union Summit due to take place in January 2019. Over 200 delegates are expected to participate in the forum. Creatives, Youth-led organizations, Media, CSOs, Private Sector, Academia, AU Member States, UN Agencies, Diplomatic Community and International NGO’s - will participate in the

meeting. AAPI will collaborate with the African Union ECOSOC and AU-CIDO, to ensure that the outcomes from the forum will be considered in the formal African Union and intergovernmental processes.

The Arts4Peace Forum 2019 will be driven by the following approaches;

- a) *Stakeholders presentations and panel discussions;*
- b) *Capacity building sessions and co-creation workshops;*
- c) *Cinema4Peace;*
- d) *Music4Peace Concert*
- b) *Fashion4Peace*
- c) *AAPI Humanitarian Awards and Peacemaker Awards Ceremony*

Expected Results

Towards the end of the meeting, the following will be achieved;

1. An action strategy and policy recommendations on strengthening comprehensive responses to the situations and needs of refugees and returnees (especially women and youth) developed.
2. A developed vision and framework for the Africa Alliance For Refugees and Migration (AFRAM)
3. AAPI Humanitarian and Peace-Makers Awards 2019 presented to recipients
4. Creative campaign tools developed for the African Union Campaign on Silencing All Guns by 2020

OVERVIEW OF ARTS4PEACE PROGRAM AGENDA 2019

	Day 1 23 January 2019	Day 2 24 January 2019	Day 3 25 January 2019	Day 4 26 January 2019	Day 5 27 January 2019
Morning	<p>Opening Plenary (Plenary Session)</p> <p>AAPI, speakers and partner organizations will deliver remarks, expectations and commitments on the theme of the forum.</p> <p>Present the draft</p>	<p>Working Groups Sessions to develop an action strategy and policy recommendations on strengthening comprehensive responses to the situations and needs of refugees and returnees (especially women and youth) developed.</p>	<p>Cinema4Peace Forums and Workshops</p>	<p>Cultural Visits and Tour Historic Sites in Addis Ababa</p>	<p>AAPI “Humanitarian and Peacemaker” awards and Fashion4Peace Show</p>
Afternoon	<p>Framework for Africa Alliance for Refugees and Migration</p>	<p>Plenary and feedback session</p> <p>Adoption of Outcome Document and Closing Ceremony</p>	<p>Cinema4Peace Film Screenings and Panel Discussions</p>	<p>Music4Peace Concert AAPI Ambassadors and Star Artists across Africa.</p>	
Evening	<p>Welcome Dinner and Cultural Night</p>				

BACKGROUND

African Artist Peace Initiative (AAPI) – Is a pan African movement of **Artists, Activists, Arts-Tivists and Peace-Tivists (AAAP)**, using ARTS and MEDIA, as a tool to champion a culture of peace and social justice in Africa. AAPI was formed in 2014, and officially launched in ***January 2015, in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia*** on the margins of the ***African Union Heads of State and Government Summit***. Today, the movement has grown into 45 countries, with country coordinators. AAPI has over 15,000 members in Africa and diaspora- and 90 celebrated artists and personalities as “Peace Ambassadors” across the continent.

AAPI intends to make an innovative contribution to **Peace Education and Advocacy** in Africa, through “**Creative Thinking**” and the “**Creative Arts**”. More importantly, AAPI will demonstrate how the **ARTS** can be applied to achieve sustainable development objectives in Africa.

Focus Areas of Action;

- 1. Peace Advocacy and Social Justice*
- 2. Action Factory for Peace and Democracy in Africa*
- 3. Global Citizenship Education*
4. Protect the Artists Programme
5. Transparency and Anti-Corruption

OUR Flagship Initiatives

- 1. Arts4Peace Annual Africa Forum*
- 6. Bi-Annual Peace-City Africa (**African Mayors Conference on Peace**)*
3. Miss Peace Africa
4. African Artists Unite for Climate Justice
5. African Artists Campaign to End Child Marriage