Blessed Africa Initiative

*For the Implementation of the Operational Phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (Zlecaf) of the African Union*

**Memorandum of Understanding**

The Africa Continental Summit – Niger 2019, convened in Niamey, Niger on November 27-30, 2019 and jointly sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation, founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and the government of Niger, led by H. E. President Issoufou Mahamadou, was attended by more than 2000 participants from throughout Africa and other parts of the world, including many current and former heads of state, government ministers, first ladies, parliamentarians, media representatives, business leaders, religious leaders, academicians, representatives of civil society, and youth, and focused on the theme, "Building a Peaceful and Prosperous Africa: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values."

We, the participants, have gathered to discuss a wide range of our world’s critical challenges including climate change, sustainable development, poverty, conflict, and the lack of adequate health care and proper education for young boys and girls. Our aim is to contribute to peace and development in Africa, including the eradication of poverty, resolution of conflict, the promotion of good governance, strengthening the family, rebuilding our communities, and encouraging moral and spiritual renewal across the continent.

We affirm the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and seek to contribute to accomplishing those goals by 2030. We also applaud the African Union’s Africa Continental Free Trade Zone, ratified in Niamey, Niger during the 2019 Africa Summit, and wish to contribute to its success.

The projects of the “Blessed Africa Initiative,” outlined below, will complement, support and contribute productively to the aims, goals and programs of the Africa Continental Free Trade Zone. Moreover the “Blessed Africa Initiative” will be tailored and developed in consultation with and according to the interests and needs of specific nations.

His Excellency President Issoufou Mahamadou has expressed his commitment to encourage and support initiatives aimed at peace and development in Africa, and he has indicated his appreciation for the work of the UPF, including many of its subsidiary associations, such as the International Summit Council for Peace, the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, and the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development.
He respects the vision of UPF’s founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, envisioning a “Blessed Africa” centered on interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, an Africa that is the “shining continent of the future.” Toward this end Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has convened a series of Summits in Africa during 2018 and 2019—in Senegal, South Africa and Sao Tome and Principe, to contribute to a world of freedom, equality, peace and happiness.

In 2018, in Dakar, Senegal, Dr. Moon, through the Universal Peace Federation, inaugurated the “Blessed Africa Initiative.” As many as ten African nations signed memoranda of understanding with the Universal Peace Federation to implement the “Blessed Africa Initiative” in their nations, following a ten-point slate of programs.

With this in mind, we, the participants in the Africa Continental Summit propose to move forward with the “Blessed Africa Initiative” at the continental level, carrying forward a package of practical projects that will facilitate transformation, growth and development for the people of Africa and the world. These projects include the development of the following:

1. The International Summit Council for Peace as an association of current and former heads of state and government, as well as first ladies, dedicated to peace and development.

2. The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, which brings together parliamentarians from all nations and parties for productive collaboration in search of solutions to continental challenges.

3. The Interreligious Association for Peace and Development, promoting interreligious dialogue among religious leaders and believers of various faith-based organizations for the sake of conflict resolution, peacebuilding and reconciliation.

4. The International Association of Traditional Rulers for Peace (IATP), drawing on the traditional African values and capacities of traditional rulers for the sake of peace and prosperity.

5. Sustainable development programs such as the successful Saemaul (New Village) project of South Korea.

6. Programs which improve health care, nutrition, and clean water through joint initiatives.

7. Infrastructure development to improve trade, commerce and cooperation, as envisioned in UPF’s International Peace Highway Project, also known as the "Peace Road Project."

8. Programs which seek to improve the world for the sake of future generations, as envisioned in values of the Sunhak Peace Prize.
9. Sustainable development programs through business, economic, entrepreneurial, and agricultural initiatives.

10. Educational programs for Africa’s youth, programs that draw on the experience of academicians and educators, as well as the best practices of the Sunhak Educational Foundation and the Hyojeong Character Education initiatives, such as teacher-training programs and youth projects.

11. Programs that strengthen the family, promoting family values, and the blessing of marriage.

These projects will help realize the goals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, toward a Blessed Africa.

On this day, November 28, 2019, at the Opening Plenary of the Africa Continental Summit - Niger 2019, we, the undersigned, affirm this agreement and will work collaboratively to advance its aims and goals.