



AFRICA CONTINENTAL SUMMIT DECLARATION

NIAMEY, NIGER 2019

*Building a Peaceful and Prosperous Africa
Centered on Universal Values*

**Jointly organized by Universal Peace Federation and the State and Government of Niger
Under the presidency of His Excellency ISSOUFOUFOU MAHAMADOU, President of the
Republic, Head of State of Niger**

**REPORT OF COMMUNICATIONS ON THE
WORKING GROUP WITH "YOUTH AND
STUDENTS FOR PEACE" (YSP)**

In the framework of the Africa Continental Summit - Niger 2019, was held in Room 2 of the Palais de s Congress of Niamey , on Friday, November 29, 2019, from 9 am, a panel of communication group work of animators with "Youth and Students for Peace" (YSP).

Three themes were on the agenda:

- The Vision and Mission of "YSP" and the responsibility of the Youth;
- Promoting the values and role of youth in building a healthy nation and a united, prosperous and peaceful continent;
- The Youth Culture Festival.

The first intervention was given by Mr. Dandjesto Gaetan, President of YSP West Africa. It talked about " Vision and Mission of YSP and Youth Responsibility ". Three axes of reflection have been developed: the history, the vision, the values and program of YSP. "Member of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), YSP makes sense from there. According to Gaetan UPF is an organization at the foundation of several other organizations. It is the case of America Committee for Research of the Principles which is a student organization. This is also the case of the Youth for World Peace Organization. It goes along with the need for the coordination of youth power around the world. This process led to the inauguration of the association YSP on February 23, 2017. This responds to the need for political involvement in the fight of the FPU. Having taken part in the Dakar Summit, the Johannesburg Summit and the Sao Tome Summit, YSP today expresses its satisfaction at taking part in the Niamey meeting. All the organizations mentioned above are aimed at improving the living conditions of young people which determine the richness and youth of Africa.

Regarding the vision of YSP, Gaetan emphasizes that YSP wants to be a world family of young people who build peace through true love. Hence the need to remove the barriers of race, religion and nationality in order to achieve one global human family. The issue of visas between some African countries is an example showing that barriers represent a real obstacle to the development of youth. It is necessary to overcome these barriers in order to lead to a single African and global family underpinned by true love. The fundamental mission of YSP is to create a world of peace through the capacity building of young people to become citizens of the world. The aim is thus to give young people a certain sense of universality.

In terms of values, YSP founds its ethics around four imperatives: responsibility, integrity, service and empathy. Through responsibility, it is a question of going beyond the traditional logic of blaming the other in order to play well its partition in the building of the collectivity. Every young person must ask himself what he can do for his community ? We will therefore not expect that the state or local authorities be involved in the context of promoting public services. The association aims to cultivate in young people the idea of a shared responsibility. The notion of integrity implies an agreement between action, values and ideals. Young people must unite thoughts, ideals, beliefs with actions in order to become upright. Such is the condition of possibility of respect given to them. Service is the key to success. Linked to that of integrity, the notion of service leads young people to grasp the

meaning of creativity. Once invited to an activity, young people wonder if there is food to eat? Such an attitude is to be banned. The young people must be conscious of serving seniors since everything needs to go through stages to maturity. It is a universal law. This is a message that young people present here must convey to organizations in their respective countries. It is by having the sense of service that we can grow. Because through service we can become a good person. From the right person, we move to good governance and good society. The idea of empathy is very simple. It is different from compassion. For in empathy, it is a question of appropriating the situation of the other and making the effort to find a solution to it.

Thus ends the first communication. As Dr. Issaka Guisso Taffa, moderator of the panel, pointed out, the intervention emphasizes that from the point of view of YSP, youth is a driving force. It is called to have a noble behavior through which foundation for peace can be created.

The second intervention, given the time factor, concerned the second and the third theme. It was made by Mr. Seka Philbert, Regional President of YSP Africa. On Theme 2, "Promoting Youth Values and the Role of Youth in Building a Healthy Nation, and a United Continent, Prosperity and Peace", Seka began with the following question: : how to transcend the barriers in the name of love? The latter ignores barriers. Such must be the conduct of the youth of Africa. It is in this condition that it can build African states. From destruction, one can witness the construction in a work underpinned by love. The case of Japan of 1945 and that of today is a perfect illustration of this. Which means everything is possible.

Taking for support the contrasted record of the MDGs (having increased from 8 to 15 between 2000 and 2015), Seka highlighted the promotion of values and the fundamental concern of YSP about peace and the sustainable development of Africa and the world. YSP aims to train global leaders. For her, every young person must transcend barriers. He must go beyond his belly, his family, his nation to take care of the world. This is all the more clear that YSP 'is widespread in more than 200 countries worldwide. The mechanism or means of action of the association in promoting values for peace in Africa lies in character education. It is the education of the heart. The world has always trained intellectuals and not hearts. This type of education is focused solely on self-interest. This does not solve the problem of peace and war as well as other subsidiary crises. For all these reasons, it is necessary to rethink the education. This is the significance of the quality of education defined by the United Nations. It is therefore focused on the heart. The goal is to get the child to project himself into a better world. Hence the synergy student more idea, more initiative, more action.

Speaking of theme 3 entitled "Youth Festival," Seka shares an experience. It highlights the case of Sao Tome. Thus, it has witnessed a large gathering of young people. The festival has planned 40,000 seats. By its success, more than 40,000 young people have been registered. This is the biggest event ever organized in the nation. Seka concluded with the idea that the essential values for changing our world belong to youth. It must be educated in the sense of an education of the heart. It is this type of education that is needed to build a healthy Nation, and a united, prosperous and peaceful continent.

The various reactions of the audience, composed mainly of young people representing the youth of the various African states, led to the following resolutions and recommendations:

I.Resolutions

1. The African youth must immerse themselves, in their struggle for a flourishing Africa, with the need for interdependence with the rest of the world in general and the former colonizing powers in particular ;
2. African youth needs a positive revolution to build a united, healthy and prosperous continent and a peaceful world. This requires unity within African states, just like the one that must prevail in a family so that it protects itself from any foreign interference ;
3. Young Africans must unite, come together to identify the problem of their communities and succeed in creating businesses ;
4. African youth must break with the bad political tradition (particularism) of the first leaders.

II.Recommendations

1. Given the interactive link between social injustice, frustration and the different forms of conflict in which young people are instrumentalized, the African youth recommends that YSP and the African states commit themselves to put an end to terrorism and other forms of banditry and bloodshed in Sahel from Niamey ;
2. Young people are recommending to African states a considerable investment in the development of youth which goes through education for peace, employment, good environment and infrastructure ;
3. Young people call upon states as needed for strong and reliable democratic institutions. Hence the need for their education on democracy, human rights and the various factors of violence known by Africa ;
4. Based on the fact that peace passes through eradicating the scourges of hunger and poverty, youth recommends that African states in their peace policy, commit to the integrated management of those components. This is the case of young people in school, out-of-school.
5. Given that we are in a time for action and not reaction, the youth recommends to the various associations of young people on the Continent to always share experience to better guide their thinking during meetings such as that of Niamey. This is motivated by the fact that they belong to relatively different socio-political and cultural contexts.

Rapporteur : Dr. IDI Ounfana Nassirou, author of a thesis on world peace in light of Kant's political thought, awaiting recruitment at the Abdou Moumouni University in Niamey.