



PRESS RELEASE

The Togolese capital will host the "Second African Peace Conference" from 21st to 25th August 2017 which main theme will be « **The youth in search of peace in Africa** ».

Ahead of this meeting and under the high patronage of His Excellency, Mr. **Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBÉ**, President of the Togolese Republic and current Chairman of the ECOWAS, the first Letter-writing Competition was launched for Africans young people aged from 18 to 30 years on last 1st July in the "Cabitè" Conference Room of Hotel Sarakawa of Lomé under the theme « **Youth and Peace** ».

The purpose of this contest is to create awareness and spread unbounded interactive education for peace.

This first literary letter-writing competition, one of the largest of its kind on the continent, is inviting young people to promote the culture of peace.

The process goes beyond religions, cultural diversity and socio-political organizations.

The literary letter-writing competition, organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Premières Assises Africaines de la Paix is timely for boosting reflection and action in favour of peace, and it seeks, ultimately, to inspire young people to desire to live according to the ideals of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the UN Charter.

The objective is that the Permanent Secretariat of the Premières Assises Africaines de la Paix in organizing this Competition is to train young people in a global mindset that helps them become aware of their identity and overcome racial prejudice, while joining in huge numbers to the cause of peace as the foundation of true democracy.

The Contest Start on 1st July 2017. The transmission (closing) of the Compositions is set for 31st July 2017.

Considering peace as a common aspiration to all mankind upon which the moral, cultural and spiritual values shared by world civilizations are based on ;

Convinced that it is the weakening of the culture of peace in human conscience that breeds violence and intolerance and that it is, therefore, in human consciousness that we must cultivate and maintain the reasons of peace ;

Aware that any genuine approach to peace is primarily cultural, and that the dialogue among cultures is one of the essential foundations of peace and international understanding and that they are based on the respect for the cultural identity and dignity of every human being and every people ;

Considering that peace is the foundation on which the democratic values of justice, freedom and equal dignity of all peoples are based on ;

Considering that the action of governments alone cannot be sufficient to maintain peace, and that initiatives by private persons or entities, are equally important in the quest for peace ;

Considering that any behavior or action contributing to the emergence and triumph of peace in the world deserves respect, encouragement and distinction ;

Praising the beautiful UNESCO Constitution, which states that « **Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed** » ;

Taking into account the wish expressed by English-speaking young girls and boys on the continent and the enthusiasm aroused by their participation in the project ;

After consultation and careful consideration, the members of the Permanent Secretariat and those of the Organizing Committee of the "Second African Peace Conference" decided to extend the closing date of the Letter-writing Competition by a fortnight.

Therefore, the submission of the essays by the candidates is definitely fixed at 15th August 2017./-


For the Permanent Secretariat and
on behalf of the Organizing Committee
The General Coordinator,

Goupouguini Komi LAMBONI



Done at Lomé, on 31st July 2017

For the Supervision of the
Letter-writing Competition
The Bailiff,



Lawyer Sylvanus E. SALLAH

