

# **Pan African Institute for Development**

## **Call for Papers:**

### **Multi Stakeholder Dialogue for Peace, Development, and Human Security in Africa**

**March 6, 2016, Accra, Ghana**

The *Pan African Institute* is initiating an Annual meeting point for African academics, youth, women's organizations, governments, and the mass movements in Africa to examine with a Pan African context, current approaches to human security and development. The meetings will also discuss new challenges and how the mass movement in Africa can organize to confront and address these challenges.

Key themes will focus on human security in the light of guerrilla activities and religious clashes, in East and West Africa; challenges facing youth and other marginalized social groups; Pan African approaches to peace and human security; food security and children. The meeting will also afford an opportunity to celebrate African success stories of development and change in the past 50 years.

Citizens Engagement for peace and Democracy Emanating from the AU Summit of May 2013 was the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration which emphasized the responsibility of African heads of state and governments to act together with the African Diaspora to realize the vision of an integrated Africa. The declaration committed Africa Union member states, amongst others, to:

a) Accelerate effective African integration and foster solidarity , by ensuring the fusion of the principles of Pan-Africanism in all AU policies and initiatives; b) Accelerate African Renaissance by ensuring the integration of the principles of Pan-Africanism in all AU policies and initiatives; c) Strengthen AU programs and Member States institutions aimed at reviving our cultural identity, heritage, history and shared values; d) Promote people to people engagements including youth, women and civil society exchanges in order to strengthen Pan-Africanism; e) Promote solidarity with people of African descent in the Diaspora in their struggles against racial discrimination; and resist all forms of influences contrary to the interests of the continent.

As a contribution to the fulfillment of the above commitments, the government of Ghana supported the hosting of the 8th Pan African Congress in Ghana in March 2015, with the support of the Africa Union and a local organizing committee. This Congress reaffirmed the commitment of the government of Ghana and the African Union to issues of regional integration, the unity of African people worldwide, and the need for social protection measures to support the needs of African women, youth, refugees and the internally displaced. The Pan African movement, however, continues to face immense challenges of leadership, continuity and the lack of intellectual depth.

It is important to note that even though some significant successes have been made at the level of institutional Pan-Africanism, this has not been translated into a people-centered Pan-Africanism. Issues of re-alignment of African economies to achieve effective economic integration, shared freedoms, shared prosperity and a common political citizenship within and across borders are still issues of concern. The critical projects of African state formation and African nation-building were subordinated to the continued domination of individual African economies by Western interests and its local agents.

Devoid of a sense of shared citizenship – political or even legal - the nation state building project has degenerated and replaced by divisions that could be used to legitimize, or at least distract attention from, continuing exploitation and repression of governments and their foreign allies. Today, most African societies are dominated by narrow nationalisms, ethnicity, geographic or religious identities and the almost universal suppression of the rights of women - a mainstay of colonial strategy.

The Pan-African project increasingly appeared to be little more than a group of largely unaccountable self-appointed male leaders gathering at Congresses for mutual back-scratching exercises, devoid of the participation of the ordinary citizens of Africa and the African Diaspora.

## **Making the African Integration Project a Peoples' Project**

At this point in Africa's development, the most important theme in Pan Africanism and African Renaissance must be the symbiotic link between political, social and economic liberation, the emancipation of women and the empowerment of African youth. The right of African women to participate in decision making in the fields of political, economic, cultural and social life; contributing to the improvement of the situation of African women and children; eliminating flagrant violation of human rights must be of paramount concern with the protection of Africa in all aspects; and the effective unity among African states through friendship and co-operation.

The creation of the African Union gave impetus to a renewed Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance - a Pan-Africanism rooted in African people; their images, their memory, their expressions, their ideas, their aspirations and their dignity. Internal challenges include lingering cultures of autocratic use of power and accountability gaps; the continuing vacuum of a sense of common citizenship to underpin nation building; the dearth of visionary, transformational, developmental and democratic culture; entrenched patriarchy; threats of state fragmentation and lingering intra-state and inter-state conflict and pervasive poverty, growing inequalities and weak and dependent economies. These factors tend to be exacerbated by crisis and instabilities arising from the global economy because of the continent's dependent and subordinate position.

The new generation of Pan-Africanists will harness the lessons learnt and use them as building blocks to consolidate the hopes and promises of African unity and renaissance for the next 50 years. It is the opportunity to remember our heroes and histories, celebrate our triumphs and take stock of our losses and failures; a period to tell our stories through literature, art, music, film. But more than that, a time to construct a Pan-Africanism of the 21st Century – the Africa we want in 2063 – For prosperity, peace and sustainable development.

The multi stakeholder dialogue aims to examine the past and current and past approaches to human security and development in Africa. Key themes will focus on: creating a people centered union of African states, re-energizing African people to respond to human security challenges, promoting prosperity, peace and sustainable development, telling our own stories and celebrating African successes, challenges of development and efforts to eradicate poverty by providing alternatives to neo-liberal economic agenda in Africa, governance and peoples' participation in democracy, dissecting the 'Africa Rising' narrative, media and development in Africa.

This event is open to all African people and other people interested in African affairs, including students, youth, women, academics and social activists from all walks of life. Thus, those interested in submitting papers should send an email to the organizers at: [yeeboz@panafricaninstitute.com](mailto:yeeboz@panafricaninstitute.com)