

International Conference on Intercultural Dialogue and the Culture of Peace in Central Africa and the Great Lakes Region

Libreville, 18 – 20 November 2003

CALL OF LIBREVILLE

We, the participants in the International Conference on Intercultural Dialogue and the Culture of Peace in Central Africa and the Great Lakes Region, meeting in Libreville, Gabon, on 18, 19 and 20 November 2003,

Mindful that the recurrence of armed conflicts, either international or whatsoever, in Central Africa and the Great Lakes Region, with their attendant destruction of human lives and ecosystems, mass movements of people, famines and epidemics, destabilize societies, undermine young states' structures, and have a contributory effect on Africa's negative image,

Considering that such murderous madness, fratricidal wars, inter-ethnic wars, are utilizing the exacerbation of differences as a pretext,

Convinced that wars have always been scourges that bring about all kinds of atrocities at the social, cultural, moral and spiritual levels, for both individuals and society,

Aware that the only battle that is worth fighting is the permanent struggle against poverty, diseases, marginalization, division and exclusion, through education for all and quality education, the utilization of sciences, techniques and technologies, not least endogenous skills as well as the medias and New Information and Communication Technologies (NICT) for the respect of cultural diversity, the economic, social and cultural development of nations,

Firmly support the policies of reconciliation and reconstruction as well as the ongoing negotiated policies for sustainable peace in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Burundi, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire,

Enjoin all the signatories of the Linas-Marcouris, Luena, Pretoria and Arusha Agreements to scrupulously abide by their commitments, and invite all the interested parties non-signatories to the said Agreements to do their utmost to achieve peace.