

CENTER FOR PEACE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Proposal:

Africa Peace Fellows program:

Building the next generation of Africa peace leaders for a sustainable culture of peace.

Background:

The Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) was established in 1996 at California State University, Sacramento, to provide conflict resolution and reconciliation services for agencies, governments, institutions, businesses, civil society and community organizations and other groups through training, education, research, and intervention. CAPCR develops curricular/materials and provides training on mediation, negotiation, arbitration, and other conflict resolution services for governmental and nongovernmental organizations, business and community groups, public and private agencies, educational institutions and allied professional associations (in America/Africa as well as the diaspora).

Since CAPCR's founding, it has developed independently, and/or in conjunction with other agencies and partners, numerous major training initiatives on conflict resolution for over 20,000 people, particularly on alternative dispute resolution(ADR) for legal and justice sector reforms as well as commercial establishments, peace and conflict studies curricular development in universities, and peace education in secondary schools. The training curricular materials remain current and responsive to African indigenous conditions as well as international best practices for both basic skills development training and Training of Trainers(ToT) modules for inter-personal and group conflict resolution processes. Our partners include the U.S. State Department and Department of Education, the U.S. Institute of Peace, USAID, JAMS Foundation, World Bank, California Wellness Foundation, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies-Lagos, University of Ibadan-Nigeria, Nigerian Human Rights Commission, University of Ghana-Legon, Ghana Bar Association, Judiciary and Ministry of Justice, the Ghana Association of Certified Mediators and Arbitrators, Institute of Peace & Conflict Resolution-Nigeria, Federation of Women Lawyers(FIDA)-Kenya and Ethiopia, National University of Rwanda-Butare, The Gambia Judiciary, Addis Ababa University-Ethiopia, University of Liberia-Monrovia, University of Dakar-Senegal, African Center for Constructive Resolution of Disputes(ACCORD)-South Africa, Kaiser Foundation-Sacramento, among others.

Rationale:

The Africa Peace Fellows is a certificate training program designed to meet existing key gaps in creating internal capacity for transformative conflict resolution systems in Africa, especially in the development of consistent, sustainable conflict resolution and prevention training programs at advanced and specialized skills levels, including retraining or continuing education, with emphasis on intractable and emerging public policy, governance, and commercial disputes. The Africa Peace Fellows curriculum will go beyond the traditional transactional individual conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes to transformational conflict resolution systems design, institutional capacity building, human capacity development, and professional network creation.

The program is also intended to address long-term funding constraints, particularly in peace and conflict resolution training. The majority of the conflict resolution training programs in Africa are driven by donor support. Arguably, donor funding for such training programs fluctuates in its frequency and level of support. As observed by Dr. Monde Muyangwa of the Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC, "*we cannot wage peace on other people's wallet*" (2016-CAPCR). To maintain Africa's continued progress or gains in the global peace index, there is a need for the development of a training infrastructure that is sustainable and supportive of both continental and national peace and security agenda, with a long-term vision and strategic plan.

This unique, one of a kind, Africa Peace Fellows training program is envisioned to ultimately create a robust cadre or network of the next generation of African peace leaders, or *peacecorps* leadership that is ultimately, deliberately dedicated to promoting the societal goal of a culture of peace. The program will serve as a medium for increasing the number and level of skilled conflict resolution personnel or expertise and institutions in Africa, who will meet international best standards in knowledge acquisition and skill application. Further, the curricular will integrate critical issues of social justice, good governance, human rights, peace leadership and development, human security, violent extremism, diversity, environmental justice, restorative justice, and public corruption.

Footnotes

1. Muyangwa, M.: Keynote address at 20th Anniversary Lecture, February 2, 2016, California State University, Sacramento, California



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Goals:

The Africa Peace Fellows initiative will achieve 3 key programmatic and structural goals in contemporary conflict resolution training programs in/for Africa:

- i. Development of a critical mass of senior level mid-career management executives and prominent, and progressive public opinion/political leaders in Africa, with particular attention to critical public institutions in peace and security, legal/justice sector, business, and the media.
- ii. Development of a stable high level cadre of conflict resolution professionals with specialized expertise in intractable and emerging public policy disputes at state, national, and sub-regional levels.
- iii. Creation of a sustainable structure for dedicated, consistent Africa conflict resolution training/retraining, practicum and research on best practices, through the proposed USD\$25 million endowment.

Key objectives:

- i. Increase internal national and sub-regional African capacity for conflict prevention and peacemaking.
- ii. Integrate conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes and techniques into critical public policy areas and emerging or contentious conflicts.
- iii. Build a sub-regional networking of African peace corps (among peacemakers and peace leaders).
- iv. Document/collect operational research data for evaluation and creation of best practices.
- v. Increase engagement between the Africa diaspora and conflict resolution national/state/regional institutions/agencies in Africa and the diaspora.
- vi. Create sustainable infrastructure for standardized advanced training programs and quality assurance.

Attainment of the objectives will increase Africa's peace index, produce greater peace dividends, and support the African Peace Architecture as well as national sustainable development goals and the African Union Agenda 2063—Aspirations for Good governance and 4 A Peaceful and Secure Africa. Overall, the project will scale up the human capacity and institutional capability for moving beyond conflict and fragility in Africa.

Structure:

The project will be set up and administered as an endowment within the CAPCR, in collaboration with 5 strategic institution partners in Africa. There will be an **International Advisory Board** for the initial fund development of the endowment, strategic advice on programming and macro level criteria for participant selection and assessment of outcomes. Further, there will be an **International Steering Committee** for curriculum development and training, participant selection, and recruitment or recommendation of members for the International Advisory Board as well as general support. Finally, the **Mentors** (in Africa and outside) will provide coaching advice, skill support and general mentorship for about 3 years post training to those qualified and Certified as *Africa Peace Fellows*.

The project will be delivered over a 15 month period as an International Certificate Training program, with activities both in the US and Africa, with internship and mentorship modules as well as a culminating or capstone project on a successful, actual conflict resolution. Each training cohort will consist of 15-20 participants, drawn from a strategically set criteria and representative of Africa as well as key institutions. To facilitate unencumbered and effective participation and through the anticipated endowment, the project will provide full scholarships for the participants, including the costs for local and international travels and materials.

Footnotes

African Union Commission. (2015) The Africa We Want: A Shared Strategic Framework for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development. 2063 Agenda. United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/agenda2063.pdf>



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Timeline

April 2017: Roundtable at the 26th Annual Africa/Diaspora Conference at CSU-Sacramento.

May - July 2017: Seeking/consulting institutional partners and select scholars and leaders.

July 2017: Special panel and consultations with ADR professional, members of the legal fraternity, academics and at the 5th International Africa Conference on Peace and Conflict Studies in Nigeria.

August- October: Additional consultations; Recruitment/selection of the International Steering Committee

November-December 2017: Capital campaign for the seed funding/reserves; Recruitment and selection of members of the International Advisory Board.

January-March, 2018: Planning for the formal launching of the initiative at CSU-Sacramento.

March-April: Draft curriculum outline

April 26-28, 2018: Formal Launching of the Africa Peace Fellows program—at CSU-Sacramento.

May-December 2018: Fundraising and creation of the endowment.

October-December 2018: Development of criteria and protocols for participant recruitment

January -June 2019: Participant recruitment & selection and final curriculum planning.

September- 2019-: First cohort training commences—for the next 15 months.

