

## YAOUNDE DECLARATION

The Heads of State and Government, heads of international organizations, experts, business leaders, civil society representatives, Africans and non-Africans who participated on 18 and 19 May 2010, in the **Africa 21 Yaounde International Conference on New Challenges for Africa**:

Thank His Excellency President Paul BIYA for having taken the initiative to organize this reflection, which enabled the participants to review the ground covered by Africa over the past 50 years and chart the way forward for the continent.

They also thank him for the warm welcome extended to them.

They avail themselves of this opportunity to convey to him their deep gratitude for having been able to preserve peace in Cameroon, in a continent beset, since independence, with multiple upheavals.

They commend him for the excellent organization, the quality and depth of the deliberations of the **Yaounde International Conference** which will be a major event in this fiftieth anniversary year of the independence of many African countries.

They declare by mutual agreement:

- Their conviction that the 21<sup>st</sup> century already marks Africa's return to stronger growth, the limitation of its indebtedness and a wider audience in the international community.
- Their faith in Africa's ability to generate innovation and progress based on its human values, the strength of its youth, its rich environment and the abundant resources of its soil and subsoil.
- Their refusal of an Africa marginalized and underrepresented in international forums.
- Their desire to see Africa rather take its rightful place in the search for solutions to the problems besetting the world today.
- Their wish for Africa to develop, in this respect, a broad integration programme by strengthening its position in the United Nations system.

They consider:

- That the ongoing African renaissance should be accompanied notably by the development of food crops. Africa should no longer import food to eat; it should, if necessary, temporarily protect its agriculture.
- That the recent global financial crisis should bring Africa to draw all the lessons, to fight against speculative excesses, to combat the existence of derivatives that subvert real transactions, particularly in the food sector, and to make provision for compensation for damages.
- That the development of public/private partnerships and of trade between emerging countries is likely to improve growth and employment.
- That the conduct of policies for progress can only be conceived in a climate of peace and security. Factors such as uncontrolled urbanization, the expansion of health risks and the loss of cultural values require first and foremost transparent and rigorous public governance. The crisis resolution mechanism established by the African Union has many successes to its credit. It will be supported, developed and strengthened.
- That capacities for peacekeeping and combating transnational crime should be strengthened through the mobilization of its own intervention resources, without excluding further quest for essential international cooperation.
- That the search for a real solution to these problems can be effective only if it is based on upstream work on the causes of fragility that generate insecurity. The most serious threats to African societies today are global in nature, be they global warming, financial abuse, or terrorism. The solutions can only be global.

Africa is now able to achieve its unity in most areas. It is time for it to contribute significantly to the search for such solutions.

In this regard, they hereby agreed to establish a committee to monitor the implementation of this declaration.

Yaounde, 19 May 2010