



# KÔRÈ CULTURAL CENTRE SYMPOSIUM OF SÉGOU

« AFRICAN RENAISSANCE : CHALLENGES & PERSPECTIVES »

SÉGOU (MALI)

FEBRUARY 05 – 08, 2014

## Call of Ségou 2

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Symposium of Ségou takes place in a relaxing context. After some moment of uncertainty caused by the multifaceted crisis that we experienced, time has now come for stabilization and return of social harmony. The theme of this year Symposium "African Renaissance: Challenges and Perspectives" was chosen for its relevance to the rough tension across the continent.

The Symposium of Ségou is a timely opportunity to initiate a general discussion on the issues of the African renaissance, cultural diversity, national unity and governance both in Mali and in Africa. Many guests from Senegal, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, South Africa and Luxembourg came to exchange with their Malian colleagues.

After four days of exchanges and rich discussions, a number of important observations were made:

- The resurgence of religious and identity crises; factors of political and social instability in our countries;
- The failure and delinquescence of the state, essential factors for the exacerbation of identity conflicts;
- The lack of a clear vision of cultural diversity, with objectives that focus on sustainable development based on pluralism;
- The unsecure openness of Africa - unable to set its own partnership rules;
- The lack of global vision in development strategies;
- The lack of cohesion and convergence between the various development initiatives.

These are as many factors that have contributed to the unrest on the continent exacerbating identity conflicts.

In such context, the challenges of an African renaissance are various and varied, including:

- ✓ The challenge of restoring/rebuilding the State, community;
- ✓ The challenge of reinventing a model of democracy proper to the African context and which must consider the need to build unity while preserving diversity;
- ✓ The challenge of changing the post-colonial education system to work towards a successful reversal of long-term trends; 50% of children who do not attend school in the world are in Africa;
- ✓ The challenge of development and food security; how to meet the needs of communities, when we know that 51% live in poverty with less than \$ 2 per day; 1 out of 7 African children die around the age of 5; maternal mortality strikes 1 in 30 children; 2/3 of the 33millions of people living with HIV are in Africa; a child dies from malaria every 45 seconds (90% of cases are in Africa); life expectancy is less than 55 years; 69% of sub-Saharan Africans lack basic health care;

The African Agriculture employs 70% of the active population and contributes to 50% of exports and 30% of mainland GDP. Inevitably, the transformation of this sector will have massive consequences for the continent.

- ✓ The challenge of building infrastructures (transport, energy and water) ;

- ✓ The challenge of urbanization in Africa; in 2025, the majority of Africans live in cities and the continent will cease to be predominantly rural;
- ✓ The challenge of building real cultural policies that may enable the emergence of cultural diversity in a patriotic spirit and respect for national cohesion;
- ✓ The challenge of providing Africa, which has become the new growth pole, with rules and principles to guarantee its interests so that it does not again pay the price of its openness to the global market;
- ✓ The need for the elaboration of a new approach to development in the medium and long term, based on endogenous factors, focusing on a better integration of African states.

To meet these various challenges, participants at the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Symposium of Ségou launch the current "CALL OF SEGOU 2":

- To the highest authorities and institutions in our states;
- To political, economic, social and cultural actors of the continent ;
- To all partners and true friends of Africa.

Inviting them to tackle:

- The reflection about a new political vision for Africa with greater accountability of elected officials, by expressing the political will to enable revisiting the democratic process in order to find a model which is consistent with our context;
- The restoration / rebuilding of the state, the community through the legitimization of public institutions;
- The judicious questioning of the function and role of communities in the perspective of the restoration and rebuilding process;
- The establishment of a sub-regional educational policy, with poles of excellence in each country, based on the development sectors of technical and vocational training, and strengthening education strategies in national languages;
- The development and implementation of sub-regional policies and mechanisms for agricultural development to achieve an agricultural renaissance and food self-sufficiency, with the transformation of our products to get added value; which requires strengthening the industrialization of the continent;
- The development of tools and mechanisms for a better expression of cultural diversity in our States; such as periodic and rotating organization of national festivals, biennials, national artistic and cultural weeks, etc.;
- The organization of a wide consultation in the form of general statements of the integration of our countries and our people;
- The strengthening and promotion of public-private partnership and a true civil society, to guarantee a good balance and better governance;
- The political management of our ethno-regional conflicts through reconciliation based on truth, values and mechanisms of conflict management;
- The establishment of mechanisms to increase investment in the creative industries as drivers of economic and social development ;
- The popularization and implementation of international agreements and conventions signed and adopted by our governments and in the interest of men and women of Africa;

- The establishment of a structured and consistent development approach of the continent for long-term , taking into account national potential and local initiatives; a kind of a Marshall Plan for Africa; with the revalorization of local knowledge and local know-how;
- The development and promotion of the concept of African cultural diplomacy inspired by the rich heritage of the continent to contribute to a more relevant approach to conflict and conflict resolution;
- The proliferation of powerful reflection and idea production platforms on a continental scale, like the Symposium of Ségou, with relevant and unifying themes and under the direction of true scientific committees.

The renaissance is also possible with an African continent that bans linguistic, religious and ethnic boundaries to pave the way to economic development that articulates economic growth and full blooming of the African people, of every African individual. This dream is possible and is in our hands. To spawn it a path, it is urgent to develop and implement an agricultural policy that ensures self-sufficiency, to work for industrialization, and install quality infrastructure. The integration of our people will happen not only through efficient implementation of good governance but also by the building and establishing economic clusters that circumscribe development poles, serving as basis for the realization now and then, of this constantly reaffirmed-wish of the United States of Africa.

United, let's work for the African Renaissance!

*Made in Ségou, February 9, 2014*

**The Symposium of Ségou  
Kôrè Cultural Centre of Ségou  
Foundation Festival sur le Niger**