

JAGA
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AFRICA INVENTS ITS GOVERNANCE

Africa Horizon 2060 Initiative

*What does Africa to be and to become?
How does it want to govern itself ?*

Synthesis and declaration

Conference of Praia
July 9-12, 2012

Thanks

The Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa (ARGA) and all participants are addressing their warm thanks to all individuals and organizations who contributed through their support to the conference preparation and realization :

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- the Cap Vert Republic National Parliament
- the Cap Vert Republic government, through the Foreign affairs Ministry, especially the ECOWAS National Cell, the Ministry of Culture and the state reform coordination unit
- the Praia Municipality
- the Amilcar Cabral Foundation
- the Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation for Human Progress
- the African Innovation Foundation
- the French Foreign Affairs Ministry, through the democratic Governance Mission, France Embassy in Praia and the Cooperation and Cultural Action Office in Praia.

Summary

I - Introduction.....	7
II - Conference proceedings, key conclusions and perspectives.....	10
II.1 Conference proceedings.....	10
II. 2 Conference key conclusions.....	12
II. 3 Perspectives: actions to be carried out and framework.....	15
II.3.1 Key actions.....	15
II.3.2 Management framework.....	17
III – Praia Declaration.....	18

I - Introduction

Initiative based on the belief that Africa has strengths to take its destiny in hand

In the years since many of its countries became independent, Africa has not been the true master of its destiny. Throughout the cold war, the continent was torn between opposing political blocks—in some cases practically made a ward of one block or the other—and forced to adhere to certain political and economic doctrines.. Today, whether with regards to economics or politics, Africa finds itself on the fringes of international relations. Not finding in their own countries or indeed anywhere on the continent the future perspectives to which they aspire, many young people--in particular the best educated--have continued to flee, depriving Africa of the talent and creativity it so sorely needs.

But Africa is now at a turning point in its political, economic and social history. Despite mixed results in State- and society-building, which clearly show how far the continent still has to go in terms of economic, political and social development, Africa does have what it takes to meet the needs of its peoples and play a more important role in the world. Democracy, strengthened by decentralisation and by civil society's contributions to improving State governance, is slowly but surely becoming consolidated; immense reserves of natural resources remain unused; rapid population growth is making the continent a promising market; regional integration processes are contributing to good governance and the creation of shared markets, and changes in international economic relations, with the emergence of new powers, are giving Africa more room to manoeuvre on world markets and providing opportunities to renew and regulate international relations.

Contribution for an Africa effectively independent at 2060

To turn these advantages into factors that truly contribute to its success, Africa needs a collective jump-start; it has to stop “sleeping on other people's mats” in the words of the well-known African historian Joseph Ki Zerbo. Across the globe, the construction of modern nations and the definition of development strategies have

always taken time. Africa is no exception. Yet Africa is not a hopeless continent. It has energetic young people and the natural, cultural and intellectual resources it needs to emerge in the 21st century with its own world view, its own conception of governance and its own path for development.

This is what the Africa Horizon 2060 Initiative is all about.

The Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa (ARGA) invites all African and non-African actors who believe that Africa can take control of its destiny to taken part in this initiative whose goal is to outline a new political, economic, social and cultural path towards emergence and to begin right now to construct a project for the next fifty years, so that the 100-year anniversary of African independence can be celebrated under the banner of true independence.

The Africa Horizon 2060 initiative will be implemented through a series of conferences on the following subjects:

- An Africa that invents its governance (Praia, Cape Verde – 2012)
- An Africa that invents its economy (2013)
- An Africa that renegotiates its place in the world (2014)
- A project for 2060 (Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, 2015).

II - Conference proceedings, key conclusions and perspectives

II.1 Conference proceedings

93 participants from 30 countries did attend the conference. All Africa regions were represented and also the Diaspora and Africa friends : Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Benin, Congo, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Nigeria, Togo, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, South Africa, Guinea Bissau, Botswana, Kenya, Sao-Tomé and Príncipe, Gabon, Angola, Cap Vert, France, Italia, United States of America, Switzerland and Portugal.

Participants were from following socioprofessionnal backgrounds: universities researchers, NGO, Government (workers and others), elected officials (members of parliament, local elected representatives), private foundation members, private sector, students, international organizations (UN Security Council and UNDP), religious and traditional leaders, medias, members of defense forces and partners for development, etc...

Countries and socioprofessionnal diversity of participants have been recognized as an element for the conference results legitimating. Debates did happen in an atmosphere of listening, mutual respect and permanent quest of a collective understanding of complex and very often controversial issues.

Opening official ceremony took place in the National Parliament plenary room under current Cap Vert Republic president and the former president who is current Amilcar Cabral Foundation president and winner of Mo Ibrahim price on governance. This is the reason and symbol why Cap Vert was chosen; this country is the perfect illustration of a peaceful democracy, used to run elections and have electoral peaceful changes. Moreover the current president speech did emphasize on the historical Cap Vert nation-building process as a one of the key factors explaining accomplished progress in domains such as living togetherness regulation and governance. The opening ceremony was also upgraded by the presence of 4 ministers coming from Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Togo and also ambassadors and head of international organizations who have bureau in Cap Vert.

Opening ceremony was followed by workshops held in four (4) half-days. The conference was framed around ten propositions dispatched in the following five workshops:

- Workshop 1 : Building the « living togetherness » inside societies around shared values and principles
- Workshop 2 : Get the best out of tradition and modernity
- Workshop 3 : rebuilding postcolonial state through decentralization and regional integration
- Workshop 4 : promoting adapted and inclusive public affairs management
- Workshop 5 : Building security for all

Every workshop session has an introductory document presenting the theme and key questions to be discussed. Participants had also the choice to amend the document. Each workshop document was made on the basis of three types of resources: contributions send by a number of participants before the conference (more than 30 contributions), documents and research findings, public policies documents gathered by ARGA. Each workshop has the mandate to prepare a report on the discussed theme including:

- Major stakes and challenges
- Evolutive patterns for coming decades
- The continent advantages
- Strategic objectives to be reach and few structuring actions
- Actors roles and responsibilities

With Praia and Cidade Velha cities office and Cap Vert culture cabinet, a site visit was organized at Cidade Velha, slavery historical site.

The conference last day was focused to plenary restitution of workshops outcomes; this restitution was followed by a general debate and closing official ceremony was by Cap Vert National Parliament president with the presence of Praia Mayor and former Cap Vert president who is current Amilcar Cabral foundation president.

II. 2 Conference key conclusions

Debates did show that conference theme and propositions guiding workshops were relevant. They did emphasize in the need of a systemic approach regarding the issue of Africa development and to create linkage between themes, actors and governance levels.

Final declaration is taking into account numerous findings and setting sights for the future ; it is also rather a true manifesto than a classical declaration.

Key findings are as following:

- **Governance should hold as the source and the solution** to all forms of crises, political, social, economic that African continent is experiencing;
- the need for the continent to get an **endogenous, global and sustainable vision of its governance**, and this vision translated into a **shared and inclusive project** for all society actors;
- the need for Africa **to participate actively in the globalization process and also share the leadership** of this process by using its numerous advantages(human resources, especially a well trained youth, huge natural resources, civil societies more and more organized and taking initiatives, institutions political will in general, states and regional integration organizations in particular, improving their functioning, strengthening their capabilities in providing services to citizens);
- the need for African societies to **define, formalize and better promote shared values and principles** that should be at the basis of relationships between individuals and between communities, power controlling, exercising

and transferring modalities when serving public interest, and also promoting equity when distributing and sharing resources and wealth; these public affairs regulation modalities should take into account pluralism of standards, institutional and social and include traditional regulation modes into a well-driven modernity project;

- the need to **rely strategically on decentralization processes** to be considered not only as simple administrative reforms but also as true political project for rebuilding states, strengthening their legitimacy and efficiency and ensure better regulation of societies natural diversity;
- the need to **reinforce regional integration processes** through giving value to the complementarities between institutional and intergovernmental dynamics and local social ones to enable integration to be a factor of development , peace and security, states strengthening and Africa integration in the world;
- the importance of **African languages utilization** in educative, institutional and administrative systems;
- the need to **build the vision and the African project of governance with « Africa partners »**

Guidelines for an effective strategy of governance rebuilding in Africa have been identified by taking into account current context and trends :

1. **multi-actors partnership** should be the driven force for public policies elaboration, implementation and evaluation and also the legal and institutional framework; citizen participation and dialogue mechanisms should be strengthened at all level, local, national, sub-regional, continental and international;
2. **education and citizen consciousness and values** should be the lever for granting primacy to general interest over particular or groups interests, democracy and communities peaceful cohabitation;

3. **states defense and security forces should be republican forces, actors of development** who protect human security in an environment that **promote a shared approach on governance security**;
4. **constitutional processes should be more inclusive and enable better political power and conflicts resolution and prevention regulation modalities** to merge;
5. **regional integration institutions** should continue their efforts **in building a vision and regional integration project promoting effective regional citizenship**, better socializing community policies, strengthening anticipation and pro-activity skills with other actors to prevent conflicts and ensure security;
6. governments should give value to national languages, strengthen et deepen decentralization processes in a shared vision with territorial collectivities and all local actors;
7. The **African Diaspora** should participate in the governance rebuilding task in Africa;

II. 3 Perspectives: actions to be carried out and framework

The Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa has received the mandate to propose an action plan to the conference participants based on guidelines selected in the final Declaration and strategic objectives and structuring actions proposed during workshops. The plan is defining key actions to be undertaken and tools to share and implement them and also a framework for the conference follow-up.

II.3.1 Key actions

1 - Enhance and strengthen the network for experiences exchanging and governance rebuilding initiatives sharing in Africa

Participants did consider that even though the conference is a circumstantial event, it did allow to start a dialogue that needs to be maintained indefinitely in a frame-

work to be defined and extended to all actors concerned with the issue of governance. New technologies utilization should be reinforced due to the continental dimension of the initiative. Possible actions are:

a) **Creating a bank or virtual platform for governance experiences exchanging and valorization** ; this means that the JAGA website will be enriched to enable participants and all others individuals or organization interested to share and find in the same space experiences related to the JAGA thematic; this bank could be reinforced by partnerships contracted by participants after the conference and regular follow –up of institutions initiatives(governments, territorial collectivities, development cooperation, regional integration institutions) and other social actors.

b) **Creating a space for continuous dialogue** on the conference themes especially by implementing a blog to be access through the JAGA website.

c) **Creating information bulletins** on the JAGA follow-ups and the 2013 edition preparation; this will require to utilize the ARGGA diffusion list that include more than 2000 contacts, and also participants contacts; this bulletin will be framed with narratives and video resources.

2 - Promoting and strengthening initiatives on key themes identified by the conference

The conference did allow identifying key themes that will be decisive for Africa future. Participants can elaborate propositions or governance rebuilding projects through existing initiatives or new ones. They are free to define initiatives types but they should as much as possible inform the framework piloting the conference follow-ups to ensure their diffusion and consideration in all the Africa Horizon 2060 initiative steps. To illustrate we have selected among key themes the following:

- A multi-actor partnership in public policies processes (elaboration, implementation, control, evaluation...)
- Citizenry education and values promotion, corruption fighting...,
- defense and security forces role and security shared governance,
- constitutionalism and constitutions as power and diversity regulation tools,
- socializing and territorializing regional integration community policies,

- cross border cooperation promotion especially in public services domain,
- national languages valorization in administrative, education and training systems,
- Private sector involvement and consideration during local development stakes definition and realization and also for local entrepreneurship development.

The piloting framework has received the mandate to identify, centralize and update all initiatives and determine the conditions of linking them to the Africa Horizon 2060 initiative. This will be done based on information provided by participants and other researches.

3 - Develop an advocacy using the conference results and the Africa Horizon 2060 project

Through the socioprofessional background of participants, the Praia conference has the goal to reach the maximum number of participants. However conclusions and results should be enriched and hold by all social categories in Africa and in the rest of the world. Beyond taking conclusions and results toward participants' networks, the conference did emphasize on political advocacy and the need to mobilize decision making spaces to adopt and be aware of the conference conclusions and debates. Two series of activities can be conducted:

- keep up the partnership already started with political officials who attended the conference, especially the Cap Vert presidency, government and Parliament, Praia municipality and ministers from Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Togo and cooperation for development actors ;
- Inform and commit for the Praia conference follow-ups and the second conference preparation other institutional actors especially regional integration or panafrikan institutions; ARGA will therefore mobilize presidents who are in his network (current and former Cap Vert presidents, former Guinea Bissau president who is ARGA Board of Trustees president).

4 - Elaborate and publish in a booklet format, a document capitalizing the conference contribution to governance future in Africa

The rich debate requires that conference key conclusions be diffused at a wide scale and not only be written in a report. Moreover it is already possible to anticipate on the document of synthesis to be produced at the end of the 4th conference planned for 2015. That's why it was proposed to elaborate before the second conference, an analytical document as the contribution of the first conference on governance future in Africa. This document will be presented during the 2013 conference in a booklet format.

II.3.2 Management framework

A steering committee for the first conference outcomes monitoring has been implemented. Under ARGA Coordination it comprises five organizations, each of them representing one region in the continent, one person representing the Diaspora and another one major partners. This committee has the mandate to take any initiative that could contribute to implement the actions plan. The Committee also proceeds to a regular monitoring and evaluation of planned activities and is allowed to have meeting when it is necessary and funds available. Meetings then are convened by ARGAs.

III – Praia Declaration

Organized under the Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa initiative, the first edition of Annual Days for Governance in Africa (JAGA) with “Africa reinventing its governance” theme was held in Praia (Cap Vert Republic) from July 9 to July 12, 2012. This first edition has inaugurated a cycle of four prospective thinking conferences whose ambition is contributing to help Africa take its destiny into its hands by the symbolic horizon of 2060 corresponding to the century of first African independent states. It gathered participants from all social and professional backgrounds, from all Africa regions, the Diaspora and friends of Africa.

The conference objectives were: contributing to create a sustainable dialogue space, needed to give value and share experiences, reflections and most innovative ongoing public policies on governance in Africa; contributing to create better synergy between institutions initiatives and civil society ones; contributing to better governance public policies socialization; developing proposals and multi actor strategy and prospective enabling Africa to take back its destiny into its hands; contributing to effective governance rebuilding initiatives implementation.

Debates did focus on fundamental governance themes: building the « living together » inside societies around shared principles and values; using the best of both tradition and modernity by recognizing judicial pluralism ; rebuilding postcolonial African state through decentralization and regional integration ; promoting adapted and inclusive public affairs management ; building security conditions and sustainable peace for all.

Debates enabled participants to sort out strong consensus on the following points:

- Greater account of governance as the source and the solution to multifaceted crises (political, social, economic) that African continent is experiencing;
- The need for the continent to have an endogenous, global and long term vision of its governance, and this vision translation into a shared and inclusive project of all society actors;

- The need for Africa not only to participate actively in the globalization process but also to share the related leadership by utilizing its numerous advantages (human resources, especially a well trained youth, huge natural resources, civil societies more and more organizing and undertaking, institutions political willing, especially states and regional organizations to improve their functioning and services delivery to citizens empowerment);
- The need for African societies to define, formalize and better promote shared values and principles that would be at the relationships between individuals and between communities foundation, devolution, exercising and power controlling procedures for public interest and also equitable resources and welfare distribution procedures ; those public affairs regulation procedures should take into account social, institutional normative pluralism and include traditional regulation procedures not in a backward looking project but rather in well-handled modernity.
- The need to lean strategically on decentralization processes, not to be considered as simple administrative reforms but as meaningful political rebuilding project of states that strengthen their legitimacy and efficiency and ensure a better regulation of natural diversity in societies ;
- The need to strengthen regional integration processes through valuing complementarities between institutional and governmental dynamics and grass-roots social dynamics to make integration be a key factor for development, peace and security, strengthening states and Africa integration into the world;
- The importance of African languages utilization in educational, institutional and administrative systems;
- The need to build a vision and an African governance project with Africa partners;

From these consensuses, participants convinced that their dream for Africa can be a reality:

- Consider that multi actor partnership should be the engine for public policies development, implementation and evaluation and legal and institutional frame-

work and citizenry mechanisms for participation and dialogue between all actors should be empowered at all level, local, national, sub-regional, continental and international;

- Consider that education and citizenship values and consciousness strengthening should be the shifters to guarantee general interest primacy over particular or groups interests, democracy and peaceful cohabitation among human communities;
- Consider that it is urgent and essential for measures to be taken to make states defense and security forces, republican forces, actors of development who protect human security and to promote an approach and a shared security governance;
- Consider that constitutional processes should be more inclusive; help emerge better political power regulation procedures and conflict prevention and resolution;
- Urge regional integration institutions to continue their efforts toward building a vision and a regional integration project that promote effective regional citizenship, territorialize more community policies, strengthen capacities for anticipation and reactivity with other actors to prevent conflicts and ensure security ;
- Urge states to value national languages utilization, strengthen and deepen decentralization in a shared vision with territorial collectivities and all other actors;
- Urge African Diaspora to participate actively in the governance-rebuilding task in Africa.

Participants undertake after the conference to:

- Broaden and strengthen the network for exchanging experiences and sharing governance strengthening initiatives in Africa;
- Contribute to the advocacy, especially toward states and regional integration organizations, but also toward populations and civil society organizations to encourage them to take advantage of the conference works;
- Work for the continuation and contributions enrichment of the project « Africa Horizon 2060 »

The participants congratulate the Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa and all his partners, Africans and friends of Africa that enable this conference to be held and urge to carry on the conferences cycle.

Participants give warm thanks to Amilcar Cabral Foundation, Cap-Verdean authorities, especially the Republic presidency, the National Parliament, the government through the Exterior Affairs Ministry, The Praia City Mayor Office and urge them to be the “Africa Horizon 2060” project relays within their African peers.

Done in Praia July 12, 2012



Participate by sending your contribution on the website :

jaga.afrique-gouvernance.net

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