



CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

The legends of South Africa are revered across the world for forging the foundations of our democratic nation and ushering in a new era of peace. This year we celebrate the centenary of two of these icons who dedicated their lives to peace and freedom, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisiulu.

Building on their legacies, and ensuring their efforts will remain etched in our collective memory, organizations from across Southern Africa will unite to host a groundbreaking conference titled, **African Leaders of Peace Summit: Achieving peace in our lifetime**, showcasing the Africa that our forefathers dreamt of – an Africa that is flourishing and at the forefront of achieving peace.

South Africa is already an active contributor toward peace and stability on the continent. In line with the theme for this year's Africa Day celebrations, "A year of Nelson Mandela – Building a Better Africa and a Better World", South Africa is playing a leading role in assisting with the African Union's efforts to resolve conflicts.

African Leaders of Peace Summit: Achieving peace in our lifetime will bring together citizens from across Southern Africa including government ministries, civil society organizations, youth, religious leaders and media, as well special guests from across the continent including African heroes of peace and Nobel laureates, and will focus on practical solutions to achieving peace in our lifetime.

The summit is scheduled to take place on the **13th and 14th of August 2018 at Cape Town.**

OBJECTIVES

1. Celebrate the centenary of Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisiulu, showcasing the practical achievement of peace in Southern Africa as an example to the rest of the international community, as outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063.
2. Collaboration with government and civil society to advance a practical way to replace a culture of violence with a culture of peace.
3. Strengthen the existing frameworks of government and civil society organizations to align for the common goal of establishing peace.

4. Creating a generation of active citizens who participate in the peace building process.
5. Consider legal tools which can be used to advance the legal framework for a conflict-free Africa including the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW).
6. Advancing peace value education within schools as a platform for moral regeneration in Southern Africa.
7. Discuss on the role of religious leaders as messengers of peace to their communities
8. Incorporate the voice of youth and women as the leaders of tomorrow and important decision makers in both civil society and government.
9. Creating the platform for media to collaborate to become peace messengers in Africa.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Today's world is in the most chaotic and dangerous state in history. None of us are safe from the many threats, and although there have been numerous efforts to achieve peace, it is hard to deny that we are still living in fear of losing our lives to terrorism, gangsterism and other forms of violence.¹ Recognizing the imminent threats posed by conflicts and wars, civil society and governments across the world have been working together with a clear purpose, to end all wars and replace a culture of violence with a culture of peace.²

The people of Africa are working towards a peaceful Africa, as envisaged by the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Silencing the Guns 2020, and the people of South Africa have been at the forefront of achieving these goals.

The celebration of the centenary of Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisiulu provides a unique opportunity for the people around the world to reflect on their lives and promote their legacy. As Nelson Mandela stated, "It is in our hands to make the world a better place. We recognize that this duty has fallen upon our generation, and we take up the duty to be the peace messengers for Africa and the rest of world." ³

In order to achieve the goal of a peaceful and conflict-free Africa, a legal framework must be developed and a generation of active citizens raised up that will support the necessary preconditions for a peaceful and conflict-free continent.⁴

¹ *The Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW)*. ² *Ibid.* ³ *Mandela Rhodes Foundation, Living the legacy.*

⁴ *Executive Summary of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War in the African Context.*

The DPCW is an international legal instrument which not only crystallizes existing international legal norms into one concise document, but also promotes the aspirations of the Agenda 2063, supporting its vision for a peaceful and gun-free Africa.⁵

In line with South Africa's National Development Plan 2030, by unleashing the energies of South Africa's citizens and building their capabilities, we can enhance the capability of the state and its leaders to work together to solve complex problems.⁶ South Africa belongs to its people, and the bright future of our country is our collective future, making it our collective responsibility.⁷

The government has called on all South Africans and the international community to join in the centenary celebrations in their workplaces, schools, religious institutions and civic organizations. As we reflect on the immense contributions of the icons that laid the foundations of our democracy, we will build on the legacy they left for us.

Together as people who share this earth, we must remain active to protect what is right and just for humanity. The people of South Africa and Africa will work together to accomplish our common purpose – peace and cessation of war.

LOGISTICS

The summit is scheduled to take place on the 13th and 14th of August 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa

⁵ Ibid. ⁶ NPC National Development Plan Vision 2030. ⁷ Ibid.

In Partnership with:

