

YAMOUSSOUKRO DECLARATION FOR PEACE

Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 5 December 1997

The International Governing Council of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation,

Having met on 2 December 1997 at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research in Yamoussoukro, for its first session, and having participated in the international symposium on the theme 'Conflict resolution: New Prevention Approaches and Strategies' held on 3 and 4 December at Yamoussoukro,

Considering that peace is an inalienable human right and an inalienable right of all peoples,

Considering that freedom, justice, respect for human rights and democracy are inseparable from peace and are its surest foundations,

Considering the substantial number of conflicts and trouble spots worldwide, particularly in Africa,

Considering that classic diplomatic methods of conflict prevention or resolution would not suffice to guarantee peace,

Considering the declaration of January 1997 by the Director-General of UNESCO on 'The Human Right to Peace' as a major contribution to the promotion of a culture of peace whose introduction into the education system remains a moral requirement,

Considering that the recourse to war represents a failure of thought and reason, and an admission of powerlessness,

Considering that dialogue and persuasion, the culture of peace, the impartiality of the state, and the fair and equitable distribution of national resources are a defence against conflicts,

Considering that the Foundation's mission is based upon these values,

Requests the creation of observation networks or national and subregional warning structures for conflict prevention;

Proposes, in international relations, recourse, insofar as is possible, to the moral strength of dialogue and to a spirit of reconciliation, rather than to political and economic sanctions, in order to achieve peace and consensus;

Thanks and congratulates President Henri Konan Bédié, who enabled the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation to open its doors and to undertake

the noble mission of peace research which had been assigned to it by his illustrious predecessor;