

Global Peace Leadership Summit: Preliminary Abstracts

The African Diaspora Foundation and The Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (in association with United States International (Indochina) Mission, Youth for Human Rights International, the African Marketplace & Cultural Faire, the African Union, and the Pan African Studies Program at California State University at Sacramento) issued a call for papers (via Itibari M. Zulu and Adewale Aderemi) January 2007 for a Global Peace Leadership Summit to be held October 3-7, 2007 in Los Angeles, California (advertised through the African Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania, H-Africa Discussion Network, H-Afro-Am Discussion Network...) under the theme Peace Leadership: Africa and Her Diaspora (with the sub-themes of: AU and New Leadership: Myth or Reality, How the African Diaspora Can Assist Africa, Peace and Nonviolence: An African Solution, War and Genocide in Africa: Problem and Challenge, Building a Youth Movement: Educating the Next Level of Leadership, Economic and Political Unity in Africa: A Plan of Action for Development, HIV-AIDS: The Dual Enemy of Africa, and The Image of Africa: Who Will Correct a Bad Image?) to examine the question of leadership in Africa and the African Diaspora in relationship to peace education, nonviolence and sustainable development.

The response to this call was very intense; hence thirty-two abstracts [the majority from Nigeria] were submitted by April 30, 2007. Below is a list of twenty-eight abstracts indicating the title of the paper, the author, his/her affiliation, the location of the author, and a JPAS edited abstract. The papers herein have not officially been accepted by the conference organizers or JPAS, therefore they operate as advanced public information regarding themes within the conference that particularly address the African phenomena, deemed of special interest to JPAS readers.

Should you desire more information on the conference, visit www.theadf.com, or contact Mr. Agrippa O. Ezozo at aezozo@sbcglobal.net.

A Federalist Agenda for the African Union: Problems and Prospects by Ekanade Olumide (Department of History, Babcock University, Ogun State, Nigeria).

This paper analyses the global environment within which the A.U operates, its multi faceted programs and the internal dynamics of the organization, and argues that the culture of conceptualizing theories and programs rather than actual implementation of resolutions has been the bane of the African Union. Hence, the central intent of this paper is to identify road blocks to the attainment of the lofty ideals of the Union and provide a road map with which to overcome these challenges.

Africa's Indebtedness: Role for the Diaspora by Michael S. Avosetinyen (Department of Political Science, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Otto-Ijanikin, Festac Town, Lagos, Nigeria).

An examination of Africa's debt crisis, carefully delineating the dastardly effects of debts servicing on African economies and peoples; addresses a proper lexicon for Africa's debt resolution forgiveness or relief, and articulates a precise role for the Diaspora in the centrality of Africa's developmental quest.

African Union and the Challenges of New Leadership in Africa by Felix C. Asogwa (Department of Political Science, Enugu State University of Science & Technology, Enugu, Nigeria).

This study explores the role of the African Union (AU) in charting a new leadership initiative, and argues that the AU has not provided the necessary efficient and effective leadership for substantially resolving the monumental problems of Africa, and concludes by making recommendations for transforming the AU so that it can incorporate civil society organizations as non-state actors in its activities (and especially African Diaspora groups and associations).

The African Union, Pan-Africanism and the Challenge of a New African Identity by Narcisse Romuald Onah Mvono (National Permanent Secretary of the Federation of Cameroonian Civil Society Organizations, Yaoundé, Cameroon).

This paper discusses the formation of a supra national state in the creation of a Pan African Union or the United States of Africa, and how to bring African ownership into the project to enhance a new African identity.

African Soccer Players in the Diaspora and Sustainable Development in Africa: The Role of Africans in the Diaspora in Africa's Sustainable Development by Kunle Ajayi (Department of Political Science, University of Ado-Ekiti, PMB 5363, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria).

The article examines the dynamics and political economy of ethnocentric racism in European football leagues. Utilizing structured and unstructured field survey methods for primary data collection, the concerns of the study: examine the dynamic linkage(s) between economic globalization and racial-capitalist exploitation of African footballers in Europe; investigate the driving force and contingencies of the talent-migration of African soccer stars to Europe; explore the systemic and societal racial prejudices, stereotypes and scornful stigmatization that African footballers are subjected in Europe and the implications on their career performance and family; and last, question the political economy of engaging African Diaspora footballers for European Leagues and the implications for sustainable socio-economic development in Africa.

The African Youth, Arms Proliferation, and the Challenges of Sustainable Socio-Political and Economic Development by Paul-Sewa Thovoethin (Department of Political Science, Lagos State University, Ojo-Lagos, Nigeria).

This study examines the degree of arms proliferation in Africa in comparative terms with other developing continents; the causes of African youth involvement in arm struggle, and the effects of civil unrest, political violence and ethnic revolt on the economic growth of Africa.

Babies' Daddies: Can the Masai Community Help Heal the Wrongs of Peacekeeper Fathers? by Teresa A. Booker (Department of African-American Studies, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York, New York).

In 2000, one hundred Masai and Samburu women took their children to Nairobi and reported their rapes by British soldiers to the office of the British High Commission (by August 2003, the crowd had grown to 800 women who claimed they, too, had been raped). The survivors claim that even though they reported the soldiers' behavior to the Kenyan and British authorities, the atrocities were allowed to continue for 36 years (until 2001) and did not stop until the group decided to seek legal action in the British courts. In this paper, the authors argue that, barring a favorable decision by either British courts or the International Court of Justice, the Masai customary court (the traditional mechanism of peace and reconciliation), may be the only process through which the rape victims will be able to receive any form of restorative justice. Hence, she show how the healing of victims could occur if the Masai community decided to reach out to the victims, rather than ostracizing them.

Brain Drain or Brain Gain?: The African Diaspora and Africa's Sustainable Development by Michael Olujimi Kehinde (Department of Political Science, Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria).

This work asks how does Africa benefit from the depletion of its skilled workers in the Diaspora, and includes an inquiry into how Africa can benefit from the apparent brain drain loss by transforming the drain into gain which would ultimately engender sustainable development and eventually halt the trend prime intellectual emigration.

The Body as a Tool: Negotiating the New Global Order by Female Youth in Nigeria by Mfon Umoren Ekpootu (Department of History/Diplomatic Relations, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria).

This contribution explores the engagement of Nigerian female youth in the sex industry as part of a repertoire in dealing with deprivation and marginalization that looks at how their choices impact their economic status and potential for development, and attempts by the government to incorporate youth in proactive relationships.

Building a Youth Movement for Educating the Next Level of Leaders: The Role of the African Diaspora by Odoziobodo Severus Ifeanyi (Department of Political Science, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu, Nigeria).

This paper explores how leadership in Africa can be tackled through intervention with youth; and the role of the African Diaspora in the formation and establishment of an African youth movement based on the regular hosting of leadership training conferences and workshops.

Charting a New Socio-Political and Economic Future for Africa: The African Youth Charter as a Catalyst by Osita Nnamani Ogbu (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Anambra State University, Uli, Nigeria).

This work critically examines the provisions of the African Union youth charter and postulates that its faithful implementation will chart a new socio-political and economic future for Africa.

Children Abroad: Exploring the Role of Remittance in Africa's Development by Rasheed Olaniyi (Department of History, University of Ibadan, Nigeria).

A critical analysis of the dimension of remittances in the outlook for maintaining global peace and sustainable development in Africa based on the premise that remittances have been a blind spot on the literature of economic development and peace-building processes. Hence, remittances raise the level of national savings and access to foreign exchange and lift communities out of poverty. In this context, there is paradigm shift by African governments with their Diasporas and thus the emergence of "remittance communities" creates symbolic relationships between source and destination countries. And given that remittances now outstrip foreign aid, foreign direct investment and loans in Africa, this works ask in what ways can international migration foster sustainable development in Africa, and what challenges does globalization pose to labor migration and remittances in Africa?

Civil Military Relations: A Must Lesson for African Leaders by [student] Francis Bainomugisha (International Relations and Diplomacy Studies: Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University, Uganda)

The major question in this work to ask why leaders who fought against poor leadership in the past, continued to deliver the same or sometimes the worst leadership when they gain power, and why the victims this poor leadership in Diaspora have done so little to formulate a corrective agenda. Thus the author calls for improved civil and military relations to introduce a society of peace and good leadership in Africa.

Constraints and Strategies for the Management of Conflicts in Africa: A Challenge to Sustainable Development by Idowu Johnson (Department of Political Science, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria).

This article provides an analysis of the nature, causes and consequences of conflict in Africa and examines constraints to the management, suggests strategies to employ the management of conflicts, and concludes that for any meaningful peace and sustainable development to be attained in Africa, nation-building, justice and good governance should at center of continental politics and international relations.

From Organization of African Unity to African Union: The Challenges for Africa's Premier Intergovernmental Organization by Shambhavi V. Murthy Gopalkrishna (Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lagos, Nigeria).

This paper is based primary and secondary sources that attempt to appraise new African efforts at revamping continental integration, and discuss specific challenges of the African continent, which might impede the realization of the goals of integration with some recommendations.

The Impact of the AU in Peace Keeping: A Case Study of the Dafur Crisis by Oloruntele Amos (Dialogue for Governance Network, Lagos, Nigeria).

This work examines the role of the African Union (AU) in peace keeping operatives in Africa focused on the Dafur crisis, asking whether or not the AU has lived up to its expectations via a comparative analysis of peace keeping efforts initiated by the OAU and the new AU.

Migration and the Youth in Africa's Socio-Political and Economic Future by Surajudeen Oladosu Mudasiru (Department of Political Science Faculty of Social Sciences, Lagos State University, Ojo Lagos, Nigeria).

In the context of youth and migrations, this papers ask and answers: how can youth be encouraged to contribute to the socio-political and economic future of Africa, in what ways can the African Diaspora contribute to the socio-political and economic future of Africa, and what implications does youth migration have on the socio-political and economic future of Africa?

Neo-liberalism, NEPAD, and Africa by Ponnle Solomon Lawson (Department of General Studies, Federal Polytechnic, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria).

This paper explains and critiques the impact of neo-liberalism in Africa (south of the Sahara), arguing that it has not solved the problems of Africa, and thus the author question the future of neo-liberalism, since the emergence of NEPAD.

The Politics of Economic Governance in Nigeria: The Civil Society Engagement of the NEEDS Initiative by Seteolu Bamidele Folabi (Department of Political Science, University of Lagos, Nigeria).

This study examines the nature of the civil society engagement of economic policy by isolating civil society groups based on content analysis of relevant literature and an unstructured interview with key informants in the civil society. Second, the paper notes the participatory nature of economic governance in Nigeria with emphasis, and suggests the democratization of the economic decision-making process to fostering the public ownership of economic space and policy through debate, consultation and dialogue. And last, it argues for increasing the localization of economic policies to reflect the specific historicity of a state to allow for meaningful input by community organizations, working people, everyday people, artisans and women groups.

The Potential Role of the African Diaspora in African Peace Initiatives by [masters candidate] Y. Obenewa Amponsah (International Relations, University of the Witwatersrand, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa)

In seeking to address protracted conflicts in Africa, African nations must draw upon the many, but often unrecognized such as the African Diaspora. Hence, by including the Diaspora in the peace processes (conflict resolution), they can contribute substantially to the long-term growth and development of Africa. Therefore, this paper explores the importance of the international community in peace efforts and the factors which motivate and prohibit such action; and also highlights the various constituencies that comprise the global community.

Regional Force and Peace Building in Africa: The Case of Liberia by Jerry E. Uhuo (National Secretariat of Nigeria Legislature Office of the Clerk to the National Assembly, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria).

This work examines role that regional organisations play in resolving conflicts in Africa with emphasis on the formation of the Economic Community of West Africa Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to tackle the political crisis in Liberia. Second, assess the contribution or positive impacts that ECOMOG made on the political and democratic development in Liberia, and thirdly, examines the application of political asylum as a new concept in peace building and its implications in future peace initiatives in Africa.

Repositioning the Concept of African Standby Force: How Feasible for Conflict Resolution in Africa? by Ayinla Rafiu Olanrewaju Aremu (Department of Political Studies, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa).

This paper seek to: cover the repositioning of the African Standby Force (ASF) concept as regards to its feasibility to quell or minimize crisis in Africa; examine the funding mechanism of ASF; advance the argument of impeding problems that may confront the ASF such as the role played by the African governments in supporting troops contributions and meeting budget quotas, and call for the total commitment by contributing member states to a particular peace keeping and building mechanism as a way to peace and harmonious co-existence in Africa.

Strengthening NEPAD as a Strategy for Sustainable Development in Africa: The Role of the African Diaspora by Shiola Abiola and S.I. Odoziobodo (Department of Political Science, Enugu State University of Science & Technology, Enugu, Nigeria).

This article examines how sustainable development can be attained in Africa and notes that the New Partnership for Africa's Development is a plan of action for the achievement of this goal. However, the paper also notes that some Africans are good at policy formulation, but grossly deficient at policy implementation. Hence, the paper reports that the African Diaspora has an enormous role to play in Africa should the noble objectives of NEPAD be realized.

Their Programs, Our Programs: PRSP in Africa, Whose Strategy? by Maryam Omolara Quadri (Department of Political Science, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria).

This paper examines the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) approach in some African countries by interrogating the application of its principles and methods, and concludes that PRSP has failed to alleviate poverty and has not fostered sustainable development.

Towards Africa's Political and Economic Development: Challenges and Options for the Neo-partnership for Africa's Development by S. Bonu Solomon (Department of Political Science & Public Administration, Lagos State University, Nigeria).

This work holds that NEPAD is not the first vibrant African development initiative, however Africa's crisis have remained unabated not because the paradigm are faulty or reproachable, but because the managers of African states have failed to properly negotiate the implementation of their initiatives. Therefore, this work takes a look at the exogenous factors working against economic development of Africa.

Towards Improving Inter-creed Relations in Nigeria: Lessons from Ekiti State, Nigeria by Azeez Olusola Olaniyan (Department of Political Science University of Ado Ekiti, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria).

This contribution sets out to explain how leading religious leaders are able to meet inter-creed challenges in Nigeria, and propose that the Ekiti strategy, if used by all multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies, could help solve some of the inter-religious crises in contemporary Africa.

The Youth in Africa's Socio-Political and Economic Future by Sylvester Enoghase Head of Research, Independent Newspapers Limited-Daily Independent, Ogba-Lagos, Nigeria).

This paper argues that while greater reflection, knowledge and analysis are required to better understand the young people, their vulnerability, strengths, aspirations and prospects for the future as well as the broad conditions that shape their roles in society should be of serious concern. Against this backdrop, this paper discusses the challenges of creating an African youth awareness of local, national or global responses to their socio-political and economic future. And last, this paper seeks to unravel a number of social cohesion and moral regeneration issues about redefining intergenerational relationships.

Youth Restiveness in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria: Implications for Agricultural Production and Rural Livelihood by G. M. Adebo and I. B. Oluwatayo (Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Services, University of Ado-Ekiti, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria).

Youth restiveness has become an issue of urgent public concern in Nigeria because of its devastating effect on the rural population. This study examines youth restiveness and its implications on agricultural production and rural livelihood in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria based on primary data collected from a random sample of 320 households.