



UNION - DISCIPLINE - TRAVAIL

CÔTE D'IVOIRE AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (2018-2019): STRONG VALUES AND EXPERIENCES TO SHARE



MEMORANDUM

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE AT THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL (2018-2019) :
STRONG VALUES AND EXPERIENCES TO SHARE**



The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire gained independence on August 7th, 1960, and joined the United Nations Organization (UNO) on September 20th of the same year. In recognition of its political philosophy based on peace and dialogue, Côte d'Ivoire was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council from 1964 to 1965, and was thus granted a chance to contribute to peacebuilding in the world. Côte d'Ivoire was elected again for a seat at the United Nations Security Council from 1990 to 1991 when the world was witnessing major political, social and economic changes. Later on in 1994 Côte d'Ivoire chaired the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Twenty-five years later, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire aspires again to a seat at the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member over the period 2018 - 2019.

Promoted by H.E.M. Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the candidacy of Côte d'Ivoire has been endorsed by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS on June 4th, 2016 in Dakar. Later on, it was equally endorsed by the 27th Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government held in Kigali, Rwanda, from July 16th to 18th, 2016.

Henceforth, Côte d'Ivoire is the choice of the African Continent for the seat dedicated to West Africa.

On the basic ground of peace and dialogue as core values for which President Alassane OUATTARA has always advocated, Côte d'Ivoire means to take most significant part in the quest for solutions to the challenges the world is now facing by contributing to making a better, much fair, humane, much secure and peaceful world.

Therefore, as candidate, Côte d'Ivoire means to share its philosophy, experiences and commitment to peace and security in the world.



Current Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres, and President Alassane OUATTARA, during his visit to Côte d'Ivoire as High Commissioner of the United Nations for Refugees on February 24th, 2015.

I- A PHILOSOPHY OF DIALOGUE AND PEACE TO SHARE

The quest for peace through dialogue was the philosophy of the founding father of the Ivorian nation, late President Félix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. Peace through dialogue is one of the pillars of the foreign policy of Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, the late President used to affirm that "Dialogue is the strong man's weapon".

The longstanding commitment for peace, which President Alassane OUATTARA strongly advocates for, granted Côte d'Ivoire with gratitude from the international community through the establishment by the UNESCO of the Félix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY Peace Prize that is yearly awarded to women, men and Institutes that significantly contribute to peace worldwide.

Mister Nelson Mandela and Mister Frederik De Klerk who were the first two winners in 1991 also won the Nobel Peace Prize one year later.

In addition to the Félix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY Peace Prize, we should mention the creation of the Félix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY Foundation for Peace Research, and the UNESCO Chair for the culture of peace at the Félix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY University, Abidjan. We should also mention

the decision by the UNESCO and the African Union (AU) to establish a peace research and promotion center in Yamoussoukro in order to strengthen and consolidate the culture of tolerance and dialogue in Côte d'Ivoire and in the world.

That culture of dialogue and tolerance targets the following ideal: achieving development through peace.

Under the leadership of President Alassane OUATTARA, Côte d'Ivoire at the United Nations Security Council intends to share that culture of dialogue and peace with the world that now witnesses crises, mainly because of the lack of communication between peoples.

Côte d'Ivoire also works towards the strengthening of peace and cooperation within the ECOWAS that the country chaired several times. Indeed, Côte d'Ivoire contributed a lot in conflict resolution, mainly in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In 2012 and 2013, the ECOWAS sub-region experienced a tense security environment. As chair country and thanks to President Alassane OUATTARA's leadership, Côte d'Ivoire

I- A PHILOSOPHY OF DIALOGUE AND PEACE TO SHARE

played a key role in raising international concern against terrorist groups in Mali, and for the quest for an inclusive political solution to the crisis that threatened the territorial integrity and the institutions of that country.

At the same time, Côte d'Ivoire also worked towards peace and constitutional order restoration in Guinea-Bissau and towards finalizing the sub-regional strategy for the fight against maritime piracy and armed attacks in the Gulf of Guinea.

Côte d'Ivoire also chaired the African Union Peace and Security Council from 2011 to 2013.

On the margins of the 68th United Nations General Assembly held in September 2013 in New York, the President of Côte d'Ivoire chaired the African Union Peace and Security Council Summit that was dedicated to the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations in matters of peace and security, and to crises management all over the African continent.

▶ EXPERIENCES
TO SHARE



Late Félix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY
First President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire



Alassane OUATTARA
President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

II- EXPERIENCES TO SHARE

1- Solid achievements at the national level.

a) National reconciliation, war victims compensation and the return of refugees.

The socio-political crisis affected the social harmony that has long been the foundation of the country's stability. On this ground, the Government established a Reconciliation, Truth and Dialogue Commission (CDVR) that helped start the national reconciliation process. The achievements of this Commission were reinforced by the creation of the National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims (CONARIV) of the crisis experienced by the country. At the humanitarian level, the Ivorian Government organized the return of thousands of Ivorian refugees from Ghana and Liberia, thanks to the Refugees and Stateless Persons Assistance and Support Service (SAARA), and the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

b) A successful Demobilization, Disarmament and Reinsertion process of ex-combatants (DDR) and a successful Security Sector Reform

To prevent any conflict resurgence, the Government established the ex-combatants Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion Authority (ADDR), and adopted a national strategy for the Security Sector Reform (RSS). Thus, in synergy with the United Nations Operation to Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), ADDR achieved results between 2012 and 2015 that were unanimously acclaimed by the international community and presented as an example all over the world. With 70,000 ex-combatants including 6,105 females disarmed and reinserted, the Government achieved its objective in terms of quantity. This represents a disarmament and demobilization rate of 92%. In addition, 43,510 arms of various kinds were collected, including 14,121 illicit small arms and light weapons.



Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion (DDR) of ex-Combatants – Security Sector Reform (SRR).

The Basilica of Our Lady of Peace.



A view of Plateau, the business center of the economic capital city of Abidjan.



II- EXPERIENCES TO SHARE

The implementation of the RSS in close cooperation with the UNOCI, UNDP and other development partners helped restore institutional, logistic and operational capacities of a much more republican and peace-building-oriented defence and security forces.

Therefrom, the national safety index improved from 3.8 in 2012 to 1.1 in January 2016.

c) A new constitution to strengthen democracy and the rule of law

Côte d'Ivoire adopted a new constitution that aims at strengthening social harmony and ensuring sustainable peace and stability.

The new constitution reaffirms the commitment of Côte d'Ivoire to the universal values of compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms, and decisively prohibits any kind of race, gender, religion and ethnic-based discrimination.

By addressing the issue of access to land ownership that generated social unrest during the last decades, the new constitution intends to prevent and contain inter-community conflicts resulting from the adverse effects of climate change.

On the overall, this new social contract

is a tool by which Côte d'Ivoire intends to achieve its great destiny of being "a model of promised hope to humanity", as predicted in its national anthem.

d) A multifaceted and perfect cooperation with the United Nations Organization

The period of crisis when Côte d'Ivoire welcome UN peacekeeping force makes a rich source of lessons-learned for the country.

The outstanding success achieved by the UNOCI through cooperating with the Ivorian Authorities, the population and the United Nations Organization represents an exceptional experience to share.

Through the cooperation with the UNOCI, Côte d'Ivoire developed a highly successful ex-combatants Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion Program (DDR), undertook the Security Sector Reform (RSS), and implemented the Reconciliation, Social Harmony, Reconstruction and Peace Restoration program.

Based on the Ivorian President's ambition to build continuous cooperation with the United Nations system, Côte d'Ivoire is convinced that its successful cooperation experience with the UNOCI will contribute fundamentally to improve peacekeeping operations in the world.

II- EXPERIENCES TO SHARE

2- Contribution to peace, security and development

a) Within the ECOWAS area

Convinced that sustainable security and development in Côte d'Ivoire are closely linked to the security conditions throughout the ECOWAS, Côte d'Ivoire as the chair State of this organization worked for the implementation of community strategies for conflicts prevention and human security reinforcement. These include :

- Chapter IV of the 1999 ECOWAS Protocol determining the framework for the creation of a sub-regional peace and security observation system;
- The Strategic Framework for conflicts prevention and management that generated the early warning system in the member States;

- The ECOWAS Convention on illicit small arms and light weapons for fighting against illicit trade in arms;
- The ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy, which generated the creation of the West African Regional Center for Maritime Security (CRESMAO).

b) At the continental level

At the continental level, Côte d'Ivoire endorses and implements all the initiatives by the African Union aiming to reinforce security and the fight against terrorism. These include:

- African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA),
- the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS),
- the Nouakchott Process.

▶ COMMITMENT TO
INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY



MINUSCA Ivorian blue helmet contingents receive United nations Medal.



Ivorian refugees coming back from Ghana.

III- COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

1- Contribution to peacekeeping operations

Since Côte d'Ivoire gained access to the international arena, it played a discreet but efficient role in conflicts prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Based on the underpinning values of peace and dialogue as always advocated for by the President of the Republic, Côte d'Ivoire will continuously support the peace-preserving efforts of the Security Council.

In addition, Côte d'Ivoire always takes part in peacekeeping operations by supplying civilian and military contingents, including:

- UNMCAR (The United Nations Mission to the Central African Republic, 1998-2000);

- MINUSTHA (the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, 2005-2015)

- MINUSCAT (the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad, 2007-2010).

- UNAMID (the United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 2012-2014);

- MONUSCO (United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2012-2015)

- MINUSMA (the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, 2013-2015);

- UNMISMA (The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, since July 2016).

Côte d'Ivoire intends to keep its commitment to peace by contributing to the implementation of decisions by the United Nations Security Council.

Based on the strong commitment of the Ivorian President to security, peace and development, Côte d'Ivoire is willing to supply the United Nations with more contingents, to reaffirm its reputation of troop supplier.



The Felix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY Peace Prize for the research of Peace.



Frederik W. De Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the first winners of the Felix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY Peace Prize for the research of Peace.

III- COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

2- Human rights protection and promotion and the fight against impunity

The new constitution provides protection and promotion of human rights for which an act created the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the “Paris Principles”.

At the international level, Côte d’Ivoire is a Party to numerous conventions on Human Rights and legal matters, such as :

- The convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide;
- The United Nations convention on statelessness;
- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- The International Justice Court;
- The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
- The convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

- The convention on the rights of the child, mainly the subsequent protocols on trafficking and worst forms of child labor.

As a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva for two consecutive terms, our country introduced the teaching of human rights at primary school, in order to make children aware of the related values at early age.

Concerning statelessness, Côte d’Ivoire took efficient actions through the Refugees and Stateless Persons Assistance and Support Service, with the assistance of the United Nations, the International Migrations Organization (OMI) and the personal commitment and leadership of President Alassane OUATTARA, at the national and regional levels. Those actions were welcomed by many countries and International Organizations, including the European Union.

3- The fight against terrorism

The issue of terrorism being a key concern, Côte d’Ivoire will plead for the strengthening of the sub-regional cooperation in the fight against that plague.

IV- THE PRIORITIES OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE DURING ITS MANDATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

If elected, Côte d'Ivoire pledges to support and take initiatives relating to international peace and security, mainly in the following fields :

- The fight against terrorism and maritime piracy;
- The impact of global warming on the international peace and security;
- International support to Demobilization, Disarmament and Reinsertion (DDR) process, and to the Security Sector Reform (RSS) in countries recovering from crisis;
- The promotion of early warning and quick response mechanisms;

- The fight against the small arms and light weapons proliferation and trafficking.

Convinced of its strong values and experiences to share and of its ambitions for a justice and peace-loving world with a sustainable development policy, Côte d'Ivoire here presents its candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the period of 2018-2019.

Côte d'Ivoire would like to rely on the unanimous vote of all the member States of the United Nations Organization for the achievement of a new world of peace, prosperity and security for all.





President Alassane Ouattara at the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.



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