



# LET THE GUNS BE SILENCED AND THE DRUMS ROLL

## Concept Document

**APRIL 2020**



## AGENDA 2063

- Agenda 2063 of the African Union lists 15 flagship projects as the key programmes and initiatives to accelerate Africa's economic growth and development as well as to promote a common African identity through the celebration of our history and our vibrant culture. One of these flagship projects is “**Silencing the Guns**”. In his acceptance speech as the Chair of the African Union (AU) on February 09th President Cyril Ramaphosa expressly stated his commitment to make a “contribution to promote peace and security in our collective effort to “Silence the Guns”, emphasising the important agency of the “AU Peace and Security Council, the AU Commission and the collective membership” to “focus our efforts on conflict resolution across the African continent, especially those experiencing protracted conflicts”. Apart from peace, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is another central theme of the AU's Agenda 2063. The fourth industrial revolution (4IR) and the Internet of Things (IoT) find expression in four of the 15 flagship projects of the AU, namely, the Pan-Africa E-Network, an African Virtual and E-University, Cyber Security and Encyclopedia Africana. The confluence of these five flagship projects is the need to use technology to promote the agenda of the AU, its strategic priorities and how all Africans can get involved to create the “Africa We Want”.

## AGENDA 2063 *cont...*



- In highlighting collectivism in his speech President Ramaphosa was stressing this important role of the broader African humanity, from private to public sector organisations, non-profit community, faith-based structures and any other civil society formation in making Africa a peaceful continent. This is the reason ZA Central Registry NPC (ZACR) and Registry Africa (RA) hereby propose to lead a joint initiative for the broader African community to participate in a gesture of unity for peace in the year of South Africa's Chairship of the AU. Technology is a lever that can be used to rally mass participation in such an initiative. ZACR has already created the online infrastructure to upload the performances; and intends to approach Facebook or similar social media platforms to become a partner in popularizing and streaming the Africa Day celebration. To foster pan-African unity, documentation shall be translated into most of the official languages of the AU. The occasion shall also be used to reiterate the call for Africans to unite behind the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19. As a result, all events organised to mark Africa Day shall be conducted in accordance with applicable COVID-19 restrictions in respective countries.

## **ZA Central Registry (ZACR) and Registry Africa (RA) - contribution to Agenda 2063 and the fight against the spread of COVID-19**



- As the custodian of different .ZA second level domains, such as co.za, net.za, org.za and web.za as well as .africa, ZACR is the curator of well over 1,000,000 domain names. Its principal responsibility is to improve the uptake of the domain name registrations under its management – including those in the .africa domain. ZACR has used its vantage position to promote pan-African pride and identity by mobilising Africa’s online community to not only assume African domain names, but also to take part in innovative interventions. One of these was the January 2018 “Follow the Flag” campaign. This was a two-week long trek up Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The campaign supported the “Domaining the unDomained” to promote the one domain name for Africa; while linking up with the AU timetable, i.e. ensuring that the culmination of the trek coincided with the commencement of the annual 30th Annual AU Heads of State Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Now, with South Africa chairing the AU, the ZACR proposes a campaign to accelerate the promotion of African identity and heritage to advance the Silencing of the Guns – with the help of technology to unite Africans on the occasion of Africa Day (May 25th) to drum together at the same time to register their commitment to the clarion call to bring about peace and stability all over Africa – with the help of the AU Peace & Security Council to secure a minimum of 35 countries. Each country shall be expected to register its interest to participate online to help the organisers to track progress in the build-up to the Africa Day celebration and any subsequent or concurrent events to symbolize pan-African solidarity.

## **ZA Central Registry (ZACR) and Registry Africa (RA) - contribution to Agenda 2063 and the fight against the spread of COVID-19 *cont...***



- Nothing says “Africans are united behind the call to Silence the Guns and the fight against COVID-19” more poignantly than 55 countries drumming all at the same time, connected in a virtual world through technology to spread the message of peace – on Africa Day. Each country will perform the tune identified as being representative of the aspirations of the people of the region in a drumming session, performed (or played back) simultaneously on May 25<sup>th</sup>. These countries shall be organised around their respective five regions, namely, East, North, West, Central and Southern Africa, for ease of planning and coordination, although every song uploaded by all 55 states is welcome. The different tunes shall be uploaded to the web portal created and curated by ZACR. This silencingtheguns.africa web portal shall be created ahead of the Africa Day celebration to facilitated the sharing and curation of content to make proceedings on May 25<sup>th</sup> as seamless and free from glitches as possible. All content uploaded shall then be mastered to produce one unified song of peace and Pan-African solidarity.



## WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

- To unite all African people in a call for a drumming session for peace on May 25<sup>th</sup> to observe Africa Day.
- To add our voice to the fight against the spread of COVID-19.
- When all the people of Africa sing and beat the drum at the same time, nothing can stop their march to peace and triumph against any adversity.
- So, join us in the chorus of pan-African unity for action against war and against the spread of COVID-19.
- From wherever you are on the African continent, join us on Africa Day at noon (12:00), Central African Time, to beat the drum of your choice as we Silence the Guns.
- Songs to be performed ????

# WHERE?



- You can join us from wherever you are via live streaming, Facebook Live or any other place where you are able to join fellow Africans from your neighbourhood to drum for peace
- Register your participation or find out the nearest venue of our Africa Day drumming for peace event on [www.silencingtheguns.africa](http://www.silencingtheguns.africa)
- You may also follow us on social media: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn
  - Dakar, Senegal – West Africa
  - Casablanca, Morocco – North Africa
  - Djibouti City, Djibouti – East Africa
  - Cape Point/Drakensberg (Ukhahlamba)/Pretoria, South Africa – Southern Africa ???
  - Congo River/Kinshasa, DRC - Central Africa ???



## HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- Register your participation or find out the nearest venue of our Africa Day drumming for peace event on [www.silencingtheguns.africa](http://www.silencingtheguns.africa)
- Follow us on social media: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn.
- Organise your family, friends, colleagues, neighbours to join the drumming for peace at a venue of symbolic significance to the people of your country or region [or if you cannot congregate in groups due to COVID-19 restrictions, simply join the drumming online via the platforms and channels that will be announced]. Please watch our web page and social media for updates and other details.
- Become a sponsor – donate a drum, sound and recording equipment, streaming facilities, venue and other amenities for the people in your neighbourhood for the drumming on Africa Day, share the details of the event via your social media platforms, join the drumming to Silence the Guns and to beat COVID-19



## WHY?

- Silencing the Guns – one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 of the AU - advances peace; which holds the key to the prosperity of any country or region. Africa is home to some of the world's fastest growing economies, such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Rwanda. Without peace there will be no investment, no schooling, no business; no life at all. All the other priorities of the AU will not be realised, and sustainable growth will not happen, unless the Guns are Silenced.
- Now – the current Chair of the AU, H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, emphasized the Silencing the Guns in his inauguration speech in February 2020 [and COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of all people of the world, highlighting the need for human solidarity].
- Now - ZACR is responsible for the creation of one domain name for Africa – what better way to unite all Africans than to get them drumming for peace on Africa Day (May 25th) - the most important date in the history of the AU and the most symbolic occasion to mark pan-African solidarity!



## WHY? *cont...*

- Now - is an opportunity to recommit to the vision of a united and prosperous Africa on Africa Day.
- The drumming - for centuries, drums have been used to communicate. Africa is the home of the drum; the drum is widely considered to be the heartbeat of the continent. The drum remains a ubiquitous feature across different nationalities and forms of music. One could easily say that without the drum there is no music. Drums are varied, yet they are easier than other musical instruments to find, make and play – yet they are among the most potent.
- This gesture will demonstrate that peace is inherent in every African and encourage all Africans on the day to be themselves, express their uniqueness in African solidarity with others. Every African matters.

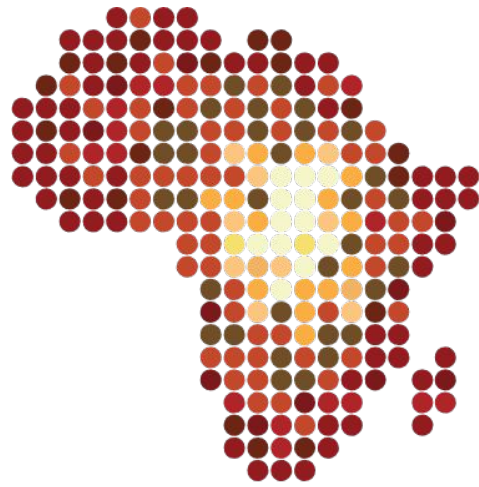
# WHEN?



**DAY:** Africa Day

**DATE:** May 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 (Monday)

**TIME:** 12h00 noon, Central African Time(CAT)



**.africa**



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