



RECOMMENDATIONS

ADOPTED BY THE

**15TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN
AFFAIRS**

YAOUNDE (CAMEROON), 14-16 DECEMBER 2016

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

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FIGHT AGAINST POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) IN AFRICA

(Recommendation 1)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. **Recalling** the provisions of Resolution 11 entitled “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)”, adopted by the General Assembly of the WVF held in Jordan from 18 to 22 November 2012;
2. **Also recalling** Recommendation n° 10 “For the Mental Health of Veterans in Africa”, adopted by the 14th meeting of the Standing Committee on African Affairs, held in Mozambique from 5 to 9 September 2008;
3. **Considering** the scale of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Africa due to wars and numerous armed conflicts that affect many human lives;
4. **Given that** the absence of psycho-traumatic establishments and pharmacies in the majority of African countries due to numerous failures which the continent has been subjected to;
5. **Worried** by the plight reserved to veterans and populations who are victims of the collateral effects of war and armed conflict;
6. **Launches** a rousing appeal to the World Health Organisation in order to put in place and develop strategies aiming to find solutions for the benefit of African victims of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder;
7. **Recommends** to the United Nations to challenge and pressure African states in the implementation of special establishments in order to care for patients suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

AWARENESS OF AFRICAN STATES ON THE PROMOTION AND CREATION OF SOCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE MENTORING OF VETERANS

(Recommendation 2)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. **Drawing from** Article 2, subparagraph “b” and “c” of the WVF Constitution;
2. **Considering** all the sacrifices undertaken by veterans around the world, notably in Africa;

3. **Also considering** the implication of Veterans in the quest for international Peace and Security;
4. **Recommends** to the WVF to call upon the United Nations, States and governments, notably those in Africa, in order to implement and promote Social Establishments for the Mentoring of Veterans.

PROMOTING AWARENESS AND VALORISATION OF THE STATUS OF AFRICAN VETERANS AND FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

(Recommendation 3)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. **Recalling** the aim 2a of the World Veterans Federation “to defend the spiritual and material interests of veterans and victims of war and their families by all available legal means”;
2. **Also recalling** the aim 2c of the WVF “to promote the full reintegration of veterans and victims of war in their respective communities by campaigning for the provision of appropriate rehabilitation and other relevant legislation and actions to overcome the physical and psycho-social consequences of armed conflict”;
3. **Referring** to the dispositions of Recommendation 11 entitled: “For the Wellbeing of Veterans in Africa” adopted by the Standing Committee on African Affairs during its 14th Session, held in Maputo (Mozambique) 5 – 9 September 2008;
4. **Stating** that despite the efforts and the initiatives taken by the Governments of African countries to improve the material, social, medical and moral conditions of veterans and victims of war, it is communally accepted that veterans and victims of war have not fully benefitted in these respects, nor have they been given the recognition and respect due to them;
5. **Considering** the precarious financial situation of the African veteran, worsened by a state of health that has been weakened by advancing years;
6. **Noting** with concern that many African veterans, due to advanced ages and fragile states of health, are finding themselves incapable of making themselves heard and of defending their rights, and risk being subjugated to a state of negligence and, eventually, being forgotten;
7. **Strongly Urges** that the Member Institutions and Associations of the SCAA call upon their respective Governments to launch a sustained campaign with the view to:

- Rehabilitate the image of the beleaguered veterans and bring them justice by emphasising their important role in the history of their country and in the fight for the defence of their universal and sacred values;
- Allow the most qualified amongst the veterans to give value to their diverse skills and rich experiences, and to facilitate their integration in civil life, and to favour their contribution to the durable development of their country;
- Regularly update the legislative and regulatory wording governing African veterans so that they consistently address and reflect the specific needs and expectations of veterans.
- Re-examine the budgets at regular intervals in order to progressively improve the benefits and socio-economic services granted to veterans in line with rising living costs.

PRESERVATION OF SHARED HISTORICAL MEMORY BETWEEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

(Recommendation 4)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. **Recalling** the aim 2c of the WVF “to promote the full reintegration of veterans and victims of war in their respective communities by campaigning for the provision of appropriate rehabilitation and other relevant legislation and actions to overcome the physical and psycho-social consequences of armed conflict”;
2. **Also recalling** the dispositions of Resolution 12 entitled: “Maintain and Pass on Shared Memory in Africa”, adopted by the Standing Committee on African Affairs (SCAA) during its 14th Session held in Maputo (Mozambique) 5 – 9 September 2008;
3. **Also recalling** the dispositions of Resolution 26 entitled: “History: Vector of Reconciliation and Cooperation”, adopted by the 26th General Assembly of the WVF, held in Copenhagen (Denmark) 19 – 23 October 2009;
4. **Considering** that shared Historical Memory in Africa, relative to the events that have marked the national struggle led by African countries to regain their independence and national sovereignty and to defend their territorial integrity and the noble universal and national values;

5. **Given that** Historical Memory and communal History in African countries constitutes one of the fundamental components of the identity and the civilizational and humanitarian patrimony of Africa;

6. **Underlining** the important role of this shared Historic Memory, rich in pertinent lessons and profound significance, in the consolidation of fraternal and friendly relations as well as in links of solidarity and co-operation between African countries;

7. **Noting** with worry that shared Historical Memory in Africa, faced by the phenomenon of globalisation, is becoming further threatened by the harmful effects of historical oversight and meekness;

8. **Urges** the Member Associations of the SCAA to redouble their efforts and initiatives, in coordination and collaboration with the competent authorities in their respective countries,

- in order to valorise and capitalise the accumulative fund of Africa's Shared Memory;
- to invest in the excellent and noble values of their citizens, so as to transform their ranks to act as catalysts to strengthen their determination to face together the various challenges to construct a peaceful, prosperous and promising future for all.

MODERNISATION AND RENOVATION OF THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

(Recommendation 5)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. **Recalling** Recommendation 1 entitled "Winning the Bet of the Human Factor" adopted by the 13th meeting of the Standing Committee on African Affairs held on 14-16 July 2007 in Accra (Ghana);

2. **Given that** investment in human resources, which plays a fundamental role in the development and progress of nations remains ignored in many national development programmes in Africa;

3. **Underlines** the fact that a lack of investment in human resources engenders the mass departure of an elite of African expertise to the West to carry out careers in prestigious scientific research centres, which constitutes a loss for the African continent;

4. **Notes** with concern that African experts, discouraged by the absence of a favourable and suitable climate for scientific research, choose voluntary exile, creating a Diaspora that puts its expertise and know-how at the disposition of the host countries;

5. Invites African countries to take note of the risk caused by the departure of African experts and to adopt a strategy to encourage African scholars to return to their countries of origin in order to transfer their knowledge for the resolution of problems that concern their countries, and to ensure that African researchers are well paid and included in political, economic and cultural decision making;

6. Incites African countries to raise this strategic question with developed countries and encourage them to:

- a) Reconsider the impact of the departure of African intelligence on the economy of African states
- b) Establish bilateral and multilateral conventions to compensate African countries severely affected by this issue.
- c) Put structures in place in African countries to accommodate African experts who wish to return to their countries of origin,

**NECESSITY FOR A FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND THE OTHER STANDING
COMMITTEES OF THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION**

(Recommendation 6)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. Recalling the provisions of Recommendation 5 entitled: “Cooperation with other WVF Standing Committees” adopted by the Standing Committee on African Affairs at the 9th Session in Accra (Ghana) 16 - 20 July 1996;

2. Also recalling the noble objectives of the World Veterans Federation aiming to:

- Develop amicable relations between Organizations, both national and international, that are vested with the business and affairs of Veterans and Victims of War; and;
- Encourage cooperation and partnership between National Institutions and Organizations;
- As well as the exchange of expertise and experiences in all areas of common interest;

3. Noting that the lack of cooperation or partnership between the Standing Committees of the World Veterans Federation reflects badly on the integrity of the overarching aim of the WVF to fully equip all its Member Associations so that they will be able to fulfill their respective objectives for the good and benefit of their Veterans and Victims of War;

4. **Conscious** of the importance of the North-South and South-South cooperation that would be solidified by a fruitful cooperation between the WVF Standing Committees;
5. **Knowing that** this kind of cooperation would serve to benefit Veterans and Victims of War of developing countries, notably those in Africa, particularly in the field of medical and sanitary assistance;
6. **Recommends** closer cooperation underlined by regular coordination and common action between the Standing Committee on African Affairs and the other WVF Standing Committees so as to achieve the goals and objectives of the WVF which aim to consolidate the Veteran Movement worldwide and to respond positively to the legitimate hopes and expectations of Veterans and Victims of War, notably those in Africa;
7. **Invites** the Members of the Executive Board to register this Recommendation (if adopted) into the Agenda of their next Executive Board Meeting so that the process of bringing about closer cooperation between all the WVF Standing Committee can get underway.

FOR THE RESPECT OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

(Recommendation 7)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. **Recalling** the provisions of Chapter 1, Article 2, point b) of the World Veterans Federation (WVF) Constitution, aiming to promote international peace and security by the application to the letter and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations (UN);
2. **Recalling** the provisions of Resolution 1514 entitled : “Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples” adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations dated 14 December 1960, declaring that “Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations” and that “All States shall observe faithfully and strictly the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the present Declaration on the basis of equality, non- interference in the internal affairs of all States, and respect for the sovereign rights of all peoples and their territorial integrity”;
3. **Noting with concern** that the persistence of conflicts in Africa constitutes a major handicap and obstacle to establishing peace, security and political stability, and consequently the achievement of sustainable development on the continent of Africa;

4. **Conscious** of myriad of complex problems which the African continent is confronted by, as a result of changes and evolutions which have taken place on a social, economic and political level in an environment marked by the emergence of regional economic groups and the dominance of multinational societies;
5. **Considers** that African countries, like those in the rest of the world, attach a greater importance to the respect of their stately sovereignty and territorial integrity, which they consider to be indispensable values for their existence and identity, and are concepts which represent the key to the vault of international relations;
6. **Given** that humanitarian interference is sometimes illegally instrumented to the detriment of national sovereignty, and represents an encroachment on the “sacrosanct” principles of the sovereignty of States, of their territorial integrity and their political independence as well as the non-interference in their internal affairs;
7. **Launches an appeal** to the United Nations, the African Union and to all forces of the international community in order to actively contribute to the respect and defence of the sacred values of national sovereignty and territorial integrity in African countries, so that their governments and their people can freely pursue the construction of their development and prosperity, and encourage the establishment of amicable relations, solidarity, cooperation and partnership between African states, on the basis of the principles of good neighbours, peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, of territorial integrity, and stately sovereignty, as well as the non-interference and non-aggression in interior affairs;
8. **Recommends** to the Secretary General of the WVF to spread the present Recommendation to the competent authorities of the United Nations the African Union as well as to the governments of African Member Countries of the SCAA in order to work for the activation of these provisions by all adequate and appropriate means.

**THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AN INESCAPABLE APPROACH IN THE PROCESS OF DURABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

(Recommendation 8)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. **Recalling** the provisions of Resolution 16 entitled : “Preserve Life on Earth”, adopted by the 19th General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation (WVF), held in Manila (Philippines) in December 1988, and Resolution 30 entitled: “Further Implementation of Agenda 21”, adopted by the 22nd General Assembly of the WVF, held in Seoul (South Korea) in November 1997;

2. **Also recalling** the provisions of Resolution 25 entitled : “Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol” adopted by the 23rd General Assembly of the WVF, held in Paris (France) in December 2000;
3. **Notes with profound worry** the degradation of the biological diversity brought on by certain irresponsible human activities which are putting the balance of life systems on earth at risk and are dangerously harming the continuity of all sorts of life on our planet, including human life;
4. **Given that** humanity is currently subject to intense ecological problems, the most diverse of ramifications, in such a way that the unbalance of the ecosystem which followed from this, have had negative effects on the conditions and quality of human life;
5. **Considering** that it is our duty to fruitfully contribute to the processes and efforts taken on the national and international framework, in the domain of the protection and value of the environment;
6. **Calls on** the Member Associations and Institutions of the SCAA to take action with their respective Governments and relevant Institutions in their countries, in order to further multiply actions with the aim to:
 - a. Protect the flora, fauna and biodiversity against all forms of pollution and degradation whatever the origin may be; and doing this in a means of rational management in order to preserve all species and guarantee ecological equilibrium;
 - b. Fight against desertification, flooding, disappearing forests, erosion, losses of agricultural land and pollution of the earth and its resources;
 - c. Respect the international treaties concerning the environment during the preparation of development plans and programmes, as well as in environmental legislation and regulation;
 - d. Take into consideration the protection of the environment and ecological equilibrium during the preparation and execution of plans to develop land;
 - e. Define basic orientations in the legislative, technical and financial framework concerning the protection and management of the environment;
 - f. Encourage environmental education and citizenship, and lead awareness campaigns at different levels of the social milieu and socioeconomic actors to facilitate the transition to a green economy;

- g.** Unify, follow up, and put into action the recommendations, resolutions and engagements adopted during the 22nd Conference of Parties to the Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7-18 November 2016.

**FOR A HUMANITARIAN APPROACH TO THE MIGRATORY PHENOMENON
AND TO REFUGEES IN AFRICA**

(Recommendation 9)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

- 1.** **Recalling** the appeal launched by the Member Associations and Institutions of the World Veterans Federation (WVF), during its 28th General Assembly held in Sopot, Poland, from 31 August – 4 September 2015, for an appropriate resolution to the migrants' inhumane situation;
- 2.** **Following** with great worry the growth in the cross-border migratory flux in Africa due to various political, economic, security and climactic factors;
- 3.** **Noting** with worry that these migrants are essentially refugees fleeing oppression, instability and armed conflict in their country;
- 4.** **Observing** the negative effect of the bad treatment and repression perpetrated towards refugees by the authorities in certain host countries, engendering all sorts of misdemeanours: crime, slavery, human trafficking, forced prostitution, recruitment of child soldiers; in flagrant violation of the human rights of refugees;
- 5.** **Given that** immigration in Africa has played a major role throughout history in the bringing together of people and in cultural and civilizational intermingling;
- 6.** **Recommends** the adoption of a humanitarian approach for a concerted treatment of the diverse political, juridical, economic, social, cultural and spiritual issues of these migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and to make their insertion in host countries a vehicle of development and civilizational complementarity;
- 7.** **Launches** an appeal to the public powers, National Institutions of Human Rights and actors of civil society in African countries, for the elaboration of policies, strategies and national legislations aiming to protect the rights of migrants and refugees and the concrete integration of these rights in all of their activities relating to human rights;
- 8.** **Underlines** the importance of regularly leading awareness campaigns, in host African countries, in order to promote the culture and values of respect of the migrants' and refugees' human rights and to fight against the sentiments and prejudices of racism, xenophobia and ostracism.

9. **Underlines** the importance of holding censuses and registrations in the host countries, in order to better evaluate and respond to their humanitarian needs and allow them to fully enjoy the rights that international law accords to refugees.

PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

(Recommendation 10)

The Standing Committee on African Affairs:

1. **Recalling** the objectives of the World Veterans Federation (WVF) aiming to “To promote international peace and security by the application to the letter and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and by respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the International Bill of Human Rights and other international instruments” ;

2. **Recognizing** the need to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;

3. **Recalling** the provisions of Resolution 8 entitled: “Peace in West Africa”, adopted by the 23rd General Assembly of the WVF, held in Paris, France, on 4-8 December 2000;

4. **Referring to** the provisions of Recommendation 8 entitled: “Development in Africa”, adopted by the Standing Committee of African Affairs (SCAA) at its 11th Session held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 15-17 May 2001;

5. **Recalling** the provisions of Resolution 22 entitled: “Helping and Supporting the Sub-Saharan region”, adopted by the 27th General Assembly of the WVF, held in Amman, Jordan, on 18-22 November 2012;

6. **Recalling** the provisions of Resolution 14 entitled: “Help and support African countries in their struggle against the terrorist group Boko Haram”, adopted by the 28th General Assembly of the WVF, held in Sopot, Poland, on 31 August – 4 September 2015;

7. **Referring to** the communiqué of the 455th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU) from the Heads of State and Governments on the phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, held on 2 September 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya, and to various Resolutions from the United Nations on terrorism and violent

extremism, notably Resolution 2178 of 24 September 2014, adopted by the Meeting of the United Nations' Security Council devoted to the threat against international peace and security resulting from acts of terrorism

8. Profoundly worried by the alarming escalation of odious acts of terrorism and the persistence of armed conflicts in several African countries, engendering enormous losses of human life and deep suffering for the civil populations and serious violations and abuses of human rights; as well as numerous considerable acts of damage and destruction;

9. Noting with worry that the continent of Africa is still more than ever confronted by political, socioeconomic and geostrategic issues, which cannot be resolved by resorting to force, police and military means;

10. Further noting that the crises which corrode Africa can only be curbed by attacking their concrete causes, which lie, principally, in bad governance, the unequal distribution of wealth, the marginalisation of the most underprivileged social categories, the demographic explosion and uncontrolled urbanisation, nutritional insecurity, the spread of pandemics, illiteracy, the disintegration of states, ethnic and religious rivalries, etc.;

11. Moreover noting that the almost permanent state of war several African regions only persists to exploit the vast natural resources which these regions dispose of, for faceless, stateless, economic interests which ruthlessly sacrifice the futures of entire populations in exchange for careless financial profits;

12. Given that these cited phenomena unfortunately constitute an ideal base for unfounded foreign interference, as well as for the exploitation of development difficulties in certain African countries, and that in the unawareness and ignorance of historical specificities and processes that these countries have undergone, these present a great threat to peace, security and development in Africa;

13. Draws attention to the fact that these growing international threats contribute to the weakening of governance, durable development, and social and political security, complicates inter-African links and relations of cooperation, partnership and solidarity, and harms national efforts deployed by African governments towards the edification of the state of law;

14. Insists vehemently on holding the next Summit on Peace and Security in Africa as proposed at the last WVF General Assembly and commits to bringing its support to the success of this project;

15. Launches an appeal to the international community, African governments and to all international and regional organisations concerned, to unite their efforts and coordinate their actions of aid and support to African States, above all those who suffer from the plague of under-development, in order to:

- Pave the way for a democratic system of government which takes into consideration the specificities and structural components of African societies, in order to promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance;
- Elaborate socio-economic integration and insertion programmes for social categories living in poverty, in a way which allows them to effectively contribute to the national effort of durable development in their respective countries, and accelerate the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, notably science and technology;
- Support and encourage African regional groupings such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), in order to accelerate the socio-economic, cultural and humane integration of the continent;
- Work in concert with the concerned international partnerships towards the eradication of curable diseases and the promotion of healthcare on the continent;
- Guarantee, in its generality, the right to education, notably the opportunity for all children to benefit from obligatory and free teaching, without any exception;
- Promote peace, security and stability on the entirety of the African continent.