

REPORT

TALKS & DEBATES

«*DIALOGUE & CULTURAL DIVERSITY*»

Bamako _ APRIL 11, 2013



KYA NETWORK
April 2013

Context

In front of the unprecedented crisis experienced by the country, cultural actors through KYA Network gathered in May 2012, on the occasion of a seminar to think about the revival of cultural activities in Mali and propose solutions to accompany the peace process. The program "***an Action and a Vision to Build the Future***", from the recommendations of this seminar, was designed for this purpose. It includes ten major projects to revive the cultural sector, but also to contribute to the search for a lasting peace, to accompany the change, national reconciliation and contribute to the rebirth of a new Mali. One of the major projects of this program is a series of talks and debates on dialogue and cultural diversity, through the different regions of Mali. These talks and debates involve young people, intellectuals, representatives of the civil society, cultural actors, etc.

So, the first meeting took place on Thursday April 11, 2013 at the Palais de la Culture of Bamako, in the presence of professors, historians, anthropologists, students and civil society organizations such as the Junior Chamber International of Mali, and with a panel of five resources persons namely: Mr. Doumbi-Fakoly DOUMBIA (writer), Mr. Ismaïla Samba TRAORE (Malivaleurs), Dr. Fodé Moussa SIDIBE (sociologist), Dr. Salia MALE (ethnologist), Mr. Adama TRAORE (Acte Sept). The moderation was provided by Mr. Mamou Daffé (KYA Network).

The Report of Facts...

At the end of the fruitful debates, a number of important observations were made:

- The crisis in Mali is caused by a combination of endogenous and exogenous factors. This is primarily a governance issue; whenever the nation-state fails, communities and religions become safe havens and the country becomes weak and vulnerable subjected to all threats (drug dealers, armed muggers, etc.). It also has cultural foundations, through history and the prism of a misunderstood Islam.
- The lack of a clear vision of cultural diversity, with objectives that focus on sustainable development based on cultural diversity.
- The ignorance of our cultural and traditional values.
- The education on cultural diversity has failed.
- The problem of the transmission of our culture to the young generation, which generates a clash of cultures or generational conflicts.
- The weakness of justice, with all the impunities.
- The chronic economic underdevelopment in all regions of Mali.
- The non-existence of a structured civil society that can be a counterbalance to the state.
- The lack of reflection in our states.
- The difficulty in recognition of otherness, respect and mutual tolerance.

Dialogue and Cultural Diversity, a Major Challenge

Maliens must have the spirit of belonging to one nation: a history, a culture, a community and find the lowest common denominator. It's easier to win a war than to build a lasting peace based on cultural diversity. After war, another struggle begins; the struggle for reconciliation and reconstruction. This struggle for lasting peace is a major challenge, but also a real opportunity. Because what unites us (Mali) is more important than what divides us. To do so would require that all Malians, beyond the political vicissitudes and cultural differences, be able to gather around the essential and put their genius and talent at the service of the country. We need to answer these nagging questions: How to live together in the complementarity of our differences? How to move from a «Clash of Cultures» to a real intercultural dialogue? How to initiate change for the emergence of Mali?

The Actions to be undertaken now...

1. Adjusting and adapting institutions by putting them in line with our local values, while working on the admissibility of the elected representatives.
2. The urgency of rebuilding our education based on a better understanding of cultural diversity, with the adoption of a national plan for arts education ;
3. Rethinking transmission of our cultures, working furthermore on theater, visual arts, music as tool for the promotion of cultural diversity ;
4. Inserting in the new cultural policy of Mali a national program for the promotion and enhancement of cultural diversity as a factor of social cohesion ;
5. Engaging communities in a pact of mutual respect and recognition of others' culture and religions ;
6. Promoting and working on the emergence of an effective civil society, guarantee of a better governance through advocacy and education for a better understanding and ownership of the constitution ;
7. Exploring the systems and methods of traditional dialogue to resolve community conflicts ;
8. Making an inventory and an evaluation of the regulatory mechanisms of society such as the « Sanankouya » (joking relationship) and others ;
9. The establishment of transitional justice, consistent with our local values to support peace and national reconciliation ;
10. The establishment of a structured, planned and coherent approach of development for all regions of Mali.
11. All the forces of the nation are invited to promote mutual tolerance and forgiveness which are fundamental resources of the Malian Culture.