



Independent Centre for Research and Initiatives for Dialogue

INSTITUTION IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
MACKY SALL PRIZE FOR DIALOGUE IN AFRICA

ROUTE DE PENÉY 14, 1214 VERNIER, GENÈVE
TEL. +41 22 733 75 11 / +41 76 616 98 31
WWW.CIRID.CH | EMAIL : INFOCIRID@GMAIL.COM



DIALOGUE IS THE WEAPON OF GREAT PEOPLE

MACKY SALL PRIZE FOR DIALOGUE IN AFRICA



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REFERENCES

Photographs on the title page show the members of the delegation of the CIRID (Independent Centre of Research and Initiatives for Dialogue) in Dakar, during the meeting with President Macky Sall, on Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016.

Left photograph: Mr El Hadji Malick Mbaye (Regional Representative of the CIRID for Western and Center Africa); Mr Déo Hakizimana (President and Founder of the CIRID); Mr Marcel Mikala (Executive Director of the Macky SALL Prize for Dialogue in Africa); Mr Ambassador Anatole Bacanamwo (Special Adviser); Ms Milena Sergi (Assistant).

Right photograph: Greetings between Mr Hakizimana and President Macky Sall.

Link on YouTube: Report of the Senegalese Radio Television on the meeting of November 22nd, 2016 available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEdBFkOQivA&feature=youtu.be>

PRESS RELEASE

The CIRID decided, during its extraordinary session of 02nd of June 2016, held in the headquarters of the organization, to establish the "Macky SALL Prize for Dialogue in Africa".

Purpose: to stimulate the birth, then the consolidation, of a spirit of mutual listening and tolerance favourable to the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Sponsored by the President of Senegal, this prize is based on a concept that will be officially presented on December 11th, 2016, in Geneva.

What is the " Macky SALL Prize for Dialogue in Africa "?

This distinction will serve to honour and encourage all initiatives related to political and social dialogue in Africa. It is also destined to address a significant message to support and relay efforts of the African Union (AU) and regional and sub-regional organisations, including the Diaspora, which constitutes (according to an AU decision) the sixth geopolitical group of the continent.

President Macky SALL, by praising the efforts made by the CIRID, accepted with "gratitude" this initiative which aims to be visionary. Indeed, the Senegalese Head of State wrote, in his letter dated 21st August 2016 to the President of CIRID, that Africa needs such innovation to strengthen the bases of its political stability and its economic development. The CIRID expects to organise an official award ceremony, which will take place every year in Geneva, after a jury's deliberation.

Why the " Macky SALL Prize "?

The CIRID particularly appreciated the organisation of the National Dialogue that the Senegalese President has initiated, and which included various actors, from the presidential majority, the significant opposition, the civil society, the employers, the worker's unions, the religious and traditional leaders.

The institution of a High Council of Social Dialogue, followed by the establishment of consultation frameworks on various subjects of national concerns, as the higher education and the management of natural resources, gave meaning to the innovation brought by Senegal in the current Pan-African context.

This fact is rare, even unprecedented in Africa, because in most cases the sons and the daughters of many countries in our continent talk about their future under pressure, generally after bloody conflicts. Furthermore, these talks are often organised with the support of foreign actors. In Senegal, it was not the case.

It is this original factor that explains the creation of the "Macky SALL Prize". The idea to institutionalize the date of 28 May as a "National Day of Dialogue" in Senegal, is also seen as an original contribution. It demonstrates, through the initiative of President SALL, that Africa in this 21st century is able to decide about its future.

A delegation of the CIRID, led by its president and founder, Mr. Déo Hakizimana, will go shortly to Dakar at the invitation of His Excellency Macky SALL, for a working mission on the modalities

of the implementation of the prize as well as the composition of the Jury, which will gather eminent personalities, including those coming from the African diplomatic and political community and "International Geneva", to which the CIRID belongs since 20 years.

*Made in Geneva, Bujumbura and Dakar, on November 18th, 2016
By the Communications Office of the CIRID*

THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS FACT SHEET

Macky SALL Prize for Dialogue in Africa: Contribution to the relation between Dialogue and Democracy in the African States

Dialogue is generally defined as a discussion between people or between political, ideological, social and economic partners/opponents, to reach an agreement.

Democracy is the political system in which power is held or controlled by the people (principle of sovereignty), without any distinctions due to birth, wealth, competence... (principles of equality).

The state of the fight for democratic governance

Our contribution is first focused on dialogue in the African post-conflict States. So, in the countries that faced crisis situations, dialogue conferences on the political, economic, social and cultural revival are periodically organised. In this context, the main objective of dialogue is to contribute to the debate on the stakes linked to the construction of a more open and more democratic society. At the end of the negotiations, agreements and roadmaps are often adopted to promote initiatives intended to institutionalize a permanent dialogue and a space of mutual consultation between the political, economic and social actors, to open the basis of the reorganization of State.

So, in Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry or in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, negotiations between all the life-blood (political actors, economic decision-makers, representatives of social movements and entities coming from the civil society) have been organised during the last ten years. Numerous relevant themes were tackled, in particular, the concerns about the political (reliability of the institutions, electoral transparency...), economic and social governance, with regard to the recent history of these countries, marked with chronic political instability, with repeated violent conflicts and with steady underdevelopment which have characterized the national life.

Beyond post-conflict countries

The political and academic dialogue on the pluralism and the democratic transition is not new. It restarted vigorously, because of the limits highlighted in the recent and current quest of several African States, in the construction and the consolidation of the democratic governance systems. The adoption by several African countries of liberal forms of governance in the 1990s allowed the establishment of political systems where the actors, organized in political parties, compete to obtain the majority of votes to form a government on the basis of free and fair elections.

In other cases, despite of the holding of elections, the actors did not manage to create the conditions of a blooming democracy. The elections tended to be soiled by fraud charges, the civil society felt muzzled, the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press were not respected, etc.

The post-elections dilemma

Finally, in a third group of countries, the elections were not regularly held, for several reasons: conflicts, narrow political calculations of the outgoing ones, the lack of financial resources, etc. When these elections are organized in this context, they are often manipulated with the judicial system which is incapable to exercise independence, with the civil society which is repressed, and the political elite spreads its lack of dimension of State. Besides, in these countries, instead of guaranteeing democracy, the State is rather used as an instrument to the leading team, who uses it to appropriate the national wealth.

In conclusion, dialogue is a burning obligation which allows the agenda to be revised for reform and, more widely, the agenda of the political, economic and sociocultural governance in Africa. This dialogue, accompanied by the international community, is a decisive lever to re-establish the State, while taking into account gravities of the current events, more particularly under the angle of the geopolitical contingencies.

The answer of the CIRID

In this context, the CIRID introduces, within the framework of the implementation of its project " Macky SALL Prize for the Dialogue in Africa ", a concept of vocational training of executives, focused on the updating of knowledge towards the beneficiaries.



Closing ceremony of the Permanent Training Program for Executives, in May, 1999, at the 1st International Fair of the Emerging Countries, in Geneva.

Laurent Kavakure, Former Ambassador in Brussels and Foreign Minister of Burundi, receiving its certificate from Martine Brunschwig Graf, President of the Government of Geneva, and Déo Hakizimana.

This training meets the objectives of a high-level training, with certification. It is organized in partnership with universities and other institutions, national and international, playing a foreground role in their respective fields of intervention. Details: See the Permanent Training Programme for Executives, Secretariat, CIRID.

Composition of the Executive board for the Prize

In daily communication with the Executive Committee of the Prize and under the responsibility of the CIRID, the supervisory body, the Office of the Macky SALL Prize for the Dialogue in Africa consists as follows:

- Executive director: Marcel MIKALA (Gabon), former United Nations civil servant and international consultant
- Project manager: Ambassador Anatole BACANAMWO, former representative of Burundi in Berlin
- Assistant: Milena SERGI, researcher, University of Geneva.

These three personalities are members of the CIRID mission in Dakar (November, 2016).

Some proposals of themes of Dialogue

Political dialogue

- 1) Democracy and Alternating in Africa: role of the Civil Society and the Youth;
- 2) Contribution of the Press to the strengthening of Democracy and citizen Consciousness in Africa;
- 3) Women leadership in Western and Central Africa and in the Great Lakes region;
- 4) Good Governance against the radicalization and the migration in Africa: discussions about the big current political and socioeconomic challenges and the elaboration of a concrete vision for the year 2025;
- 5) Strengthening of the regional cooperation on security in Western Africa: the case of the Sahel;
- 6) Geopolitics of the Burundian crisis: Elements of Problematic and Elements of Prospective;
- 7) Africa and the International Criminal Court.

Socioeconomic dialogue

- 1) The role of the State and of the civil society in the access to register office records in Africa;
- 2) The challenges and the stakes of sustainable development in Africa after the conferences of Paris and Marrakesh (Cop 21 and Cop 22);
- 3) The adequacy between training and employment in the educational system of the Francophone African States: Realities and Perspectives;
- 4) The contribution of the Diaspora in the development of Africa.

REPORT OF THE AUDIENCE WITH H.E. MACKY SALL

This report sums up the points discussed during the meeting, in Dakar, between the delegation of the CIRID and His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, on November 22nd, 2016.

Mr Déo Hakizimana, President and Founder of the CIRID, first warmly thanked President Macky Sall for his welcome and introduced the members of the delegation. He then greeted the leadership of the Head of State and the dynamics of dialogue which he established, a dialogue institutionalized by an annual event, the National Day of the Dialogue, on May 28th.

Mr Hakizimana also stressed the particular nature of Senegal, who promoted the dialogue not only by its own means, but also in a proactive way, without any conflict forcing this approach, as it is often the case. The Senegalese experience of dialogue is an example for the African continent.



The CIRID has been working with Senegal for a very long time. Above, the visit of the President of the organisation in April-May, 2011, welcome by the Minister.

From left to right, Déo Hakizimana, CEO of the CIRID; Madicke Niang, Minister of State in charge of the Foreign Affairs of Senegal; Micheline Pace, Project Manager in Communication for the CIRID, Sheik Amar, CEO of the Holding company TSE Africa and El Hadji Malick Mbaye, Regional resident representative of the CIRID for Western and Central Africa, after an interview with the Senegalese Minister of State.

The word of the President

President Sall thanked first his guests for the choice regarding the Prize and expressed his support to it.

After a brief reminder of the political journey and the dialogue tradition of the country, he expressed his will to strengthen the transparency and to establish a dialogue which is not only political but also economic and social, implying a consultation, in particular, with the political

parties, the businessmen/businesswomen and the labour unions. The importance of open policy towards all components of the nation was raised, with particular attention on the vulnerable populations. The president also emphasised his concern of good governance and obligation of result with the objective to develop the country.

The role played by President Macky Sall during the crisis of September 2015 in Burkina Faso, by bringing the involved actors to promote the way of dialogue and the negotiation, in the best interests of the country, was also mentioned.

In the optics of global dialogue, the International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, which will take place on next December 5th and 6th in Dakar, was also reported.

The action plan

The next stages of the implementation of the project "Macky Sall Prize for Dialogue in Africa" were listed, in particular its official announcement in Geneva, on December 11th, 2016.

On the other hand, with the support of President Sall, an African tour will be organised shortly to meet with the prospective members to be part of the Sponsoring Committee of the Prize. President Macky Sall also gave his endorsement for the installation of regional headquarters of the CIRID for Western and Central Africa to be in Dakar.

Regarding the Forum on the Macky Sall Prize for Dialogue in Africa (relayed by thematic thereon), initially scheduled in Geneva, the President suggested organising it in Dakar. This forum is foreseen to take place in February 2017.

Finally, it was announced that the mandate of Mr El Hadji Malick Mbaye, Regional Resident Representative of the CIRID for Western and Central Africa since 2011, was renewed for a new term of five years.

BIOGRAPHY OF MR DEO HAKIZIMANA

Déo Hakizimana was born in Kanerwa (Burundi), in 1954. Father of six children, he is, originally, a teacher who became a journalist and a diplomat. Also writer, playwright and composer, Mr Hakizimana established in 1996 in Geneva the Independent Centre of Research and Initiatives for Dialogue (CIRID), African and international NGO with a special consultative status within the ECOSOC (United Nations).

Political actor in his country for more than 44 years, he was elected in 2008 in the "National Mechanism of follow-up and evaluation " of the project " Frames of dialogue ", lead jointly by the Burundian Government and the United Nations, which experimented in this country, as they did in Sierra Leone, the new concept of peace building in post-conflict Africa under the supervision, in New York, of the Commission of the same name. He was awarded with a certificate of merit for his role in this project.

Living between Geneva and Bujumbura and committed for peace in Africa, he introduced the concepts of "clearance of the spirits" and of "proactive internal dynamics ", especially in his country, where his role in moving closer the protagonists has already shown outcomes.

Recognized defender of the strategies of valuation of the skills of the diaspora, he organises annually, in Geneva, the from now on traditional "Days of dialogue Switzerland-Africa ", focused on the creation of intercommunity bridges, with the aim of a renewed cooperation in healthier North-South relationships.

In 2011, after having taken part as independent candidate in the Burundian elections of 2010, the former diplomat decided to dedicate himself completely to the project of the International Forum of Tanganyika, under the sign of the promotion of the green economy, aiming to be an annual exercise of high visibility.

Mr Hakizimana received, in 2014, the PHF (Paul Harris Fellow) Prize, an award created in memory of Paul P Harris and given to people who contribute to a better world. The award ceremony took place in connection with authorities representing International Geneva.

The former journalist and diplomat currently chairs the Platform of National and International civil society in Burundi, committed to supporting the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the country.

THE CIRID AND ITS DECENTRALISED INSTITUTIONS

The CIRID is a non-governmental and non-profit organization (NGO) created in 1996 and based in Geneva (Switzerland). The CIRID is African and international, apolitical and non-confessional.

It benefits from a consultative status to the United Nations (ECOSOC) and focuses mainly on the peaceful management of conflicts. Its action is oriented to trainings, communication and creation of spaces for the dialogue at diverse levels, encouraging the progress in countries emerging from severe conflicts.

To implement its projects, the organisation established national antennas, in particular in Senegal, in Kenya and in Burundi, where its headquarters are settled for Africa.

At the international level, three themes form the heart of its action plan: peace building, migration and sustainable development. This action plan is inspired by the slogan of the CIRID which is: "Clearance of the spirits first ", strengthened by its experience of more than 20 years.

According to a completely reshaped organisational structure, the specialised agencies working in an autonomous way cooperate today to achieve this mandate.

The Macky SALL Prize for Dialogue in Africa



This distinction was created to honour and encourage the initiatives of political and social dialogue in Africa. It also aims to send a significant message to support and to accompany the efforts of the African Union and its regional and sub-regional groups, including the diaspora. The official award ceremony will take place every year in Geneva. The first edition will take place at the end of June 2017.

President Macky SALL was chosen as the sponsor of this prize for his numerous initiatives of dialogue. Indeed, he promoted the dialogue not only by its own means, but also in a proactive way, without any conflict forcing this approach, as it is often the case. These particularities make an example for the whole continent and the CIRID wants to emphasize that.

AFRIREC

African Agency of Economic and Diplomatic Relations



AFRIREC is a decentralised institution created after the participation of the CIRID in the "Swiss Initiative for Africa" and in the 9th Forum of Crans-Montana, in 1998. AFRIREC specialises in the promotion of economic investment projects and in the social reconstruction of countries targeted by its activities.

Every year, the organisation of the International Forum of Tanganyika is planned. It is a platform of reflection on the key themes of the current events.

Furthermore, the Permanent Training Program for Executives offers a specialization focused on the skills linked to the topical international issues, completing an integrated approach between our projects and our values.

Bjm Safari



Bjm Safari is organised as an associative office under the international umbrella of the CIRID, with the aim of promoting the emergence of an ecological tourism centred on best practice and good economic governance in Africa. The association concentrates its interest on the development of the integration in the Eastern Africa region, from Lake Tanganyika to the Indian Ocean. The association is managed by an Executive Committee that shares its functions with a project manager based in Nairobi (Kenya).



Independent Centre for Research and Initiatives for Dialogue
Route de Peney 14, 1214 Vernier, Geneva
Tel. +41 22 733 75 11 / +41 76 616 98 31
www.cirid.ch | Email : infocirid@gmail.com
Tel. Dakar : +221 77 637 88 00
Tel. Bujumbura : +257 71 144 868
Tel. Nairobi : +254 706 232 302