

University Presidents for Peace –Africa Chapter Declaration

We, the University Presidents for Peace, have gathered here in Hiroshima, Japan, for the University Presidents for Peace -Africa Chapter, chaired by Mitsuo Ochi of Hiroshima University. This gathering marks the second conference, following the first University Presidents for Peace conference held on August 6, 2024.

We recognize that universities play a vital role in promoting peace and sustainability, and that education is the core of this responsibility. Africa is a region with a rapidly growing population and holds the key to global peace through its stability and sustainable development. By encouraging dialogue across differences and transforming diversity into a source of learning and mutual growth, universities can help shape a peaceful and sustainable future for generations to come.

African universities are uniquely positioned to contribute to sustainable development and peace education by tackling pressing environmental, social and economic challenges. Through innovative policies, projects and international cooperation, they are advancing practical solutions to global issues such as climate change and sustainable development. Additionally, African universities enrich the global academic landscape with their cultural diversity, worldviews, traditions, and approaches to conflict resolution. The exchanges with African universities encourage intercultural dialogue, which is a critical element in building global peace.

Hiroshima's enduring and resilient grassroots peacebuilding efforts after the catastrophic atomic bombing in 1945 offer profound inspiration for African students and faculty. This connection will help foster a new generation of leaders dedicated to peace, sustainability, and global cooperation. Together, these institutions can build a formidable partnership to address the world's most urgent challenges. We urge students to visit Hiroshima and learn from its experience to better understand the importance of peace.

The Africa Chapter will add dimension and depth to the understanding of diverse worldviews and cultural perspectives, essential for enhancing university partnerships' approach to peace and sustainability. We pledge to strengthen international collaboration by sharing resources, encouraging student exchanges, and developing joint educational programs. Our aim is to enhance research capacity, promote sustainable development, and prepare future leaders who will contribute to peace and sustainability.

Together, we recognize and commit to the following actions:

1. University Partnerships to Promote Peace and Sustainability

Each institution will contribute to the formation of the University Partnerships to Promote Peace and Sustainability, ensuring that the partnerships are built on a foundation of mutual understanding and shared goals.

2. Develop Opportunities for Student and Young Researcher Exchanges

Each institution will endeavor to establish bilateral exchange programs that allow students and young researchers to transcend national borders, gaining international experience and academic excellence as well as promote cultural exchange to broaden students' perspectives.

Through these commitments, we, the University Presidents for Peace -Africa Chapter, stay connected through a collaborative network with African universities, fostering a generation of empathetic and proactive individuals dedicated to peace and sustainability. We will continue to share and expand upon these efforts to create a more peaceful and sustainable future for all.