

icd - institute for cultural diplomacy



**Experience Africa
The Umoja Conference**

*Strengthening Inter-Cultural
and International Relations in
Africa through Cultural Diplomacy*

Berlin, October 23rd–26th, 2012





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Welcome

Much of the African continent has been plagued by conflict over the past century; Wars of independence, civil wars, colonial wars, and violent conflicts between nation states have left deep scars across nations and peoples. Many conflicts are still on-going: Since 2010 the eight northernmost countries on the continent have hosted violent protests and bloody attempts to suppress them as part of the Arab Spring, while other conflicts can be identified in states including Sudan, Chad, Somalia, Mali, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Whilst there is frequent debate on the triggers of these conflicts, and how they can be resolved in the short term, less attention is given to the intercultural divisions that play a key role in causing and maintaining the hostilities and which must be overcome in order to achieve lasting stability.

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The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy has established the program **Umoja** (Unity in Swahili) to explore and highlight the importance of intercultural relations based on dialogue, understanding, and trust to the future of the African continent. **Umoja** is an African Summit that will promote cultural diplomacy within and between African cultures and nation states. The Summit will bring together participants from across Africa, as well as interested stakeholders from the wider international community.

Through a program of interactive lectures and discussions, debates, as well as cultural and artistic components, **Umoja** will provide a platform for frank and open exchange on a range of diverse political, economic, and cultural issues.



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Conference Speakers

Speakers during the conference will include leading figures and experts from international politics, academia, diplomacy, civil society and the private sector from across the world. These speakers will include a number of individuals from the ICD Advisory Board.

Conference Participants

Participation in the symposium is open to governmental & diplomatic officials, academics & scholars, economists, journalists, artists, civil society practitioners, private sector representatives, young professionals and students as well as other interested individuals from across the world.

Certificate of Attendance · All participants will be awarded an official certificate of attendance upon completion of the program, which provides details about the speakers and topics at the conference. Each certificate will be signed by members of the ICD's Advisory Board.

In cooperation with:

The Embassy of the Republic of Burundi to the Federal Republic of Germany
The Embassy of the Republic of Malawi to the Federal Republic of Germany
The Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho in Berlin
The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Federal Republic of Germany
The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Germany
The Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda to the Federal Republic of Germany
The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa to the Federal Republic of Germany
The Embassy of the Republic of Malawi to the Federal Republic of Germany
The Embassy of the Republic of Ghana to the Federal Republic of Germany



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Conference Agenda

The conference methodology for this event will be unique and quite interactive. Sitting under the tree and talking is a traditional African style of discussing and solving problems within a community. This basic style of conflict resolution has taken on different modes and methods reflective of the very different and diverse cultures of Africa. Modern, 21st Century methods of conflict resolution often fail because they do not take in account these traditional methods. It is this spirit of open discussion and flexibility that the ICD hopes to engender through the Umoja conference.

During the conference, the following themes and issues will be explored:

- **Constructing a Template for Dialogue through Cultural Diplomacy**
- **Moving Beyond Aid Dependency: From Reliance to Sustainable Development**
- **Africa's Role in the Next World Order: Turning Resources into Security and Development**
- **Cultural Diplomacy and the Future of the African Continent**



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