

SUMMARY ROUND TABLES IN COTE D'IVOIRE 2020-2022

Executive summary:

The "Seeds of Peace", round tables are "Dialogue frameworks for civic participation, peace and reconciliation". They create a framework for exchange for young people on issues of public interest, social and political issues in order to encourage them and ensure their good participation to the political and social debate. Started in May 2020 in the context of the coronavirus health crisis, the round tables were initially conducted exclusively online, thanks to virtual meeting platforms such as Zoom meeting and Google meet, before being held in person.

From May 2020 to December 2022, eleven (11) round tables were organized exclusively in the district of Abidjan. Each round table brought together around fifty participants from civil society organizations, university campuses, political parties and traditional and local authorities. Number of participants can be estimated to more than 580

From the impacts of the coronavirus crisis, to the challenges of national reconciliation and social cohesion, including the issue of preserving post-crisis memory, the root causes of political violence, the rise of online radicalism and peaceful methods of civic and political engagement; the round tables addressed relevant and interesting themes with speakers with recognized skills in their respective fields. Jurists, Historians, Sociologists, Ministers, Politicians, Elected Representatives, Representative of Government agencies, Young activists, woman activist etc. were all resource persons who led the round tables discussions.

Objectives of the Round Tables:

General Objective:

The "Seeds of Peace" (round tables) aim to contribute to the consolidation of peace and social cohesion through social and political dialogue.

Specific Objectives:

- Encourage healthy participation in political and social debate
- Strengthen the political culture of young people
- Raise awareness on tolerance and peaceful management of conflicts

Feedbacks on the impacts of the sessions :

- The round tables helped to create frameworks for discussion on political and social issues in which young people are interested, but which are not always addressed in the public arena.
- The round tables have helped to stimulate young people to take interest in and deepen their understanding on certain subjects such as post-conflict memory, the impact of hate speech disseminated on social media on living together in community or the notion of a sense of national belonging etc.
- The round tables have contributed to making some young people more active, particularly in their civic and political engagement as well as in their contribution to the public debates on subjects that affect the life of the nation (notably through the channel of social networks).

- The round tables contributed to making the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation better known, amount donors in operating in Cote d'Ivoire.
- "The round table organized by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation is a relevant initiative in the sense that Côte d'Ivoire needs to write its narrative on its history and its upheavals. As painful as it may be, our history must be written in plural to capture all dimensions through the involvement of all stakeholders and actors. This is, why I appreciated the choice of panelists who are of quality and who know what they are talking about. The information shared during the round table was very useful and gave me answers to my questions. This type of initiative must continue to strengthen the process of reconciliation and peace and especially to avoid the repetition of crises of the same nature". (a quote from on participant).

Target groups:

- Opinion leaders
- Students
- Youth from political parties
- Youth from civil society organization
- Women groups

2020 Round tables:

Three (03) round tables were organized in 2020, around different themes 1-on 'young people's view of the management of the coronavirus and its impact on households and economic activity'; the second addressed 2- the means of action of young people in civil society or in politics, and the third one presented the achievements and challenges for national reconciliation.

2021 Round Tables:

Four (04) round tables were organized during the year 2021, three (03) face-to-face and one online. They addressed the following themes: 1- **Truth and memory in reconciliation and peace processes: the case of Côte d'Ivoire**; 2- **Immigration, Community Stigma and Ethnic Prejudice: What Influence on Peace?** ; 3-**Means of peaceful action in civic and political engagement**; 4- **Social networks and the amplification of hate speech in communities.**

2022 Round Tables:

In 2022, four (04) round tables were organized around some themes that question both the causes of conflicts and peace and reconciliation efforts in Cote d'Ivoire. 1- **Youth and precariousness, fertile ground for violence and radicalization**; 2-**Round table 2: Reconciliation efforts in Côte d'Ivoire between limits and possibility**; 3-***The impact of the ethnicization of political parties on social cohesion***; and the last on 4-***How to build a common sense of national belonging to preserve peace?*** N.B: Violence among the youth is due to the fact that, they are victims of a political environment that has not been able to sufficiently protect them. The precariousness in which they are, led them to use violence as a means of expression, self-affirmation and social ascent. Therefore the solution for the reduction of juvenile violence, necessarily involves professional integration, the fight against poverty and the strengthening of education and the link between communities.