



## CADRE INTERNATIONAL DE PLAIDOYER POUR LA PAIX

+243 997759531/+243 815 179 090

[cippasbl@gmail.com](mailto:cippasbl@gmail.com)

07, av. Révolution. Croisement des avenues Révolution et  
Salvias, 8<sup>ème</sup> Rue Quartier Résidentiel, Commune de Limete

**KINSHASA**

### **PEACE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

### **CHALLENGES FOR THE “SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE”?**

**Prof. Roger RUBUGUZO MPONGO, Coordinator<sup>1</sup>**

“Dear colleagues, members of civil society,

peacemakers, friends of the Democratic Republic of Congo.”

After the Conference which took place at the UN Headquarters in Nairobi from May 9-10, 2024, we separated and each person returned to ordinary life in their country of origin. The Civil Society delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo returned from Kenya with mixed joy: the joy of having met you, of having spent pleasant moments in conviviality and, unfortunately, the pain of returning to a country in war for more than three decades. A “forgotten war” which has already caused more than ten million deaths and thousands of internal refugees living in inhumane conditions. This is evidenced by recent UN reports.

This dramatic humanitarian observation cannot leave us indifferent as we prepare for another important meeting whose theme envisages the “Summit of the Future” in New York, next September.

How can we think about the future of the world without prioritizing the pacification of the “land of climate solutions” whose enormous reserves of green minerals, virgin forests and large hydroelectric capacity have become essential in a project of civilized humanity?

This is the DRC which alone has 70 percent of the world's cobalt reserves. A mineral essential for the manufacture of electric batteries.

---

<sup>1</sup> CIPP Coordinator, Professor at the Higher Institute of Development Techniques (ISTD- Mulungu- DRC), Founder of the Foyer de Paix Grands lacs and Associate Researcher at the University of Strasbourg- France.  
[www.amani-kwenu.ch](http://www.amani-kwenu.ch)

Indeed, the DRC's strategic minerals, notably the 3Ts (Coltan, tin and tungsten), constitute a threat to the future of the country, because of their use in the manufacturing of electronic devices.

Paradox which should scandalize the international community: how can a country potentially so rich be counted among the poorest in the world, thus suffering a triple humanitarian, economic and ecological drama?

Echoing the Message of Pope Francis, in the *Encyclical Laudato si*, the Cadre international de plaidoyer pour la paix (CIPP) would like to make the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor heard. It means expressing that feeling of pain and suffering, that experience of sadness and any injustice that calls not only for empathy but also for reparation.

Indeed, the cry is not only an expression of pain but also a call for responsibility in the face of ecological issues which fundamentally condition better living together and lasting peace in the world. In the context of climate change, global warming affects the whole world but particularly affects the poor. The poor depend on land as their main source of livelihood on a daily basis. In addition, they are especially threatened in the event of a disaster.

CIPP researchers, echoing other experts in integral ecology, affirm that climate change is a question of justice. Thus, they propose climate justice by distributing the responsibilities caused by global warming and ultimately taking responsibility for the earth as our “common home.”

Advocating for Peace in the DRC is no longer a matter for the Congolese alone because this country is considered:

- as “lung of the planet”: its lush forest (Congo Basin) stabilizes the global climate. When we take for example our forests, 154 million hectares of forest, they contain peatlands which represent three years of global greenhouse gas emissions. These peatlands represent an enormous reserve, a great contribution to our mega biodiversity.
- As a “solution country”: the DRC has the capacity to generate renewable energy. It is truly an electricity paradise with a hydroelectric potential of 100 thousand megawatts, and a potential of 90 thousand megawatts in other forms of renewable energy. This large country in the heart of Africa holds a huge number of strategic minerals such as cobalt, coltan and germanium which



are used today for the manufacture of batteries which store solar energy or batteries which are used in the automobile industry.

- The negotiation under the aegis of the climate convention is an extremely complex negotiation between 197 parties where each tries to pull the cover on its side. And for the voice of the DRC to carry loudly, it is important that it is taken into account within broad coalitions.
- The DRC is part of the African group coalition (54 countries in 2021). It needs other networks registered in other coalitions to make these “cries of nature and those of the poor” heard.

The ecological question and the quest for lasting peace invite us to international solidarity and require a holistic coalition where each people brings the best of themselves, putting the common good (the common home) before the selfish interests of large world powers.

I therefore invite the various groups that were formed after the Nairobi Conference (May 9-10, 2024) to relay the message of the CIPP and to propose concrete solutions for lasting peace in the DRC and particular attention to the ecosystems contained in this large countries in the heart of Africa. Taking these integral ecological conditions into account would be a preventive approach for other latent conflicts linked to climate change. They will not be less deadly than the classic wars which are currently plaguing humanity.

Our common mission is “[...] to dare to transform into personal suffering what is happening in the world [...]” [Laudato si, 19]. In other words, to move away from our indifference to the plight of the poor and the environment. The objective is above all social to the extent that humanity is part of nature, has a responsibility towards nature, to develop it, protect it and return it to its creator.

Ultimately, human behavior towards nature affects behavior towards other humans..

**Becoming aware of this would already be a first step on this long path of liberation and happiness to which every human being aspires. The “Summit of the Future” which will bring together civil societies from around the world in New York cannot do without this integral ecological imperative.**