



## Brazzaville Foundation

Press release – 1 April 2021

### African initiatives for peace, environment and health The Brazzaville Foundation reports on its activities since 2015

Created in London in 2015, the Brazzaville Foundation publishes its first activity report to give an account of the missions it has set itself for the preservation of peace, the defence of the environment, and the fight against falsified medicines.

**Resolutely Afro-optimistic**, this document reflects the big idea of Jean-Yves Ollivier, its Founding Chairman: **"We believe in the African dynamics to shape the continent's future. Because we are committed to changing the "discourse on Africa", we support our African partners' ideas, and implement initiatives and programmes that respond concretely to their challenges. To achieve this, we work in favour of peace, the environment and health."**

Beyond the files that describe the actions carried out, the institutional part of the report reveals influential governance bodies in the Foundation's fields of intervention and efficient financing to serve its mission.

#### Working for peace

The chapter devoted to the preservation of peace on the African continent highlights **the "Ollivier method"**, which consists of getting people talking about the irreconcilable. It inspires the Foundation's action in favour of conflict prevention and resolution. Jean-Yves Ollivier, an actor in civil diplomacy on the African continent, tried out his method in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Foundation takes its name and inspiration from the Brazzaville Protocol signed in the Congolese capital in 1988. A key moment in the history of modern Africa, it was an example where Africans themselves led the negotiations, achieving a peaceful settlement of conflicts in Southern Africa. They thus paved the way for the liberation of Nelson Mandela, the independence of Namibia and the end of apartheid. Jean-Yves Ollivier played a major role as an international mediator throughout this process. Since 2015, through the Foundation, he has continued to share his expertise. He was able to organise an **intra-Libyan dialogue in Dakar in May 2018**. The report also mentions conflict prevention activities in the DRC and Ivory Coast and the release of hostages in the Central African Republic.

#### Preserving the Congo Basin

The Brazzaville Foundation played a key role in **the creation of the Congo Basin Blue Fund at the COP 22 in Marrakesh, in 2016**. The Congo Basin is a complex ecosystem rich in biodiversity and valuable resources, including freshwater and forests. **It is second only to the Amazon Basin as a carbon sink**, so is often **called the planet's second "lung"**. The Blue Fund is a financing mechanism managed and supported by 17 Central African countries, intended to preserve biodiversity of the Congo Basin and redesign the basis of the sub-region's economy. According to Arlette Soudan Nonault, Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Congo and Technical Coordinator of the Fund: "Our decision-making process is fluid and transparent, based on five "As for Africa": the multi-country funding mechanism is located in Africa, created and co-financed by African states, managed by African and international experts, to create a sustainable economic, social and environmental model for Africa". The Blue Fund will be present at the next COP 26 in Glasgow.



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### Combating falsified medicines

The last part of the report focuses on the Foundation's commitment to the fight against the traffic of falsified medicines. This illegal market is responsible for several hundred thousand deaths per year in Africa. Since 2017, the Foundation has been fully involved in this issue, which is simultaneously a **public health, security and justice problem: this trafficking**, which goes beyond drugs, **supplies criminal and terrorist organisations**.

The report documents the launch of the Lomé Initiative, developed by the Foundation, which brought together six African countries at an international summit in January 2020. The Republic of Congo, Ghana, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Uganda signed a political declaration committing them **to put in place legislation to criminalise trafficking in falsified and substandard medicines**; to sign and ratify the Medicrime and Palermo Conventions and the treaty establishing the African Medicines Agency; to establish inter-ministerial mechanisms to ensure rigorous enforcement of new legislation at the national level, and to improve cooperation between states. The Initiative builds on the work of the WHO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes guidelines. It benefits from the expertise of anti-terrorist judge Jean-Louis Bruguière, a member of its Advisory Board. **Since January 2020, the governments of the six countries have adapted their plans to the reality of the Covid pandemic.**

Richard Amalvy, Executive Director of the Brazzaville Foundation, outlines the next steps on this issue: "We're working with the health ministers of the six signatory countries to get ready to implement the recommendations of the legislative audit conducted in 2020, now that we've identified gaps in the pharmaceutical supply chain. We're planning to attend the World Health Assembly in May 2021 to encourage initiative and to report back."

[THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE BY CLICKING HERE](#)

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Learn more about the Brazzaville Foundation [here](#)

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The Brazzaville Foundation is an independent, London-based, non-profit organisation registered with the UK's Charity Commission. Under the Patronage of HRH Prince Michael of Kent, the Foundation is governed by an experienced Board of Trustees chaired by its Founder, Jean-Yves Ollivier, and supported by a highly distinguished international Advisory Board which includes former Presidents and Prime Ministers and a Noble Peace Prize laureate. The Foundation develops initiatives to promote sustainable development, prevent conflicts and facilitate peaceful cooperation on the African continent.