

PRESS RELEASE

"Vestibule de la Paix"

–A multi-stakeholder initiative for peacebuilding in Mali –

Official Launch Event

Date : Thursday, September 26, 2019

Time : 9am-11 :30am

Place : Radisson Blu Hôtel

The Malian Action-Research Institute for Peace (IMRAP for its acronym in French) in partnership with **Interpeace**, the **Institute for Development Studies** and **Humanity United** officially launch their project **"Vestibule de la Paix" – A multi-stakeholder initiative for peacebuilding in Mali**. This launch is sponsored by the Malian Minister of Social Cohesion, Peace and National Reconciliation.

In the face of ongoing difficulties preventing and managing conflict, this initiative aims to make a significant contribution to sustainable peace in Mali by developing a long-term multi-stakeholder partnership focused on community based and led approaches to peacebuilding, while also connecting this work to the national and international levels. Through an innovative methodology combining the proven systemic action research methodology of IDS with participatory action research - a refined methodology by IMRAP and Interpeace - this new approach aims at engaging and empowering local actors of change in Bamako, Koulikoro, Gao and Mopti.

This launch is set to officially inform the national authorities as well as the different actors engaged in peacebuilding in Mali with the hope to invite them to take part in this exciting project. Specifically for the event launch, our goal is to familiarize with national and international stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in peacebuilding; present the different methodological phases of the project, introduce the four implementing partners, and outline the key steps we as a partnership will take to achieve the desired results.

L'Institut Malien de Recherche Action pour la Paix/ The Malian Action-Research Institute for Peace (IMRAP) is a Malian association created under the receipt N ° 0590 / G-DB on May 21, 2014 by Malians reflecting on peacebuilding. IMRAP is Mali's leading peacebuilding organization and has deep experience working with Malian communities on the obstacles to sustainable peace. IMRAP leads the operational implementation of the initiative in Mali and coordinates political leadership at the national level.

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Interpeace is an independent international peacebuilding organization recognized worldwide for its proven approach to helping societies build lasting peace. It was created by the United Nations in 1994 to develop innovative ways of resolving conflicts and remains today a strategic partner of the United Nations. Present in West Africa since 2007, Interpeace supports local peacebuilding processes in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, among others. Interpeace manages the unique partnership of this project and supports with communication of this highly relevant work to national and international peacebuilding actors.

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) is a top international development research institute founded in 1966 that has pioneered cutting edge research, teaching and communications. IDS has actively applied the systemic participatory action research across the world, including Myanmar, India and Nepal. For this project, IDS leads the technical application of the Systemic Action Research methodology and the design of the framework for monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL).

Humanity United (HU) is a foundation dedicated to bringing new approaches to global problems that have long been considered intractable. Humanity United's Peacebuilding & Conflict Transformation Portfolio seeks to change the way the peacebuilding sector addresses conflict by challenging ineffective practices of engaging local actors and making the case for approaches truly centered on the agency and power of local actors. HU funds the H3I program and partners with the other three organizations in its design and implementation. HU is part of The Omidyar Group, a diverse collection of organizations, each guided by its own approach, but united by a common desire to catalyze social impact.

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