

# **A Concept Paper for celebration to mark World Philosophy Day in Uganda on 15/11/2012**

Theme:

## **Philosophical Issues in Africa and Future Generations**

### **Background**

Philosophy Day has been celebrated by Uganda Philosophy Society, Makerere University Department of Philosophy and Uganda National Commission for UNESCO every year since 2009. The General Conference of UNESCO established World Philosophy Day in 2005. UNESCO's objective is to promote an international culture of philosophical debate that respects human dignity and diversity. The Day encourages academic exchange and highlights the contribution of philosophical knowledge in addressing global issues.

World Philosophy Day was introduced in 2005 by UNESCO to honour philosophical reflection in the entire world by opening up free and accessible spaces. Its objective is to encourage the peoples of the world to share their philosophical heritage and to open their minds to new ideas, as well as to inspire a public debate between intellectuals and civil society on the challenges confronting our society.

“Future generations” is a particularly relevant main theme for World Philosophy Day in 2012, as the world reflects on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). WPD 2012 celebrates the 15th anniversary of the adoption by UNESCO of the Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations, as well as the 300th anniversary of the birth of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

In Africa and Uganda in particular, in all areas of life, present generation is bound to respect the claims of future generations.

### ***Why a Philosophy Day?***

*Many thinkers state that “astonishment” is the root of philosophy. Indeed, philosophy stems from humans’ natural tendency to be astonished by themselves and the world in which they live.*



*This field, which sees itself as a form of “wisdom”, teaches us to reflect on reflection itself, to continually question well-established truths, to verify hypotheses and to find conclusions.*

*For centuries, in every culture, philosophy has given birth to concepts, ideas and analyses, and, through this, has set down the basis for critical, independent and creative thought.*

*UNESCO’s Philosophy Day allowed this institution to celebrate, in particular, the importance of philosophical reflection, and to encourage people all over the world to share their philosophical heritage with each other.*

*For UNESCO, philosophy provides the conceptual bases of principles and values on which world peace depends: democracy, human rights, justice, and equality.*

*Philosophy helps consolidate these authentic foundations of peaceful coexistence.*

*Over seventy countries, including twenty-five in Africa, celebrated the first two Philosophy Days which offered everyone, regardless of their culture, the opportunity to think about different questions such as: “Who are we as individuals and as a world community?” It is up to us to reflect upon the state of the world and determine whether it corresponds to our ideals of justice and equality. It is up to us to ask ourselves whether our society is living according to the ethical and moral norms of our great Declarations.*

*This Philosophy Day thus provided us with the occasion to ask ourselves questions that are often forgotten: “What do we neglect to think about?” “Which intolerable realities do we get used to?”*

It is against this background that we wish to hold this year Philosophy day in Uganda.

### **Overall objective**

- To identify and find solutions to philosophical challenges of future generations
1. To show the relevance of philosophical Knowledge to the public.
  2. To promote philosophical debates in Uganda .
  3. To find solutions to Africa’s problem for future generations .

### **Output**

The following are some of the expected outputs to be achieved by the project;

1. Information shared through Public lecture.
2. Partnerships established with academic, NGOs, public institutions and individuals
3. World philosophy day celebrated
4. Communities sensitized about the future challenges and how to overcome them.



### **The Target Groups**

The target and beneficiary group will include:

1. Academia
2. civil society
3. General public

### **Activities**

The objectives of this Project will be fulfilled through the following activities.

1. Holding a Public lecture
2. Speeches.

