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Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
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Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
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**Sub-regional seminar for strengthening African  
National Commissions for UNESCO in post conflict  
reconstruction and peace consolidation process**

**15 – 17 September 2010**

**Nairobi, Kenya**

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# **Report of the Sub-regional seminar for strengthening African National Commissions for UNESCO in post conflict reconstruction and peace consolidation process**

**15 – 17 September 2010**

**Laico Regency Hotel,**

**Nairobi, Kenya**

## **15<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

### Opening Ceremony

The Secretary-General of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, Mr Mohammed M. Mwinyipembe, who welcomed all the participants and expressed his thanks to UNESCO and the German Commission for UNESCO for taking the decision to hold the workshop in Kenya. His opening address was followed by speeches from Mr Xiaolin Cheng (Chief of the National Commissions Section at UNESCO), Prof. Joseph M.G. Massaquoi (Director of UNESCO Cluster Office in Nairobi), Ms Andrea Sasse (Head of Press and Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kenya), Dr. Mary M. Khimulu (Ambassador of Kenya to UNESCO) and a written address of Hon. Prof. Samson Kegeo Ongeru (Minister for National Education) delivered by his representative, Mr Magochi Kiragu (Director for Policy and Planning in the Ministry of National Education).

All speakers stressed the importance of the National Commissions in the network of UNESCO and the need to reinforce them, thereby showing the importance of the “Partnership Programme” jointly launched by the Secretariat of UNESCO and the German Commission for UNESCO in 2008. Moreover, they stressed the particular difficulties for countries in post conflict and peace consolidation situations and the value of close cooperation and sharing of experiences in those situations.

### First session

Before the first presentations, the participants proceeded to introduce themselves. Two rapporteurs were appointed: Mr Mwose Nzwili (Kenya) and Ms Alina Krumme (Germany).

### Major objectives, actions and programmes of UNESCO regarding the post-conflict reconstruction and peace consolidation (presentation by Mr Mogens Schmidt and Ms Robertine Raonimahary)

Mr Mogens Schmidt detailed in his presentation the role that UNESCO can and should play in post conflict and post disaster situations. He underscored especially the often-underestimated importance of so-called “soft factors” in post-conflict situations, including social context and social inclusiveness, which can be supported through the five sectors of UNESCO. As examples, he cited educational systems, peace education, access to information and protection of intangible heritage.

Another main focus of the presentation was the UN system-wide “Delivering as One” process which aims at a more effective cooperation between the different UN organizations at country level. In this process, National Commissions have a special role as they act on behalf UNESCO to advocate its messages and promote its action in those countries that do not have a UNESCO office. Hence an important reason to strengthen their capacities. Even more so as the new strategy for UNESCO Field Network entails an abolition of some country offices in exchange for more regionally organized multi-sectoral offices that cover all five sectors of UNESCO.

The last part of the presentation focused on post disaster responses of UNESCO with the situation in Haiti after the earthquake and the situation in Pakistan after the floods serving as examples. In emergencies, UNESCO can profit from cross sectional links that a platform like the PCPD platform can provide. UNESCO is relatively new in providing emergency responses, which is why improvement can still be achieved, i.e. by implementing a systemic approach to improve the effectiveness of the responses. One of the great advantages of UNESCO is that it always considers not only short-term measures but plans mid-term and long-term interventions that are cohesive.

Ms Robertine Raonimahary emphasized in her presentation as well the importance of long-term interventions in order to link the development process to the peace process and thereby achieve peace consolidation. She mentioned several examples for successful countrywide and regional programmes implemented by UNESCO in Africa, i.e. “The Power for Peace Network”, “Conflict prevention and peace building network for the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa” and the programme for teacher education by ICT in Somalia.

She pointed out the special role of education in the peace process as it builds intercultural dialogue, democratic values and a culture of peace. The PEER (Programme of Education in Emergencies and Reconstruction) programme that started 1993 in Somalia tries to promote access to education in countries affected by conflict to achieve the aforementioned objectives.

It has been implemented in 12 countries so far in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region.

Following the two presentations, there was time for questions. During the discussion, it was reported that the relationship between the National Commissions and the governments as well as National Commissions and UNESCO Field Offices differs widely from one to the other. While some felt that these relationships are quite sound and productive, others complaint that their government often give more attention to UNESCO Offices than to them. This situation naturally had an (positive or negative) impact on the Commission’s role in the peace building and post-conflict reconstruction.

#### Major objectives, actions and programmes of other international institutions regarding the post-conflict reconstruction and peace consolidation (presentation by Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo)

The presentation by Dr. Ojielo traced the problems in peace building met by many African States since the decolonization. He pointed out the importance of good governance, which he sees as a prerequisite for economic development. The main difficulty is that no overall recipe exists that leads to good governance. While the South African experiences was very successful in their own country, the way forward through public confessions, has proved to be unsuccessful in many other countries.

He also emphasized the new stance of the African Union, which is now going the way of non-indifference, meaning that states that do not respect democratic values are no longer just tolerated.

The task of the NatComs according to him could be to use the Ministries of Education as entry points in order to influence the curricula to include peace education and democratic values.

The discussion afterwards evolved around the search of triggering factors and reactions of international organizations. The triggering factors for conflict can be divided in internal and external factors with internal factors being good leadership and good governance and external factor being, i.e. a collapse of resources.

Dr. Ojielo pointed out that the often-voiced critique on the UN of being too soft on sensitive issues and not discussing them with the government is in fact not correct. Those issues are addressed in meetings, but not in public ones as this would not help an honest discussion.

Major efforts made and achievements reached in the African countries in the field of conflict prevention, reconstruction and peace consolidation. Role and special contribution of National Commissions in that process and challenges facing them (presentations by the eight National Commissions)

The presentations from the NatComs showed that the measures taken by them are very similar from one country to the other. They focus mostly on peace education and influence on the curricula as well as action at the community level. Another focus is technical and vocational education in order to reduce unemployment. Most of the National Commissions celebrate “International Days” like the International Day of the mother tongue and the International Literacy Day in order to enhance visibility of UNESCO.

The most common challenges for the NatComs were a lack of financing and resources, human as well as others. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, many face problems in the cooperation with their Ministry or the local UNESCO Office.

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

Challenges in the area of post-conflict reconstruction (DDR, SSR): “Post-Conflict Security Challenges” (presentation by Mr Wolf-Christian Paes)

Mr Paes’ presentation first traced the roots of violent conflict to the risk factors that can lead to conflict, e.g. low GDP per capita, young population, bad governance (according to Paul Collier). Afterwards he traced the way of the weapons from the producers to the warlords, naming several examples of past conflicts that were provided with weapons using the described methods.

In the second part of the presentation, he talked about the several problems in the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) process. He showed the weaknesses in the process, mainly naming insufficient financial means, insufficient training of the demobilized fighters and training in careers without future in the region where the ex-fighters live. Still his experience showed that DDR is an important step in the process to peace consolidation as it does buy time to introduce measures to further integration.

The discussion after the presentation showed that many National Commissions could relate the history of their countries situation to the risk factors mentioned in the presentation. They also experienced many of the problems in the DDR processes in their respective countries.

Also, it became apparent that it still poses difficulties for the NatComs to position themselves in the peace consolidation process and that they need UNESCO’s support.

Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP)

**(Presentation by Mr Michael Gielnik)**

The presentation by Mr Gielnik evolved around the STEP programme and its first implementation at the Kampala University in Kampala, Uganda.

The objective of the programme is to teach students during 12 weeks how to start a company. They receive a starting capital in the beginning of the course (100 USD) and get the task to start a real company during the course. They do this in groups and with the support of the course teachers. In the process, they learn to write a business plan gradually, which will help them in their further entrepreneurial endeavours. At the end of the training, each group has to pay back the starting capital they received, but they can keep the profits they made with their businesses.

So far, the training has been very successful. The statistics from the continuous scientific research on the effects of the training show that the students were significantly more likely to start their own businesses and employ staff after they received the training.

Furthermore he presented the example of two successful students who opened several businesses after the training and who both praised the methods, knowledge and self-confidence that they achieved during the training.

In the following discussion, the main questions concerned the financing of the project, which the first time relied on a deposit made by the students and the University of Kampala. In later projects, there are several scenarios imaginable: either the students pay a small fee and the university provides for the rest of the costs or the universities find some kind of outside financing that can support the course or the Ministries of Education can lend financial support for those programmes. Another point in the discussion was the success of business from students who had the training. So far, there is no significant evidence that the students with training are more successful than the ones without, but the research is being conducted now in order to find an answer to this question. Other countries requested to have the programme introduced in their universities.

### **17<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

#### **Better positioning of the National Commissions in the government structure and enhanced networking with partners**

In the final session of the workshop, the discussion revolved around the question on how to improve the work of National Commission in the peace consolidation process.

The most important points that were proposed were improved cooperation with the Ministries in their respective countries and more cooperation between the National Commissions in Africa. The example was the Cooperation for Capacity-Building between the East African Commissions. This initiative includes the National Commission of Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Kenya and is financed by the German National Commission. Another focus of their work should be to build partnerships with other institutions of the civil society like universities or research institutes, including national committees of intergovernmental programmes, ASP net, UNESCO Chairs, UNESCO Clubs, etc.

At the closing session, thanks were expressed to the Government of Kenya and Kenyan National Commission for their warm reception and host, to the experts/resources persons for their valuable inputs, and to all participants for their active participation and contribution. A certificate was delivered to each participant. After the closing, the participants took a tour of Nairobi and its environs that the Kenya National Commission had organized. They had a view of the Kenyan Parliament, buildings housing government Ministries, Kenyatta National Hospital and the Kibera slums (the largest slums in Africa) upgrading project.

## Sub-regional seminar for strengthening African National Commissions in post conflict reconstruction and peace consolidation process

Laico Regency Hotel  
Nairobi, Kenya, 15-17 September 2010

### Agenda

<b>Day 1</b> <b>15 Sep</b> <b>9 :00-10 :00 am</b>	<p><b>OPENING CEREMONY</b></p> <p><b>Welcoming addresses by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mr Mohammed M. Mwinyipembe</b>, Secretary-General of Kenya National Commission for UNESCO</li> <li>▪ <b>Mr Xiaolin Cheng</b>, Chief of the National Commissions Section, Sector for External Relations and Public Information, UNESCO</li> <li>▪ <b>Mr Joseph M.G. Massaquoi</b>, Director, UNESCO Nairobi Cluster Office and Regional Bureau for Science and Technology in Africa</li> <li>▪ <b>Mrs Andrea Sasse, Head of Press and Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kenya</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Hon. Prof. Samson Kegeo Ogeri</b>, Minister of National Education and Chairperson of Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, read by <b>Mr Magochi Kiragu</b>, Director of Policy and East African Community Affairs, Ministry of National Education</li> </ul> <p><b>Group photo</b></p>
<b>10 :00-10 :30 am</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>10:30-13:00 am</b>	<p><b>Major objectives, actions and programmes of UNESCO regarding the post-conflict reconstruction and peace consolidation</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Mr Joseph M.G. Massaquoi</b>, Director of UNESCO Nairobi Office</p> <p>Presentations by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Mogens Schmidt</b>, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information and Manager of UNESCO Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster Intersectoral Platform, UNESCO</li> <li>• <b>Mrs Robertine Raonimahary</b>, Deputy Director, Africa Department and Director of the Division of Cooperation with Member States and Organizations of</li> </ul>

Africa Department, UNESCO

Questions and answers/discussions

**13:00-14:30 pm**

**Lunch**

**14 :30-16 :00 p.m.**

**Major objectives, actions and programmes of other international institutions (UN agencies) in the field of post-conflict reconstruction and peace consolidation**

Moderator: **Mrs Robertine Raonimahary**, Deputy Director, Africa Department and Director of the Division of Cooperation with Member States and Organizations of Africa Department, UNESCO

Presentations by:

- **Dr. Otonnia Ojelo**, Senior Peace and Development Advisor to UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Chief Peace Building and Conflict Prevention; UNDP, Kenya

Questions and answers/discussions

**16:00-16:15**

**Coffee break**

**16:15-18:00 pm**

**Major efforts and achievements in African countries in the field of conflict prevention, reconstruction and peace consolidation: Role and challenges of National Commissions in that process**

- Moderator: **Mr Kacem Bensalah**, UNESCO Programme of Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction (PEER), Nairobi

**Presentations by representatives of 8 participating countries in the seminar:**

- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Sudan
- Zimbabwe
- Eritrea

Questions and answers/discussions

**Day 2**

**16 Sep**

**9 :00-10 :30**

**Continuation:**

**Major efforts and achievements in African countries in the field of conflict prevention, reconstruction and peace consolidation: Role and challenges of National Commissions in that process**

Moderator: **Mr Kacem Bensalah**, UNESCO Programme of Education for



Emergencies and Reconstruction (PEER), Nairobi

**Presentations by representatives of 8 participating countries in the seminar**

Questions and answers/discussions

10 :45-13 :00

**Case Study in PCPD countries:  
Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP)**

A joint project of Makerere University Business School and Leuphana University of Lüneburg in cooperation with Makerere University, Uganda Christian University, and Kyambogo University

Presentation by:

**Dr. Michael M. Gielnik**, Expert in Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion, Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Institute for Strategic Human Rights Management and Institute of Corporate Development

Questions and answers/discussions

13:00-14:30

*Lunch*

14:30-17:00 pm

**Challenges in the area of post-conflict reconstruction (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), Security Sector Reform (SSR)**

Presentation by:

**Mr Wolf-Christian Paes**, Senior Researcher and Project Manager at the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), Germany.

Questions and answers/discussions

Day 3  
17 Sep  
9 :30-11 :15

**Better positioning of the National Commissions in the government structure and enhanced networking with partners in the peace consolidation process;**

**Enhancing capacities of and Cooperation amongst National Commissions**

Moderation by **Mr Mohammed M. Mwinyipembe**, Secretary-General of the Kenyan National Commission and **Mr Xiaolin Cheng**, Chief of the National Commissions Section

The participants will exchange their experiences and good practices and explore possibilities of reinforcing their network and future cooperation

- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Sudan
- Zimbabwe

Questions and answers/discussions

**11 :15-11 :30**

***Coffee break***

**11:30-12:30**

**Continuation:**

**Better positioning of the National Commissions in the government structure and enhanced networking with partners in the peace consolidation process;**

**Enhancing capacities and Cooperation amongst National Commissions**

**CLOSING**

**12:30**

## Sub-regional seminar for strengthening African National Commissions in conflict prevention, reconstruction and peace consolidation process

Nairobi, Kenya, 15-17 September 2010

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