



## ROLE OF CULTURE OF PEACE IN POLICY MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

*“Promoting a just, peaceful and inclusive Namibia.”*

### **Background:**

In the era of globalization, cultural diversity has positioned itself as an integral component of human society brought forth by migration, the grouping of people into specific cultural identities, the advancement of communication media, and the growing interdependence between regions. We are increasingly living in a global mosaic with its multi coloured tesserae representing the mix of ethnic groups, languages, and cultures characterizing our societies. Though this global mosaic may serve as a beautiful display of diversity, if left un-invested, social biases, prejudices and discriminatory practices may very well ensue which translates to marginalization through cultural, economic, and political exclusion. As the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres stated in a recent forum addressing anti-Muslim discrimination, “We need political, cultural and economic investments in cohesion so that diversity is rightly seen as richness, not as threat.” As such, it is imperative that we “draw strength from the values of inclusion, tolerance and mutual understanding.” It is primarily because of the urgent necessity of investing in diversity that UNESCO has acted as a key player for the promotion of intercultural dialogue to advance social cohesion, peace, and non-violence. The framework for doing so is the United Nations International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2013-2022 (IDRC) which pushes for the fostering of mutual understanding and cooperation for peace, based on the principle of respect for the inherent dignity of all persons. This framework is further supported by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which peaceful and inclusive societies are a global objective as well as the AU Agenda 2063 and the AU Solemn Declaration on Silencing the Guns by 2020.

Of critical importance to democracy is diversity and the challenge to current politics can be boiled down to the management of said diversity. This is why leveraging intercultural dialogue at the political level is so important; such a dialogue would contribute to reinforcing participatory democracy and advancing inclusivity while increasing a sense of belonging for all. In short, intercultural dialogue is a prerequisite to the realization of democracy’s full potential with its fundamental pillars being the acceptance of human rights as the foundation for mutual respect, recognizing cultural pluralism, strengthening active citizenship and a culture of peace, mainstreaming inclusive policies in all public sectors, and fostering intercultural communication.

Policy makers and parliamentarians wield the power to make an impact at a national, regional, and international level through the passing of laws and participation in international governing bodies; thus, to work with policy makers is to institutionalize intercultural dialogue. Parliamentarians are at the forefront of realizing the SDGs given that they are responsible for translating the SDGs into national laws.



Moreover, parliamentarians represent different political parties and social groups. They are the nucleus of diversity and so sensitizing them on intercultural dialogue is the most effective way to create a political culture of peace, dialogue, and respect for differences. Furthermore, parliamentarians are crucial for the advancement of a culture of peace and the sustainable development goals, including SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) as government accountability and national policy are critical to ensuring the attainment of these objectives.

It's also important to note that parliamentarians can provide a communication platform to bridge the government-citizen divide by ensuring that policies and plans targeting the sustainable development goals and culture of peace are drawn up through participatory and inclusive processes; this would bring the SDGs and culture of peace to the attention of the public and media which would further promote accountability at all levels.

Recognizing the untapped potential of policy makers in advancing intercultural dialogue, culture of peace and the sustainable development goals, it is imperative to address the challenges that emerge from institutional capacities as not all parliaments have the ability to take on the demanding SDGs framework since many are still dealing with conflict or post-conflict related obstacles. As such, the UN must continue to strategically empower parliaments to advance the SDGs and the culture of peace. UNESCO's Regional Office for Southern Africa is developing knowledge and skills related to interculturality for the strengthening of a culture of peace among parliamentarians in the region by creating spaces of capacity-building and dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures. UNESCO will involve parliamentarians in the development and monitoring of Goal 16 indicators. It is through initiatives like these that the universal objective of "living together" may one day be achieved.

### **Aim and objectives**

The Parliament of Namibia and UNESCO are organizing a workshop that aims at developing knowledge and skills regarding interculturality for the strengthening of a culture of peace in the region of Southern Africa. The workshop will be creating spaces of capacity-building and dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures

This initiative is in response to the proclamation made by the United Nations General Assembly which declared the period 2013-2022 as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (IDRC). The IDRC was born of the need for new articulations between cultural diversity and universal values, and reinforced Member States' commitment to furthering interreligious and intercultural dialogue and the promotion of mutual understanding and



cooperation for peace; as such, UNESCO was designated as lead agency for the Decade in the United Nations system.

The workshop will be facilitated by Gilbert M. Khadiagala, professor of International Relations at the University of Witwatersrand and a host of technical experts from academia and UNESCO have been invited to participate. The expected results/outcomes for the workshop is that Culture of Peace is integrated in law and policy formulation processes in Namibia.

### **Objective**

- **To promote the use of Culture of Peace as a tool for inclusive laws and policy formulation in Namibia.**

### **Expected Result**

- **Culture of Peace is integrated in law and policy formulation processes in Namibia.**



## Programme

<b>Monday 24 April 2017</b>	
0800-0830	Arrival of participants, morning tea and registration.
0830-0930	<p><b>OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY</b></p> <p><b>Dr Jean Pierre Ilboudo</b>, <i>Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Namibia</i></p> <p><b>Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, MP</b>, <i>Chairperson to the National Council of Namibia</i></p> <p><b>Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, MP</b>, <i>Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia</i></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremony:</b></p>
0930-1100	<p><b>Session 1: Introduction to Culture of Peace</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Gilbert M. Khadiagala</b>, <i>Professor of International Relations University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa</i> <b>Presentation on the status of Peace and Intercultural Dialogue in Southern and Eastern Africa</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Jairos Kangira</b>, <i>Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia.</i> <b>Culture of Peace in Namibia</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Charaf Ahmimed</b>, Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences, <i>UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa.</i></p>
1100-1130	Tea Break
1130-1300	<p><b>Session 2. Existing Global and Regional Framework for Culture of Peace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the UN International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) and SDG 16 on Promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies; EU framework on the Culture of Peace; AU Charter of Human and People's Rights and the Culture of Peace.</li> <li>• Using Culture of Peace in policy formulation; Concrete Examples from Sub Saharan Africa.</li> </ul> <p><b>Charaf Ahmimed</b>, Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences, <i>UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa.</i></p>



<b>1300-1400</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>1400-1600</b>	<b>Session 3: Integrating Culture of Peace in Law and Policy Development</b>
<p><b>Group Work: Harmonisation of National Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review/harmonisation of existing policies and proposals for new policies/laws to integrate Culture of Peace and accelerate implementation of SDG16 in Namibia</li> </ul>	
<b>1600- 1630</b>	<b>Tea and Departure END OF DAY 1</b>

<b>Tuesday 25 April 2017</b>	
<b>0900-1300</b>	<b>Session 4: Action Plan for the Implementation of SDG16</b>
<p><b>Group Work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing action plan for policy revision/making proposed in Session 3</li> <li>Plenary Presentation of the Action Plan</li> </ul>	
<b>1300-1400</b>	<b>Lunch and Departure</b>