

**YOUTH BUILDING PEACE IN AFRICA: *HUMAN SECURITY & THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS***

**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES, 22 OCTOBER 2005**

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## FOREWORD

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2005, the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, the Netherlands hosted the seventh African Students Conference, attended by 250 participants. The conference was organised by The African Committee (TAC) and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY). The theme this year was “**Building Peace in Africa: Human Security and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**”. This event brought together African students studying at institutes of higher education in the Netherlands, the African Diaspora, Dutch students, and NGO representatives. The Netherlands Commission for International and Sustainable Development (NCDO), Novib/ OXFAM-NL, CORDAID and the Municipality of The Hague financed the event which was hosted by the Institute of Social Studies.

Since the first gathering in 1999, the African Students Conference has become a well-known, inspiring event where students, representing future leaders and activists from across the African continent come together to share ideas and to discuss solutions to the current issues in Africa. The conference has been declared a great success by speakers and participants alike.

The conference was addressed by internationally recognised experts from Africa and the international community. They provided the participants with insight knowledge and shared their experience in peace-building, the relevance of the MDGs, and in how Africa can utilise the momentum from such conferences and move forward to building stable peace and towards achieving the millennium goals. The speakers were Hafsat Abiola, director of the Kurdirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND), Nigeria; Jan Gustav Strandenaes, ANPED; Charity Musamba, director of Jubilee 2000, Zambia; Prof. Kevin Clements, director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Department of the Queensland University, Australia; Sayida Vanenberg of the Dutch National Youth Council; Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer of GPPAC (Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Netherlands); Dinansas Abdella, Ama van Dantzig, Sahro Mohamed, and Anika May of UNOY Peacebuilders.

The African Committee and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) would like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors, the speakers, the participants, the facilitators, the organising team, and the Institute of Social Studies for making the conference once again an enriching success. Let us continue what we started on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005.

*The Hague, January 2006*

**Reporting Team:** Esther Lever, Bruno Fon, Hans Ola Haavelsrud, Emine Dalyan



Gemeente Den Haag



## PROGRAMME

### BUILDING PEACE IN AFRICA: HUMAN SECURITY AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Institute of Social Studies, 22 October 2005

<u>Time</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
08.30-9.30	Registration; Coffee/Tea	
09.30-09.45	Opening Welcome Address	Prof. Louk de la Rive Box, Rector of the Institute of Social Studies, NL Eva Mary Nazziwa, The African Committee Hilary Jeune, UNOY Peacebuilders
09.45-10.15	Overview of the Millennium Summit and the MDGs	Jan Gustav Strandenaes, Policy Advisor, Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED)
10.15-10.45	Linking MDGs with Human Security and Peace-building	Prof. Kevin Clements, Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Brisbane University
10.45-10.55	Questions and answers	
10.55-11.20	Coffee/Tea Break	
11.20-11.50	Human Rights, the Role of Women and the MDGs	Hafsat Abiola, Kurdirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND)
11.50 -12.20	On the Ground Experience: What Africa Does to Achieve Peace and the MDGs	Charity Musamba, Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, Zambia
12.20-12.30	Questions and answers	
12.30-13.45	Lunch	
13.45-13.55	Short film: "Hope"	By Catherine Margerin & Willy Whitefeather (2005)
13.55-14.25	The Role and Examples of Youth Promoting Peace and Achieving the MDGs	Dinansas Abdurashid Abdella & Ama van Dantzig, UNOY Peacebuilders Sayida Vanenburg, NYC, youth delegate for CSD Sahro Mohamed, UNOY Peacebuilders
14.25-14.40	Questions and answers	
14.40-14.55	Global Action Agenda, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)	Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer, European Centre for Conflict Prevention, Coordinator GPPAC conference
14.55-15.05	Questions and answers	
15.05-15.10	Introduction to Working Groups	Marte Hellema, UNOY Peacebuilders
15.10-15.30	Coffee/Tea Break	
15.30-17.00	Working Groups	
17.00-17.40	Presentation of Results from the Working Groups and Follow Up	
17.40-17.50	Conference Follow Up	Anika May, UNOY Peacebuilders
17.50-18.00	Closing Ceremony	Hans Ola Haavelsrud, UNOY Peacebuilders Azzika Tanko Yussif, The African Committee
18.00-19.30	Reception in the Atrium	

## OPENING ADDRESSES

***Professor Louk De La Rive Box,***  
**Rector of the Institute of Social Studies**

After a welcome speech to the speakers and participants, Professor de la Rive Box opened the 7<sup>th</sup> African Students Conference by asking whether or not our world has become more secure during the past twenty years. The majority of students responded by saying they believed the world has become less secure. However, Professor de la Rive Box illustrated how contrary to this, the world has actually become safer. His explanations for the divergence between feeling and reality were linked to the highly developed articulated feeling of insecurity in the North, which consequently is transposed into the press and are thereby also into discourse and debates in the South. One of the examples he presented was the colour system which indicate the level of threats to our security.

Professor de la Rive Box went on to discuss the necessity of debating this conference's topic and the importance of the targets as set out in the Millennium Development Goals. Professor de la Rive Box argued that it is important to have such targets as they increase accountability and provide the means to do better than what has been done in the past. He criticised the United States' attempts to take the MDGs out of the final document (outcome of the MDG+5 Summit) at the UN in September. De la Rive Box argued that common goals, national and international commitment is necessary, regardless of how one feels about the individual targets set out in the MDGs. He exemplified this statement by discussing the anti-personnel landmines convention which was signed by all countries even though it had seemed as a non-issue to a Dutch minister at the time. Through international pressure and commitment, the convention gained the status of an international agreement and through this, the status of an international law. Thus, coming together and committing oneself on a global level can result in tangible changes. Furthermore, the impetus for this convention had come from civil society, namely women groups in the United States, Canada and Europe.

Professor de la Rive Box affirmed that the discussion concerning the MDGs and human security is particularly relevant in the current political climate. He concluded by stating that human security is a component of this discussion because it is the *positive* answer to the type of scary thinking currently prevalent, unfortunately, in the North and which we need to arm ourselves against.

***Eva Mary Nazziwa***  
**President of the African Student Committee**

“On behalf of the African Committee, I'd like to welcome you to this conference. The African Committee is an organisation comprised of students from the tertiary institutions in The Netherlands and the secretariat is situated at the Institute of Social Studies. The main objective of the committee is facilitating intellectual dialogue, promoting lasting networks among African intellectuals and formulating strategies for development in Africa.

Among the main activities the committee does is convening the African Students' Conference and since 1999, has been an annual event. In 2000, the theme was New Partnership for Africa's Development and its Challenges. Last year, the theme was the Role of the Youth in Building Peace in Africa. This year, it is Human Security and the Millennium Development Goals. Once again, on behalf of the African Committee, I'd like to welcome you to this conference. I wish you a fruitful stay and deliberation during the conference”. Thank you!

**Hilary Jeune,  
UNOY Peacebuilders**

“The UNOY team welcomes you to the 7<sup>th</sup> African Students Conference. Since 2001, together with The African Committee, UNOY Peacebuilders has been organising the annual African Student Conference at the Institute of Social Studies.

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders is a global network of over 400 young people and youth organisations active in the field of peace-building. We were established in 1989 by a group of concerned young people from around the world as an International Youth NGO with an aim of ‘empowering youth to become agents of positive change’. Our goal is to empower young people’s local capacities for peace and increase their effectiveness through:

- Developing global and regional networks of young peace-builders to share experiences, skills and create friendships including the UNOY African Network of Young Peace-builders;
- Organising conferences and training seminars in the fields of peace-building, conflict transformation and reconciliation;
- Empowerment for action including developing toolkits, for example an evaluation toolkit for youth peace work.
- Advocate for stronger and more meaningful partnership of young individuals and youth organisations with the United Nations system;
- Campaigning for the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence.
- Practical research

There are deep rooted interlinkages between security, development and human rights, which in turn affect all levels of society in the world. This ‘glocalisation’ of human affairs has direct implications for international peace and security, with vast pockets of extreme poverty, famine, pandemics, social marginalisation, widespread unemployment and social dislocation, grave human rights abuses and mass crimes, and increasing environmental pressures. As the Secretary-General stated in his *In Larger Freedom Report*: ‘The world must advance the causes of security, development and human rights together, otherwise none will succeed. Humanity will not enjoy security without development; it will not enjoy development without security, and it will not enjoy security either without respect for human rights.’ History has shown that serious human problems descend into violent conflicts unless they are ‘actively redressed and directed into non-violent channels through proactive and purposeful policies and wise leadership’.

As the Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for Youth and the MDGs describes, globally, the situation of young people today is characterised by extreme disparities in terms of economic, technological, social and cultural resources, which vary enormously across regions, countries, localities and population groups. Especially for Africa, the youthful population has been growing rapidly constituting the majority of the African population and their integration into society, in terms of both civic responsibility and membership, has had enormous economic, cultural, political and social consequences. The Report stated that in a worldwide, on-line consultation with more than 350 youth about the MDGs in June 2004, most of the respondents said they knew little or nothing about the MDGs. They also stressed that they do not have access to tools for implementation. The major challenge facing governments, UN agencies and civil society is to provide these tools in creative and thoughtful ways to engage youth to work collaboratively in improving their communities. According to the e-consultation, young people asked for: tools such as internet access, meeting spaces, adult mentors and allies, opportunities for volunteerism, access and training to information communication technologies (ICTs), business training, civic education, access to political leaders, information sharing, education, and the general support and encouragement from government and institutions, including resources and funding.

We welcome the speakers, facilitators and you- participants to inform us, challenge us and inspire us on the issue of Building Peace in Africa; human security and the millennium development goals.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### **BUILDING PEACE IN AFRICA: HUMAN SECURITY AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

*Jan Gustav Strandenaes, Senior Policy Advisor*  
**ANPED (Northern Alliance for Sustainability)**

Jan Gustav Strandenaes, a senior policy advisor of ANPED, was the first speaker to address the audience. Mr Strandenaes has substantial experience in analysing international political processes, sustainable development and civil society development, which provided the insight into the MDGs and their role in wider political developments, which he shared with the audience. His speech highlighted the importance of the MDGs in today's society. He touched upon the need to keep governments and ourselves accountable, and argued that the MDGs are ways to do so. He argued that the MDGs are ways in which targets can be set that create a sense of optimism and feeling of change by providing strategic targets to individuals as well as to governments.

Mr Strandenaes also focused on the relevance of the United Nation as an international institution notwithstanding the recent criticisms made against it. He argued that the MDGs can be read as a synthesis of the UN's work over the past 60 years. Mr Strandenaes continued by discussing the rise of civil society – beyond the grassroots' level and its impact on the United Nations. He proposed that the MDGs facilitate and promote the role of civil society on the international and global level, suggesting that this could pose a threat to certain nations. He also addressed the need for closer international cooperation.

He highlighted the fact that the old North-South divide no longer exists. He argued that poverty and environmental issues exemplify how the world has changed because it occurs in both the so-called developed and developing world. Rather, it is a global phenomenon. Mr Strandenaes continued by discussing values, which are intrinsic to the MDGs but can be overlooked if they are simply seen in light of technical indicators and targets. According to Mr Strandenaes the fundamental values in the MDGs are: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, and respect for nature and shared responsibility.

Mr Strandenaes touched upon the relationship between NGOs, civil society and governments in relation to the MDGs and challenged the audience to remain critical. He warned that development will be slow, and that the MDGs should not be seen as the panaceas to development. Finally, he cautioned against feeling complacency and emphasised the need to continue the fight for development.

Below is the full text of his speech.

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...I have been working with the UN on development and international policy issues all my life, because I had parents who worked in the NGO sector and were internationally oriented. They worked with the UN system and I couldn't help myself when I grew up, to take after their example. My background is in history and in environmental sciences.

I am going to talk to you about the MDGs and I am going to talk to you in a way that is not going into the MDGs as such, because you can all read about that. There are numerous reports about that. I'd like to focus on the MDGs and on what happened at the Millennium Summit at the United Nations in New York this September. I want to ask you some questions that have been raised already. We need the MDGs as a timeline to hold our governments accountable. But we need to ask ourselves as well, and hold ourselves accountable. I am an optimist by birth and I can't help myself even in there. You all thought that the world is less secure today. An interesting survey of the atti-

tude of young people in Europe found that a staggering sixty percent of youth in Western Europe are fairly pessimistic about their future. Now, this is interesting and it is a challenge to me because if you are too pessimistic about the future, how are you going to work to change the world with confidence? You may all ask what pessimism is and we are not going into philosophical discussion now. But there are ways of looking at optimism and I see two ways and I think you all know about it. It is the analogy of two friends emptying a bottle and wondering whether it is half full or half empty. It is all in the perspective in which we would like to put it. You are here because you want to change the world. You want to change it for something better. I mean no less, but we need a few strategic targets to do that, and we must be able to create an interest. If you cannot create an interest among your own constituency, I think you will have a hard time. It is also about creating an interest that is likely to change the attitude of the people and that will finally cause action to take place. This is a very simple and methodological kind of approach. If we walk around thinking that the world is not going to change or that it changes very slowly, you might be lured into the feeling of pessimism. Looking back, I can see dramatic changes. The MDGs are actually something fantastic happening because it is the synthesis of the UN from when it started its work sixty years ago. It was trying times in the UN this September when we knew that a number of countries wanted to obliterate the MDG targets and the MDGs as a concept. It didn't happen. It didn't happen because I think the world is not going to let that happen, and we need to be strong in that context as well. MDGs to me are more than about just the targets, or the goals or the indicators. They are also about democracy. And I see democracy as also being about controlling power. I know there are many definitions of democracy, but I would like to use this one for the time being. One more thing which I feel is also embedded in the quest for democracy and in the MDGs, is the quest for truth. And one definition of truth is from what I would call my favourite philosopher, Van Wright. It says "truth is a value we approach with respect. It is not a platform to be conquered or taken, so that some may be denied access to it, even for a short period of time"

*The fundamental values that are found in the Millennium Declaration which I would like you to think about when you talk about the MDGs are freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, and respect for nature and shared responsibility.*

Looking back on the year 1945 we see a completely different situation. There were 52 nations that created the UN, now we are up to 192 nations. If I had more time I could go into more details about it, but the red arrow that increases here from 1945 up to 2000 is actually the influence graphically described of civil society or the non-governmental organisations. And this can be traced by looking at development as described within the UN. Back in 1945, less than ten NGOs were working within the UN system. Now they count thousands. And this is actually the grass root communities' abilities to go not only into politics at the national level, but bringing this up to the international level. The UN Summit on Environment and Development held in Rio in 1992 saw for the first time civil society sitting down and negotiating on the same level with governments. And the MDGs have come about because of these forces. One of the reasons some nations tried to get rid of the MDGs as such is the phenomenon that it allows civil society to work internationally, i.e. at *their* level.

I would like to say that we have been in a watershed for a number of times. And I would like to say that the old North-South divide is gone. Poverty and environmental issues are two examples that show the world has changed. When I started working on these issues back in 1970, poverty was something that was seen as a phenomenon solely occurring in the so-called developing world. Today poverty is a global phenomenon. It has hit the EU apart, it has hit the United States even harder and it does hit the developing world. But it is a *global* phenomenon – as is the recognition of environmental problems, just to mention two global phenomena that tell me that the world is very different. And I hope for my sake, and I hope for your sake, that you are a generation of this century and not of the past century. The MDGs must be seen in the context of the declaration that preceded it, and this is often forgotten. It is forgotten because maybe it contains a discussion on values. The content overview of the declaration itself says that you should talk about values and principles, and this was not discussed at all at the September MDG +5 Summit in New York. Politics at an international level does not have to concern itself with values. It was peace, security and disarmament. It was almost lost but it is there. Poverty eradication and development are strongly seen in the MDGs.

It was almost lost but we saved it at the last instance at the September meeting. Human Rights, good governance and democracy: These are issues very difficult for a number of international politicians to take seriously. Protecting the vulnerable, meeting the special needs of Africa, and strengthening the UN – it is all in the MDGs. Summing up the MDGs as such we will see that there are eight goals, 18 targets, and 48 indicators. It is a very technical approach to development. And as long as it is technical it is easy to deal with and it is easy to show progress reports. In the development declaration itself from 2002, there are no target indicators. The fundamental values that are found in the Millennium Declaration which I would like you to think about when you talk about the MDGs, are freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, and respect for nature and shared responsibility. And this discussion is today non-existent in the MDG-debate. And I would like you to take it back. I think it's important not to lose sight of these issues.

Look at the world today. Let me be bold and say that this might happen for the next 15 years. Starting in 2000 there has been a significant drop and change in the aid flow as was felt in the beginning

*What I found was that the governments have now become so entrenched in the thinking that the MDGs are the panaceas to development and that this is going to be the solution to all the problems. These are not values we need to propagate for.*

of this century. It may be turning around, but if you look at the government-to-government level, this is now faltering a little bit. And about the miracle of aid, there is a loss of confidence. Aid does not work.

A colleague from Kenya at a conference in Oslo put it bluntly and said 'we don't need you anymore', and I think he is right. How can we cooperate? There is an increased private investment to substitute for the loss of official aid. Even though the world has become more secure, there is a growing social instability and unrest in many areas and with this there is an interesting sub-national self-determination

coming up very strongly. There are more interesting points to deal with internationally if we look at the context of the MDGs. There is unfortunately in many countries an effort to erode state-sovereignty. There is an accelerating inequality when we see some of the analysis that lies behind the MDGs; we'll see that there are concerns about the poorly regulated but powerful international corporation. We feel this very strongly when we deal with environmental issues. We have also an instant movement of capital. There is rapid development in global communication and we have a whole development apparatus that is generally based on science and growing environmental distress. All these are issues that actually stimulated or helped to bring forth the MDGs. I will also say that the governments are deliberately using the NGOs to fulfil this strategy. If you look at the work that the United Nations is developing – look at all the specialised agencies – there is a heavy reliance on the ability of NGOs to deliver. The governments say this openly in this part of the world. And the thing is for us to ask: do we want to have this association with the governments? Remember that a number of aid organisations that work for and by the people to be able to fulfil all the targets in their aid work now are tuned to the MDGs. You have to be accountable to that system and not perhaps to your own constituency, and this represents a problem that the NGOs are not willing to discuss. To whom are we accountable; to the governments that give the money or to the constituency that we work for? And are we going to be honest to our constituency then? What happens to government-NGO relationships? Are they willing to allow us to go different ways? This is difficult and this changes what was discussed at times during the summit in September. What I found was that the governments have now become so entrenched in the thinking that the MDGs are the panaceas to development, and that this is going to be the solution to all the problems.

So what is happening with the future if you look at this? I think it is important to have the MDGs. I am not going to suggest doing away with them; we need them. It is the synthesis of our efforts that have been worked on for twenty, thirty, forty years. We are finally there, but the development now and which was actually very strongly felt in the September summit is not good and I felt worried not because the governments are not there but because they will be. I felt worried about the lack of interest in their own accountability that NGOs have shown. In conclusion, there is a reason for us to be critical; there is a reason for us to be optimistic and there is a reason for us to be worried. Worried because development is going to be slow and it is not going to be easy to fulfil the goals! And

impatience is going to substitute what I would like to see sustained. And when the public sees the problems we are facing, we all become restless and feel we cannot fulfil these goals faster than we will. What is happening here? Where are we going? I usually start by asking these questions even though we are here and we are all interested in the same goals. Do we have common understanding in the values we are fighting for? We are interested in democracy and conflict resolution. Do we understand the values that are embedded in the MDGs? Do we all agree on the descriptions? And do we all agree on the description of the world as we would like it to be? I do not think that we do. And believe me this is a great world and as I've seen and said so often, your challenge is to keep the impatience in this time in our lives and if you can do that I am happy.

## THE QUEST FOR HUMAN SECURITY: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE-BUILDING

*Professor Kevin Clements*

**Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Queensland University**

Professor Kevin Clements, Director of the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at Queensland University, began his speech by addressing the role of development and security. He stated that “there will be no development without security and no security without development”.

Prof. Clements presented a pain calculus after which he posed the question of why the deaths of 3000 people on 9/11 resulted in a major shift in global politics. He went on to discuss how development and security are both contested concepts and illustrated how these concepts are linked. He presented the concept of a conflict trap, which indicates an increased likelihood of repeat conflicts in countries that have already experienced conflicts. He observed that war causes poverty, but that poverty also increases the chances of war.

Prof. Clements continued his speech by going in depth into the various definitions of human security. He then went on to explain how human security requires social cohesion, the continuation of the United Nations, as well as the continuing development of civil society. He argued for more accountability from our governments. Also, he illustrated how there are significant development challenges, and pushed for increased monitoring and evaluation of the impact that initiatives have on development, peace-building, and empowerment. He strongly called for the need to deconstruct terror and argued that political violence, and not terrorism, is the real problem.

Prof. Clements emphasised the need to maintain hope and to increase political participation of all citizens. He ended his speech by presenting a poem which illustrates the power of hope. Below is the full text of his speech.

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Thank you very much everybody for inviting me here. It's a great pleasure. I can't think of anything I would rather be doing than opening up a conversation with the future leadership of Africa and I am so pleased and impressed to see so many of you here. I think the reality is the world will never be secure; the north will never be secure unless Africa is secure. In other words, this is not only an issue of minor academic interest. Unless the world community ensures that the African continent and the African people are at the heart of their considerations, we will always have a lingering sense of insecurity. And until we start dealing with the vestigial and sometimes not so vestigial remnants of racism and colonialism in relation to Africa, African peoples will not be able to realise their full potentialities. And until we start dealing with the good news that is coming out of Africa, the ways in which all of you and your families and friends and others are surviving, and more than surviving, living good and productive and wonderful lives, we ourselves in the north will be impoverished. So this is not for me just any random conference in a conference schedule. For me, this is an important opportunity for us to think together about what we in the north have to do and what you in Africa have to do, to ensure that all of us can realise our common human potential. Hilary Jeune has already gone through the first slide and I am not going to spend much time on it. But the promise is Kofi Annan's promise and I would like to read it out again:

*“In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, all states and institutions must advance the cause of larger freedom by ensuring freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity in an increasingly inter-connected world; progress, development and human rights must go hand in hand. There will be no development without security, no security without development. And both development and security also depend on the respect of human rights and the respect of the rule of law.”*

And I think we just have to name what has happened to this vision. The Millennium Summit and the Millennium +5 Summit, which have just been completed, were intended to promote this integrated vision, keeping together the *development*, the *human rights* and the *security* agenda. And it was sabotaged; let me name it, by the United States. One week before the conference began, John Bolton, who also got appointed through the back door, tabled 750 amendments to the consensus document that had been emerging, and undermined the vision of the United Nations to keep these three agendas – development, human rights and security – together. This left us with a vacuous and dying document. Why did he do this? I want to argue he did this because his intention, his use of the United Nations, America's use of the United Nations at the moment is to advance America's interests over the interest of the rest of the world. He has no interest in the human interests.

I will now present a pain calculus to demonstrate the way in which our response to suffering appears to be colour-blind. 3000 individuals were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the whole world is being distorted right now in response to those particular calamities in New York on 9/11, in London on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2005, in Madrid in March 2004 and elsewhere. But there are 45.000 AIDS victims in Africa every month. There are 8000-14000 Afghan civilians killed since the invasion in 2003. And there are 30.000 children dying of preventable diseases every hour. 80.000 are killed in the northern Ugandan conflict, and 100.000+ Iraqi civilians and militants have been killed since the U.S invasion in 2003. And 3.5 million people have been killed directly or indirectly in eastern Congo since 1985.

Where is the mourning and grieving of the international community for all of these casualties, when 30.000 kids would have lost their lives while we have just been talking here for one hour? The world has a very, very colour-blind approach to suffering. And until we can actually begin to acknowledge anybody's suffering, anybody's hurt, anybody's death – preventable death – then the world will become de-sensitised and numbed to the kind of griping suffering that occurs all the time, the daily existential terror which is faced by many people in the southern part of the world and in the north. So as we grapple in the north with an obesity epidemic, it is rare for us to think that our obesity is at the expense of somebody else's material well being.

There are some contested issues here, and it is important how you present these issues. If you focus on security and development, then you give preference and priority to state systems rather than to the social and economic systems. If you focus on development and security, you are focusing on the economy by and large, and the social network and support systems that go with that. If you think about development and peace-building, you are trying to combine sets of development initiatives to satisfy basic human needs, with some notion of how you build harmonious relationships and cohesion. If you think of peace-building and development, then you start with cohesion, and out of cohesion comes some measure of development. If you think in terms of national security like the United States does, you privilege everything to the safety and security of the state's institutions; and you expect that it will then trickle down in some way or another to the rest of the community. If you think in terms of common security, then you know that security depends on the quality of your relationships. And if you think in terms of human security, that is even more transformative.

So what is human security? Human security is when everybody is free from fear and from the threat of crime and war. It is when everybody is free from want, poverty, illness and environmental degradation. It is both a political objective and an analytical and conceptual tool. It is a powerful, critical concept; because if state institutions are not enabling you to live free of fear and free of want, they are failing in their primary duty. And actually, when you look at the United States these days, it is a pathetic country. It is creating havoc around the world to advance its own security, yet it did not manage to deal with the hurricane in and around New Orleans (2005). If you look at what is happening in Pakistan and India right now, they are directing so much of their efforts and energies to the development of their own security systems in the conflict over Kashmir, and yet they are unable to deal with an earthquake. These are indications that our state systems are failing in their basic responsibility to safeguard human security. And the 'war on terror', this oxymoronic war on terror is aimed at elevating the power of state institutions over the security of the individuals and citizens.

It is an absolute calamity this is happening. Human security is about the protection of individuals; not about making the state the referent object.

State behaviour and policy is to be judged on how well they serve the interests of citizens. If your state systems all around Africa are not serving you and your fellow citizens, if they are not generating peace, well being, and freedom from fear, they are failing in their primary responsibility. Some might argue this is another kind of assertion of western individualism in another guise, but what I want to argue is that 'human' in the African context or other high-context cultures is about protecting the vitality and resilience of the Kings, the villages and the communities within which the individuals realise their own potentialities. Human security requires social cohesion. There will be no development, no state security, and no capacity to prevent freedom from fear unless the relationships which underpin all of our lives are cohesive relationships, unless you can depend not only on your immediate family, but on others' families as well.

The challenge is to prevent fragmentation, marginalisation and polarisation. The societies at war with each other are polarised and divided in fundamental ways. Individuals within those societies are being traumatised and fragmented in different ways. And large groups are being excluded from the benefits of production. This situation characterises many parts of Africa. The response to this problem, the response to this fragmentation problem is psycho-cultural; the response to the marginalisation problem is social-economic and the response to the polarisation problem is social-political. The aim is to generate co-existence at minimum so that all of the different communities in the societies and nations in which you are part can join together more optimally to produce higher levels of social cohesion. The requirement of social cohesion, on which societies and human security depend, is nonetheless being constantly undermined by the uncontrolled and uncontrollable pursuits of states.

Large states do things, well small states do same. Well, I come from New Zealand actually, which is a very small state on the other side of the world. But large states with few exceptions from the United States are the most egregious example, practice what they call *à la carte* multilateralism. They will use global and regional organisations when they want to serve their own purposes but are unwilling to allow themselves to be constrained by that; whereas small societies and small states know that they depend on these regional organisations. Therefore, we have to focus a lot more attention on the continuing importance of the United Nations and on the re-activation of the full millennium development goals which demand high levels of democratic norms and accountability from governments. This is what we have to deal with in terms of development challenges. We have to name this. We are dealing with some egregious inequality. The three richest people in the world have assets that exceed the combined GDP of the 48 least developed countries, a large number which are in Africa. The world's 225 richest individuals have total assets of 311 billion dollars, and a combined wealth of over one trillion – which equals the annual income of the poorest 47% of the entire world's population. This shows that it is imperative to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

It is equally important to make sure that development initiatives are constantly directed towards peace-building, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. More people are killed in Africa each year than the rest of the world put together. So we need to nuance our response as to whether our world is getting safer. The world is getting safer in some parts of the world but it is not getting safer in Africa. We have to harness our development initiatives, and make sure they play a positive role in responding to that issue of security. We have developed a peace and conflict development impact assessment which analyses development projects in terms of their peace-building impact. Are the MDGs generating stronger and more harmonious societies? Reducing the chances of violent conflict? Or are they in fact exacerbating the divisions and going to generate conflicts? There is a need to understand the changing context, which I do not have time to enter into. But then, in terms of empowerment and disempowerment, to ensure that every initiative has a positive peace-building and development impact, the answer is 'yes' to two questions: Does the initiative increase the capacity of locals to identify problems and to formulate and implement their own solutions viably and effectively? And secondly - is the initiative built on a partnership that leads to genuine ownership?

These are the challenges facing us right now. There are too many kinds of plans, programmes and policies prepared in Washington, Geneva, New York and elsewhere which are then imposed on Africa and the rest of the world, which disempower locals as they try and grapple with their own problems. There are far too many partnerships which are tyrannical, which are simply neo-colonial in another guise. We have a major challenge when thinking through all of these initiatives, which is: how do we ensure that all of our relationships between the so-called developed north and the less developed south are ones of equality, are ones which are truly empowering, are ones that place you at the heart of the solutions and you at the heart of the agenda-setting and you at the heart of telling us what you want us to do, not what we want you to do. Because unless we do this, we are not going to make the progress that we need to make on all of these issues.

It is important that we begin to attack the stress on terror and terrorism, oppose it, deconstruct it and put it to one side because it will create and continue to create a pathology which prevents us from the kind of development which is going to be really liberating. We have to start standing up and saying, 'I am not actually afraid of terrorist threats. I'm more likely to die of a heart attack. Or I'm more likely to die of starvation, an earthquake or being run over by a bus. The probability of me being killed in a terrorist attack is extremely low. And it is for all of us. But the existential terrorism is much more important. If you look at the report from 2005, 91% of all terrorist incidents in the ten years to 2001 were national in origin and accounted for 94% of the fatalities; most terrorism, therefore, is not trans-national terrorism. Over the same ten-year period, only 32,000 people were killed in terrorist incidents. Right now, in fact, 30,000 children have been killed as I have been talking. International terrorism is not the primary source of political fatality. In its analysis of terrorism, the US State department discovered that terrorism correlates highly with four factors: poverty; underdevelopment and low distribution of resources; weak regimes and poor government; and poor regional integration and bad neighbourhoods. So terrorism is not the problem; political violence is the problem, and politicians who privilege state institutions and like to play war-games, *they* are the problem. We have to engage in national, trans-national and global resistance to these sorts of pathologies. We are going to be completely incapacitated if we are not hopeful. We have to be hopeful in a cynical world. It is crucial that we operate from best case assumptions.

If we operate from worst case assumptions, we will adopt a paranoid disposition which terrorists at present wish us to do. With this disposition, conciliatory gestures that break cycles of violence and create other options will never be generated. And in all of these, it is crucial to place the weaker citizens at the centre of political decision-making. States don't exist to serve the interests of the rich and the powerful, even if the rich and powerful believe they do; these groups can look after themselves. Real security flows from placing the poor, vulnerable and marginalised at the heart of our development and security policy. As the Dalai Lama said: "the common good ultimately translates into a deep concern for those who suffer wanting deprivation of any kind. And that is why it is crucial when we think of Africa from the developed North, that Africa is at the heart of our consciousness. We have to embody all the issues the African peoples are confronting with courage and optimism, because if we do not, we will never generate real security.

I would like to finish with a poem by Seamus Heaney, *The Far Side of Revenge*:

*"History says: don't hope on the far side of the grave.  
But once in a life-time, the longed for tidal wave of justice can rise up"*.

We have to hope for a great sea-change on the far-side of revenge. We have to start to believe that as we go further ashore, it is reachable from here. We have to believe in miracles, cures and healing-wells, and we have to believe in Africa's capacity to solve Africa's problems.

## **BUILDING PEACE IN AFRICA: EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN AFRICA**

*Hafsat Abiola*

**Director Kurdirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND), Nigeria**

Hafsat Abiola is the Director of the Kurdirat Initiative for Democracy. She is an esteemed human rights and democracy activist, with extensive experience in promoting democracy, civil society and empowering women and youth. Hafsat is the daughter of the late democratically elected President of Nigeria who died in prison.

In her speech, Ms Abiola discussed the 3rd Millennium Goal that focuses on the importance of gender in African society, culture, and politics. She discussed the various challenges women in Africa are facing on a daily basis, and argued that the social pressures they face limit their choices.

Ms Abiola called for the empowerment of African women and illustrated this point by stating that women are the shapers of our own culture, and that we must seize the moment or the moment will seize us. She discussed the development of women's rights separate from customary law and illustrated how this shift can have positive effects on women in Africa. She highlighted the bias against women in the judicial system and how NGOs have tried to change this by empowering women so that they can represent themselves and understand their rights. She argued that this development has also progressed into politics, where there is an increase in participation and representation of women in higher level positions.

Ms Abiola continued by sharing her own inspirational experiences as an African woman in Africa, and discussed her personal path to empowerment. She argued that in relation to traditional gender roles, it is important to focus on the men in order to make them respect women's rights and changing roles. She addressed the audience and called upon them to be role models and to accept these changes while fighting for their rights. She argued that change will come from within Africa, and that Africans will help attain the MDGs together with the international community. After reciting a poem about the power of women, she asked of the women in the audience to rise up to their full potential.

Below is the full text of her speech.

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The MDGs provide a powerful incentive and instrument for promoting human rights all over the world. Unlike other pledges, it set out specific targets and indicators, effectively giving the world community a date -2015- by which to achieve major improvements in the lives of people around the world. Countries now monitor themselves on the progress they are making in reaching the goals.

Along with their international counterparts, in 2000, Africa's leaders embraced the MDGs. While all other continents are on track, Africa faces enormous challenges. According to the EU, based on its current performance, 'Africa will only be able to reach most of the UN MDGs, not by the target year of 2015, but by 2050.' By investing in and mobilizing women, the continent would yield exponential results, putting Africa on a fast track for the MDGs.

Unfortunately, women face several obstacles which limit their ability to protect their rights and work for improvements in their lives. Three obstacles effectively trap women in a state of underdevelopment.

- Patriarchy
- Exclusive nature of politics in Africa
- Economic pressures resulting from the global economic system.

The primary factor in the violation of women's rights is a system of patriarchy which teaches boys early that they have the right to control what girls do and teaches girls to submit. Around the world,

this system is being challenged. However, in Africa it is alive and kicking.

Patriarchy is about control and it expresses itself most powerfully in the control and abuse it allows men over women's bodies.

For example, in parts of Uganda, if a man kidnaps a woman and has intercourse with her, he does not face prison, he faces matrimony! Better known is the widespread practice of female genital mutilation as a way to control the woman's sexual behaviour. There is early marriage which happens as well, where young girls at early years are married off to much older men. This happens all over Africa and is getting worse now because of HIV/AIDS. This is because most men think the younger girls are less likely to get the disease. And this is most likely to happen in the Muslim parts of Africa. There is also domestic violence which happens all over the continent regardless of class and education. Men believe it is their right to discipline their wives. If you are an African woman and have managed to escape all of these things I have told you, there is the general socialisation of women in African societies from which it's the rare woman who can escape. It is the kind of socialisation that tells you to focus on your role as an African woman. The social pressures the women face limit the way they have to make choices.

Perhaps the most visible is the marginalisation of women in politics. Women do well in trade and the economic sphere despite the marginalisation and the problems I have outlined. They are generally found in trading, business, and academia and within the judicial system. But when you look at the political system, at the level of governance, it is rare to find African women in power without changes in laws. When you want to respond, how can you respond to all of these kinds of challenges facing Africa's women? One of the earlier speakers said we have to place you at the heart of the solution, and that is also true on the issue of empowering African women. The Secretary General of UNICEF said: "we women are the shapers of our own culture and we must seize the moment or the moment will seize us". And again that goes back to the fact that we as women are the ones that can change the way women interact. And also men in Africa who do not approve of the things that have been happening to women can also help in changing attitudes.

Dr Kees Waldech, from the Netherlands, is usually in Africa for nine months a year and has been doing this for the past twenty years. He has conducted surgeries on 15,000 young girls across the continent to help them solve the problem of female genital mutilation. There are two million girls who have this problem across the continent. In fact, in Nigeria and working with our own Ministry of Health, Dr Kees trained another 300 doctors to help with this problem. But he said what was unfortunate was that most of the doctors left the country after their training, to search for greener pastures elsewhere. And we are those who have to stay to resolve these issues even at the detriment of our economic well being. I know that other countries can pay more but what are we going to do with two million girls who need assistance and there are not enough doctors across the continent to take care of this problem? We need an integrated solution. In Uganda, we can also talk of kidnapped marriages, and within Uganda, the legal system has been getting a lot of training from UN agencies, working on helping them understand the principles of jurisprudence of gender equality

*The women in this room can stop focusing so much on roles and start talking about their rights, even as you say our roles are important, but without our rights, Africa will continue to be the poorest continent.*

and how to apply that within the laws. There is the recent case of a young man who kidnapped a girl and raped her. When he was brought to court, he said he married this girl by the customary law and had not committed any crime. So you see, because of the link between government agencies and NGOs, there is increasing awareness now in Uganda.

In Morocco, the NGO community came together and for twenty years worked for changes in the family code. Before that, when it came to divorce or issues of inheritance, there was a bias against women within the judicial system. The NGO community had a coalition that fought against this bias against women. And recently, the Moroccan government adopted new family laws that have more equity between the genders in Morocco. Now the challenge for the NGO coalition is to educate especially the illiterate women in Mo-

rocco. The illiteracy rate in Morocco is 30% and you can imagine the enormity of the problem. The rights are there, but they now have to educate the women to understand their rights. They find that when women understand their rights and come to court, they stand a better chance of having a fair ruling. That is what they are working on. On the political sphere, coalitions have been formed to build campaigns that have successfully passed legislation for women's political participation. Therefore, we are now seeing increased participation. So you now see increased numbers in Rwanda, where there is the highest number of women politicians; 49% in the Lower House. It is the highest in the world. So this is the area where Africa should be leading the world. In S-Africa, we have 33% of women representation in the Assembly. In Mozambique, the Prime Minister and Head of Government is a woman, four women ministers in Mozambique, two women governors. We are beginning to see changes in women's political participation. Of course, you have countries like mine where the situation is quite embarrassing. We have 6% of women's political representation. The NGOs are beginning a campaign in Nigeria bringing women politicians to start preparing for the 2007 elections, because we want to change the status of women politicians at that time.

We need to begin to have an integrated approach and I want to talk to the students here because there was a time when I was just like you at international conferences at my university when I was in school. And I want you to know you can have a very big impact. I remember, I was going to get married and I already had a man waiting, beautiful guy. He lived a little way from our family house in Lagos. I am from a polygamous family of 18 children and he was from a Christian monogamous family and so you could imagine. Then I was kind of rushing ahead and he'd say to me like, "Hafsat, you have to know that the man is the head of the household." You know, for a very long time, I just used to look at him as he was beautiful and I thought, well he is beautiful but I was focused on my priorities and imagining looking at those beautiful eyes and face for maybe 60 years. But when I started listening to what he was saying, I panicked. I was one of those pampered Nigerian children, really pampered and spoiled and sheltered. Mostly in the family house, we never went out. Then my mum got into politics through my dad and got assassinated. So, when my mum was killed and I was trying to build the movement of outrage and because Nigeria was fighting for democracy, listening to him did not work for me. I needed more than that. I needed some form of support. It took me a long while. I was a spoiled kid and never worked in the kitchen. Therefore, I was considering dating another guy and I talked to him, "you know, I have never gone into the kitchen and anyways, in this society, you can always have a cook..." The Nigerian guy looked at me and said, "What do you mean 'a cook'? When I come in from work, you'll enter that kitchen and take over the cooking of the food from the cook". So I started having nightmares and imagined myself, my husband walks in, I rush into the kitchen, because you really want to please him. You rush into the kitchen to cook and tell the cooks to step aside. Just imagine yourself studying the stove, hoping that it will reveal the secrets of cooking to you. Because I did not really know how to cook and just did not understand what this guy was saying, it took me a while to realise that what I really needed was a man that was flexible about roles and respectful of my rights. I am travelling around the world to mobilise resistance to Nigeria's military rule. So I did not understand when I'd come home, have time and energy to be cooking. Everything changed for me and when I went back to Nigeria I created my organisation, KIND, which is working on women's leadership in Nigeria. There is an organisation in The Netherlands, Mama Cash Foundation and they gave me my first grant to start the leadership training. This year CORDAID and the European Union are giving us more money and this will help reach a thousand more young girls with leadership training. It is about training the women with the skills they need to make new choices. But it is not enough to just train the women; we have to deconstruct masculinity and would like to encourage our men also to consider new roles and respect for our rights, because only together we can win. But when you are oppressing the other, bending down, you are not at your full height. A lot of socialisation is needed within the continent and it really begins with everybody in this room.

We all know you belong to the African minority who can afford to go abroad and get your external Masters and that when you go back, others will be looking at you with respect. You have had the very best education and you can role model for them the fact that it is ok for a man to enter the kitchen, change the diapers, to talk and listen to his wife, not to beat her. You can role model new

behaviours and even speak and advocate for the rights of women. The women in this room can stop focusing so much on roles and start talking about their rights. You say our roles are important, but without our rights, Africa will continue to be the poorest continent. It is true we raise the children but it is also our responsibility to build the nations of Africa. Not until you start insisting on those rights, can we start talking about the MDGs. Of course, the MDGs were signed by our Presidents. But they were probably signing them so they could have President Bush's smile of approval. They know they are not so much interested in the people of Africa as the problems of their international peers. And if that is the truth also for your country, *we* will have to change that mindset when we go back home, after listening to the grass roots. It will also be when educated women are not just thinking of staying in the city but going also to the rural areas, the urban ghettos and to see what benefit your education have in the lives of these people. This is when Africa is going to start having a change. We are ones that are going to attain the MDGs for Africa. It is nice to have our international allies and partners helping us, but since the continent is ours, you can imagine that there is so much they can never do however good their intentions are. So let us begin to walk our walk, talk our talk and put our attention and resources where our heart is – which is our people. And to the women, I want to close with a poem, from India. It is from memory and I hope I get it right.

*“Too many women in too many countries  
 Speak the language of silence.  
 My grandmother was always silent;  
 Always aggrieved.  
 Only her husband, or so it was said,  
 Had the cosmic right to be right.*

*They say things are different now  
 After all, my grandmother says: I talk too much.  
 But sometimes, I wonder  
 When a woman gives her love  
 As all women want to do generously,  
 It is accepted.*

*When a woman shares her thoughts,  
 As some women like to do  
 Persistently or boldly, it is tolerated;  
 And a woman fights for power  
 As a few women would like to do courageously,  
 It is questioned.  
 And yet we must have space  
 If we are to speak  
 And yes, we attack power  
 If we are to be heard.*

*And when we have both freedom and power,  
 Let's not be misunderstood;  
 We are only trying to move beyond the sorrow  
 Of our mother's silence”*

And women, remember one thing, whatever your religion says, whatever your culture says, or anything says, you know, really feel if God wanted to give us information that women were less than men, it would have been very easy: when a woman conceives a boy, it would take 18 months to come out because it needed more nutrition, more time. But why is it that boys and girls both take 9 months then, unless it is premature? So you see, we take the same amount of time, we take the same amount of energy and resources. So let us stop violating or betraying the efforts that our mothers had in giving birth to us, by now turning us into slaves after our birth, when we also have the responsibility that requires us to rise up to our full potential.

# **BUILDING PEACE IN AFRICA: AFRICANS FOR AFRICA**

*Charity Musamba,*

**Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, Zambia, President of Jubilee 2000 in Zambia**

Ms Charity Musamba is the coordinator of the Debt Programme of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection in Zambia. She is an ardent campaigner for poverty reduction and works to raise awareness of Africa's problems. She played a leading role in the global Jubilee 2000 movement for debt cancellation.

Ms Musamba's speech centred on the issue of achieving peace and the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. She discussed the challenges faced by the MDGs yet emphasised their relevance to addressing critical problems in Africa.

She went on to discuss the current situation in Africa mentioning the deepening poverty divide, increasing health crises, and the continuation of instability. She called for the need to build and sustain peace in Africa, which must include economic empowerment, good governance, education and promotion of human rights.

Ms Musamba highlighted several opportunities for Africa to achieve the MDGs. On a local level she discussed the need for better governance and increased accountability, transparency and citizen participation. Furthermore, she emphasised the need to develop the media as a tool to promote these factors. A re-evaluation of the degree of state involvement in society and economy is also critical. She also stressed the need for a committed and fair leadership. On a regional level there is a need to strengthen social, political and economic cooperation at continental level. Internationally, Africa must continue to demand more space in the decision making processes of global governance institutions, as well as reducing its economic dependency. Democracy, participation, debt cancellation and trade justice are critical to successful international cooperation. Also, the nature of aid needs to be re-examined in order to make it fairer and more effective.

Ms Musamba concluded by discussing CRAS - Confidence to change, Responsibility for change, Act to change, and Solidarity for change. She argued that this framework can help guide Africa, and its people, to peace and the achievements of the MDGs. Her complete speech follows below;

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Now that we know that men and women are all equal, and we are all important in the process of developing Africa, I would like to start my presentation by thanking the African Committee, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and the ISS for inviting me to make a presentation.

My paper focuses on the issue of achieving peace and Millennium Development Goals (hereafter MDGs) in Africa. Therefore, the paper is divided in 5 little sections namely

1. The Current Development and Peace Situation in Africa
2. Critical Reflections on the current situation
  - a. Key issues
  - b. The Key question "WHY"
3. What must be done?
4. Conclusion
5. Way forward

## **BRIEF BACKGROUND**

In order to deal with the issue at hand in a more current manner, this paper has been prepared on the basis of the various positions that emerged towards, during and after the Millennium Summit +5 of

the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2005. From this Summit, the following 3 issues clearly stand out

1. *Can Africa Attain the MDGs?* Africa is far from achieving the MDGs (keeping in mind a few country success stories on specific goals).
2. *Responsibility – who, when, how and why?* Various stakeholders do not seem to be ready and determined to play their critical role to ensure the achievement of the MDGs. These include weak of national government interest, failure to fulfill financing commitments and low involvement of the public – finger pointing!
3. *Achievement of MDGs – who, why and how?* The current unfavourable conditions and contexts will definitely not contribute to the efficient attainment of MDGs – absence of peace, lack of good national and global governance and unequal partnerships between the poor and rich countries. In fact, they have frustrated the efforts of moving towards that direction.

Yet a critical analysis of MDGs shows that they are focused on Africa’s main development challenges of hunger, poverty, disease and death, food insecurity, education and better position internationally. It is on the basis of this background that the paper now attempts to analyse issues and make some suggestions on what could be done.

## 1. THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE SITUATION IN AFRICA

*“No Peace, No Development and No Development, No Peace”*

*So*

*“Build peace through development and build development through peace”*

Africa is classified as one of the poorest regions in the world today. For many years now, the continent has been characterised by high levels of poverty, high death rates, diseases and natural disasters, declining economic and poor financial situations and low standards of living. For instance, there has been an increase in poverty during the 1990s. In Sub Saharan Africa, over 6 million people each year fall into the poverty bracket. It is therefore important to ensure that Africa’s path of development takes poverty eradication as a priority.

*The alienation of the majority of the citizens in the running of national affairs is a common character in most African countries. The involvement of the masses is mostly in form of events – elections, national commemorations etc. This alienation has been worsened by poverty crisis, lack of timely access to information, lack of proper education and lack of political voice.*

This situation has worsened with the advent of HIV/AIDS whose impact has been devastating economically, politically, culturally and socially. For instance, 26.6m people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS while the rates of infection have been estimated at 2 out of every 3 in Sub-Saharan Africa. Africa’s maternal and child mortality rates are among the highest in the world. One woman in 13 faces death during pregnancy and childbirth, while child mortality is estimated at 107 out of every 1000. This calls for more investment in people’s health, economic status and education opportunities.

In addition to this development dilemma, peace in Africa has been unstable. Generally, Africa has experienced various forms of conflict since the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century that range from tribal, ethnic, religious, civil, political, interstate to international wars. These situations have impacted negatively on the development process of the continent. Africa has witnessed high expenditures on conflict, growing numbers refugees and community displacements. In such situations, it is really difficult to mobilise resources and embark on development programmes in a sustainable manner.

There is a need to build and sustain peace in order to facilitate development in Africa. This point has been well stressed in the United Nations reports which have estimated that 22 of the 34 countries that are furthest away from achieving MDGs are affected by current conflicts. Therefore, it is also important for Africa to find lasting solutions to the causes of conflicts and invest in peace-

building initiatives. These must include economic empowerment, good governance, education and promotion of human rights.

## 2. CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

a. Lack of progress, improvement and positive change as evidenced by

- High levels of poverty in all dimensions
- Failing economic situations
- Unstable and weak political systems
- Social and civil disharmony

b. Unfavourable Global Position characterised by high levels of external dependence (developed world) as evidenced by

- Financial – aid, loans, handouts etc
- Technology – nearly in all its forms – “they start and we follow”
- Political powerlessness – global governance, commerce

c. Africa is well known for its richness in various resources such as

- Human – energetic, warm, intelligent and strong
- Natural – forest, land, waters, soils, climate, animals

*So maybe it is important and time to make this important distinction – that “Africa” is not poor but it is the “African people” who are poor! And the challenge we are facing is how to ensure that people are able to utilize and benefit from these available resources with the aim of developing and sustaining the process of development.*

## 3. SO WHAT MUST BE DONE? – CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

Since MDGs can be defined as the world’s time bound and quantified targets for addressing development in its various dimensions, it follows that there is simply no one, clear-cut and simple answer as to what Africa can do to achieve them. Indeed, Africa’s opportunities to achieve MDGs are found at various levels and are a mixture of various factors. However, it is important to mention that these factors must be based on certain critical values such as responsibility, determination, good governance and the will for positive change.

*This point has been well stressed in the United Nations reports which have estimated that 22 of the 34 countries that are furthest away from achieving MDGs are affected by current conflicts. Therefore, it is also important for Africa to find lasting solutions to the causes of conflicts and invest in peace-building initiatives.*

### 1. National Level

#### A. Better Governance Structures

Take the power back to the people! It is clear that African countries need better structures and systems of governance. For several decades, national governance systems have either been dictatorial or weak democracies. It is also important to note that most of these systems seem to be much more accountable to the external financing agencies such as the International Financial Institutions, namely the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and bilateral governments. Very little has been done to promote accountability, transparency and participation of the citizens. This has greatly influenced the manner in which national resources are utilised, the type of policies adopted and the formulation of national plans and priorities.

Therefore, it is important that African countries develop good media atmosphere that gives people access to information, strong and development oriented parliaments, effective electoral systems, independent justice systems and strong constitutions. These factors are critical in the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of a particular country’s performance on MDGs - this will

assist in turning MDGs into nationally owned processes.

In addition, it is important to review the role of the State in the development process. The experience of Africa clearly shows that it is risky to reduce the involvement of the state in the development process in countries where poverty levels are considered high. The current approach of limiting the role of the state to that of facilitating an enabling environment for private investors has greatly contributed to the failure for most African countries to effectively deal with their development challenges.

For instance, the privatisation of basic social services has resulted negatively on the lives of the majority of citizens in African countries. The removal of state involvement in providing education, health, employment, subsidies, security, communication, water and housing has contributed to Africa's failure to record progress in the lives of the majority of the poor – thereby negatively affecting progress towards MDGs. The cases of Zambia, South Africa and Malawi give a good example of this situation.

However, it is important to mention that this active role of the state must be anchored in a democratic system that guarantees respect of human rights, access to information and effective balance of powers.

#### B. Alert and Active citizenry

This is a political, cultural and human rights issue that Africa needs to urgently confront. The alienation of the majority of the citizens from the running of national affairs is common in most African countries. The involvement of the masses is mostly in form of events – elections, national commemorations etc. This alienation has been worsened by poverty crisis, lack of timely access to information, lack of proper education and lack of political voice. People must be central in the development process for any meaningful change to occur in Africa.

This is clearly noted by Salil Shetty's (UN-MDGs) suggestion in 2003 to place great importance on the people if the MDGs are to be achieved. He urges that the goals would be achieved only when the African people want them to be achieved and therefore stresses the need for African countries to make serious efforts in giving people effective political and economic space in the development process.

This can be done by improving economic opportunities, standards of education, access to information and freedom to associate. These factors are critical in building people's skills and confidence to participate in the development process and more importantly, to meaningfully engage with their political leaders on national issues. Africans must overcome the current tendency of "speaking on behalf of the people" so that "people can speak for themselves."

#### C. Committed Leadership

The commitment of most national leaders in African countries leaves much to be desired. Cases of mismanagement of national resources, corruption, poor planning, centralised decision making and abuse of power have been rampant in Africa. Of course, this reflects the weakness in the overall governance systems as well as lack of focused vision on the part of those in power. Yet we know that to deal with the challenge of achieving MDGs demands great focus, strong determination and the will to sacrifice. It calls for a sharing power and information with all the different stakeholders.

Therefore, people in Africa must become more critical on issues of leadership, power and civic education. Africa needs leaders who are determined to work for and towards positive change. This calls for respect and upholding of democratic principles of accountability, transparency and participation of the public. Africa needs leaders that are able to effectively represent their interests at the international level.

## 2. Regional Level

### A. Political

There is need to strengthen political cooperation at continental level in order for Africa to deal with the challenge of achieving MDGs. The current African Union (supported by regional bodies) provides such an opportunity. In relation to MDGs, Africa urgently needs political commitment and dedication to developing a continental vision. This vision could include elements such as fight against conflict, and to build and sustain peace and protection of the continent resources from unfavourable exploitation. Africa must develop strong positions on good governance, total debt cancellation, trade justice and peace – Solidarity for Development.

### B. Economic

Africa's development process has been characterised by a failing economic situation and this has influenced the external dependence and weak global position. Africa continues to face several challenges in international trade, investment, economic and financial development. This has made the continent vulnerable to the richer countries and trading blocs of the west.

Africa needs a stable economic situation in order to deal with the demands of meeting the MDGs. Africa's economic position must improve to a level where national governments can afford to finance programmes in a sustainable manner. They need growing, stable and predictable income, good and long term plans, build and retain the required human resources. The recent experience of implementing MDGs clearly shows that financial and economic dependence of Africa on the West will continue to hinder progress towards the achievement of MDGs.

Therefore, it is important that Africa strengthens its opportunities of regional integration especially for trade purposes and resource utilisation by developing better ties amongst themselves. Africa must also build continental trade and investment bloc that would able to stand the current strong blocs in the West. Africa must find ways of dealing with big international trade partners as one block. This will strengthen its bargaining power and opportunities of decision making. The New Economic Partnership for African Development could be taken as a good starting point – Integration for Development.

### C. Social

It is important to promote social cooperation in Africa even though it is made up of a lot of different countries, many ethnic and tribal groups. This is cardinal especially in terms of building and sustaining peace. Social cooperation could be promoted through making communication and mobility easier, through academic, cultural and education linkages. These efforts are cardinal in making people exchange and share ideas of development.

## 3. International Level

### A. Governance

Africa must continue to demand greater political space in the decision making processes of global governance institutions especially in the United Nations agencies and World Trade Organisation. Since the early 1980s, Africa has been under pressure to democratise. But the global institutions have been hesitant and slow in responding to similar demands of democratising by poor countries.

Democratic governance at international level is important so that Africa has adequate space to voice its concerns and participate in decision making processes. In the last 25 years, the IFIs and a few bilateral agencies have been making decisions on behalf of the majority of poor countries - setting priorities and imposing policies. These policies have failed, lacked national ownership and responsibility. Notably, they have contributed to Africa's current development crisis mainly because of lack of effective involvement and representation.

## B. Economic

Africa's dependence on the rich governments and IFIs has grown over the last two decades. With escalating debt overhang, unprecedented poverty and failing terms of trade, national governments have continuously failed to fully finance development programmes. For instance, national budgets, MDGs, NEPAD are based on huge external financing. Whilst it is true that Africa needs external financial assistance, it is also important for the people of Africa to begin to look for possible ways of reducing this dependency. Experience has shown that this dependence has often resulted in policy imposition, conditionality, heavy indebtedness and unequal relations between Africa and the rich governments and IFIs.

The issues raised above actually address Goal 8 – “to build global partnerships” – how, for what and for whom? This is an important goal because it addresses the context within which the other 7 goals are implemented. Therefore, it is vital to ensure that it gives an enabling environment for the achievement of first 7 goals. For these partnerships to be beneficial and useful to the MDGs, the following four cardinal issues must be truly and fully addressed:

1. Reforming of the global governance systems to become more democratic and participatory. It is important for the African voice to be heard at this level especially as regards economic, financial and political decision making and policy formulation. This is vital in the setting the global development agenda.

2. Total debt cancellation – Africa has been facing a huge external debt crisis which has impeded all efforts of development and has robbed the continent of the needed resources through debt repayment. Most countries in Africa have been spending much more (20% of the GDP) on debt servicing while only about 2%-5% have been spent on social services such as education, health and sanitation. The current debt cancellation initiatives, while giving a few countries some breathing space, fall short of what Africa deserves. Africa's debt stock has been estimated at US\$300b and only US\$40b will be cancelled.

In addition, the question of conditionality has not been fully addressed. The Western world has continued to demand economic and fiscal reforms. These reforms have contributed to increasing social disparities, has eroded government's ability to plan and finance programmes, and has greatly affected national sovereignty. Total debt cancellation is a necessity for Africa in order for national governments to mobilise required financial resources to finance the implementation of MDG focused programmes. This cancellation must be based on conditionality from “below” – people must decide how these resources must be utilised. It will also give Africa political space to make decisions and set its own priorities.

3. Trade Justice – The issue of unfair and unjust international trade system has been on the global agenda for several years now. Poor countries are not benefiting from international trade mainly because of structural limitations imposed by the rich countries in the North. The case of subsidies, pricing and quota systems are good examples. Trade can contribute to generating the required resources to finance MDGs if these concerns are addressed. There are emerging arguments that Africa might not need as much aid or loans if these trade impediments are removed.

Therefore, African governments and their citizens must continue to demand for fair and just trade. Africa must improve the quality of its products, determine the prices and more importantly, design ways in which the benefits of trade can directly contribute to financing and implementing MDG programmes.

4. More Meaningful Aid – Africa has been receiving aid for several decades now. This aid has been in forms of finance, technology and human resource. However, there is a growing debate on the benefits of this aid and even much stronger, a call for more aid to Africa. It is an obvious fact that Africa needs external financial support in order to implement programmes aimed at achieving MDGs.

However, research has clearly shown that it is not just an issue of quantity of aid but also of the quality. A huge quantity of aid given to Africa has found its way back to the North. This is by virtue of how it is packaged. Conditionality and use of aid has been determining the relevance of this aid to Africa. It is on the basis of this point that Africa must lobby for more and better aid – aid that is not based on harmful conditionality. Africa must accept aid that will surely and directly contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

It is clear that the responsibility of developing Africa lies with the African peoples themselves. African people must set quality standards of performance and operation that interested external partners must base their involvement upon. Africa must begin to find innovative ways of making MDGs a priority and reality for its people. This can be achieved by seriously addressing the political, economic, social, cultural and international factors inhibiting the full realisation of the MDGs in Africa by 2015.

#### 5. THE WAY FORWARD - CHANGE IS POSSIBLE AND REALISTIC (*C.R.A.S for Change*)

The following are some issues that could be debated and improved upon as pointers to a framework that can guide Africa in its search for peace and achievement of MDGs

1. Confidence to Change: Africa must rejuvenate and cultivate the lost sense that “we can do it” and “we confidently know when, where, how, what and from whom we need assistance.” This sense must be built in all people – leaders, the youth, and children.

2. Responsibility for Change: There is no one simple and clear cut solution to the achievement of peace and MDGs in Africa. Instead this challenge demands a critical mix of various factors that include determination/courage, result oriented and focused achievement within what time permits.

3. Act to Change: We must accept that we have spent a lot of resources – time, money, natural and human to talk about our problem – analysis of the problem, making recommendations, reviewing recommendations and so on. We have not done much in terms of implementation. We must ask ourselves why. Do our current political, economic and social systems facilitate effective implementation of our good recommendations? We must find ways of enhancing our levels and quality of implementing development programmes.

4. Solidarity for Change: We must strive to consolidate the current efforts at strengthening regional unity in different ways. This is particularly important in the context of the current globalisation system. Africa only stands to benefit from integrating in a global system when it is united and forms a strong political, economic and peace block.

## **PRESENTATIONS BY YOUTH ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

To highlight the role of youth, four young people were invited to share their insights into the linkages between youth and the MDGs in Africa. These youth all have experience in working in youth organisations in the Netherlands and in Africa.

*Ama van Dantzig*

**UNOY Peacebuilders**

We encourage governments to support our initiatives so that we can have better outcomes and actually make progress. We hope people do not only listen but take along something they can do. Action is what many people here have called for and is very necessary. In other words, not to under-rate what we do here but to add on to what we do.

Here is where the ideas come from and hopefully put into action. It is also important to understand youth is not just one thing. Defining youth is a very difficult thing and it is important to contextualise the definition in terms of their problems and also include them in the solutions of the problems. One of the main obstacles that can be identified for youth initiatives are governments and culture. All of us sitting here as Africans have lots of examples about how African cultures stand in the way of women, their participation and their empowerment. Those are pretty much the same for youth. Governments try to keep a lot of people ignorant of the declarations that they signed. But if youth are informed, they can hold them accountable to what they accepted. In some circumstances, older people are seen as wise and young still to become wiser. But young people need to be taught or need to learn and understand they are wise because they have education.

Those who have education have a lot to contribute and a whole lot to say. One of the important things is to call on the global youth to use the internet, which nowadays bring people so much closer. Organisations such as the UNOY make very good use of the internet and just to say hello to someone in another part of the world is great. And if you can learn from that person, is even better. If together you can form actions that are perfect. I put up a few examples of actions that have taken place, most of them over the internet. I signed up to the newsletter, *Save Darfur Initiative*. I do not know if you have heard of this. But they send you this letter and it gives you information of what is going on there at the moment. Then they give you a bunch of things you can do from your chair in sixty seconds. There is also the Baobab Connections. One of the aims is to form a network of African youth where they can communicate and do exactly what we are talking about. There is another ongoing initiative. The Dutch National Youth Representative along with other youth representatives to the U.N have been trying to lobby governments of developing countries to send youth representatives as members of the delegation. Because, often they talk about people and their problems, while 70% of the population of developing countries are youth. And they are not there to give their contributions. So those are some examples of what youth can do and the problems they face.

## **LOCALISING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

*Dinasas Abdurashid Abdella*

**UNOY Peacebuilders**

If you think back to the paradox cycle that Ama had on earlier, that was the cycle we try to come up with when brainstorming about the problems. And now what about solutions? We keep doing these classrooms and we also hear from our leaders about lessons learnt and so forth. But when we talk of Millennium Development Goals, does that mean anything when we go down to the local level? I think most of you will agree with me, it does not mean anything. You agree or disagree but what I

have seen myself, when you go to talk to any other youth or even school children, or smaller NGOs youth are trying to set up, they would say yes they do hear about the MDGs in the papers and heard the government talk about it, but what does it mean to me? It doesn't mean they are not working towards such targets that are set, but it just means that MDGs are more something that written on papers and also targets that are set more for national governments or the international community. But what can be done is to translate the development targets to the local understanding of youth, women, children and so forth. By simply changing languages this can be achieved. I'll give you one example of the popular HIV/AIDS campaign. Unless you are culturally sensitive, and when you want to implement anything and do so in a culture-specific way, it can backfire. So they had examples such as: *Be faithful to your partner*. And how was this translated? Well, some men actually said, ok, I'm with Joanna today, I will be faithful too her. I will be with Anna tomorrow. I'll be faithful with her. So again, this was not translated into the cultural context. The point is not to be faithful to every woman you're with every day, but to actually be faithful to one and keep one.

This is an example of trying to translate such jargon and development buzz words. A definition which I think is nice is: "*Localising MDGs is translating it in such a way that is measurable, translating into a local language and down-to-earth indicators. They are crucial for communities to define realistic targets and to monitor progress themselves and to especially to hold actors and service providers accountable*". This also links well with access of information Ama was talking about. If we don't have access to information, if governments cannot show us what they are doing, then we cannot hold them accountable. One important issue I want to raise is gender mainstreaming. We talk about gender mainstreaming and that is cross-cutting in all kinds of projects and programs we are trying to do. And whenever anybody talks about gender, empowerment of women, it is often associated with political women that we heard of today. But what happens to the young girls? And the young children that come out of school, especially girls, and most often faced with poverty issues, pregnancy, etc? One quote I'd like to leave you with is, if we look around us, it seems that youth are the only people talking about themselves, and if the international community does not set the indices and indicators for us, also allow us to speak for ourselves, and prove ourselves, then no one else will.

## **POSITIVE YOUTH-LED DEVELOPMENT AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

***Sahro Mohamed***

**UNOY Peacebuilders**

"We dream of living in an environment that brings joy, not anxiety. We dream of having fresh drinking water and not turning our rivers into sewage. Above all, we dream of living, not existing. Teach us, involve us and use us". That was a quote, ladies and gentlemen, from Billy Mogwa, 20-year old Zimbabwean man who presented a paper at the World Youth Congress in August this year. What I will be doing today is not so much talk about the importance of the involvement of youth in developing their communities and societies, but to give you an idea of what is happening out there, especially in Africa. What are you doing in implementing the MDGs? My presentation in the first part is more or less based on youth and development and why is it important. Next, I will speak about UNOY Peacebuilders' presence at the World Youth Congress which had the theme, *Youth and the MDGs*. I will give you concrete examples of youth-led development with different young people in Africa and what they are doing in their home countries to implement the MDGS. The reason why I chose this subject was because I was so touched by the involvement of young African men and women are doing so much that is not visible to the majority.

First of all, what is positive youth-led development? According to the UN youth-led development is an approach geared at youth that builds on their assets and potential. And this helps counter the problems that may affect them. The key elements of positive youth-led development are amongst others: To engage youth as active partners and leaders who can help move communities forward. How can positive youth-led development make a difference? Well, first of all, young people are not

so much decision makers or leaders of tomorrow, but also of today. It helps young people resist negative influences on their identity. It encourages resilience, focusing on their strengths to overcome challenging social situations such as teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol use and school drop-out. I was honoured and privileged to be among the 600 and more young people who were present this year in August at the World Youth Congress. How many of you know about the existence of the WYC? Can you raise your hands...6! The WYC has been held this year for the third time in Edinburgh, Scotland. I attended in order to carry out a research for the UNOY Peacebuilders on good youth projects. The research was based on how young people evaluate their work, at not only at personal but also organisational. What is your role? What is your responsibility? What can you do? As I said, there were more than 600, but less than 30 were from Africa. So on one hand, I was thrilled to be there because I wanted to know what youth are doing all over the world to better their lives. On the other hand, I was so saddened by the fact that from the continent of Africa, there were only less than 30. A continent that is in a dire situation that needs the most development and most help was attention by only 30 representatives. Of these 30, several could not even make it to the conference. A boy from Somalia, for example, was not even allowed to get a visa and he ended up in Ethiopia but the embassy would not give him visa because they thought he was going to remain here for economic reasons. Another youth from Cameroon had the same problem. This is one of the many obstacles that young people from Africa face in terms of participating in an international dialogue and events that sort of involve them, and sort of improve their intellectual capacity.

There were different sorts of action projects and I was really inspired by how African young people came together and concerted on issues of common interest. We sought how to make optimum use of the conference so when we go back, we could have something tangible and something that sustain us. So we told the organisers we want to have regional discussions and to come up with concrete projects. There were the Scottish Executives, different institutional figures came together and said they were going to present awards to the best ideas. Of these 40 awards that were given, I am happy to say that 13 of those went to African young people. This happened because we came together and we had to demand, not ask!

#### *The strength of African youth*

In Kenya, I was happy to meet young people who came together and are doing a wonderful job in Nairobi in terms of improving their communities and the slums of Kenya. In Zambia, youth are involved in eradicating corruption. I was so inspired by them and wanted to share this with you, because what these young people are doing together with the World Bank is to harness enthusiasm, idealism of themselves and other young people to seek ways to eradicate corruption at group and institutional levels. The most important thing about this wonderful project is that, there is progress; there is evidence in terms of what they have been able to achieve. The case of Cameroon, what are you people doing in Cameroon? They are doing wonderful jobs too in the area of electricity. It began with one young person and they are now 30 who are doing a wonderful job. In Swaziland, one of the winners of the awards went back home and the project went operational. A centre has been established in Swaziland and are teaching young people different skills, sexual education, counselling and community work. In 2003, a group of 35 young women came together, of which I proud to be one of, and tried to find out how we can prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. You all know of the disaster in South Africa where men rape babies and young girls thinking that raping a virgin would make their HIV status disappear. In South Africa, young people are trying to end violence against women by creative means such as music. That is something that touches young people. They don't want some boring conferences. They want something inspiring and dynamic. In Ethiopia, one of the winners of the awards shared his thoughts and concerned were centred on Ethiopia and Eritrea and what he wanted to do. He indicated he'd like to carry out a peace education amongst Ethiopian and Eritrea youngsters. He is doing a wonderful job also and informing us of how it is developing. And for Somalia, I am from Somalia myself and I know it has been forgotten by the international community; young people there have been able to come together and to do things in a collective. Their activities were featured in last year's UNDP magazine and showed them breaking down guns. They also attended the WYC and also won an award. These are only some examples I have used and I thank you.

## YOUTH AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

*Sayida Vanenburg*

**National Youth Council, Youth delegate for CSD**

Do all of you this room recognise that you are one of the first generations that can end poverty? We are the first generation that can make it happen. The other speakers gave you some examples how youth are contributing to achieving the MDGs on the local level. However, our contributions are still not recognised. It seems they want us to wait, be wise and have grey hair. I am getting grey and still consider myself young. The recognition is a problem, and in order to participate more effectively, we need recognition. I will give you an example of international recognition. I have been active in the international field within the UN system as Dutch youth delegate on sustainable development. During a meeting, a chair lady of the youth council asked Jeffrey Sachs at a side event where he was presenting his MDG project on how he was involving youth in his MDG projects and task forces. There was silence. The only thing he said was asking us to say how youth is participating in achieving the MDGs. The challenge was taken up and all the youth from all over the world came up with the report, *Youth and the MDGs*. We had an online discussion for three weeks on how youth are participating on MDGs in different regions and from then on this report was produced. In this report, you can find case studies presented, but also action, because that is what youth is all about. We want action. From this report, the recognition increased within the UN system. I have been watching it from a distance for a year and a half and from there on, the recognition has increased.

Last week, the Millennium Development campaign launched their separate youth website which youth from all over the world can access and see how they can contribute to the MDGs. That is a way of informing ourselves, and also to inspire ourselves. The website has many links to other youth NGOs because it is not the millennium campaign that is doing the work, but the youth NGOs and youth leaders from around the world. What I would like to show you are drawings made by youth from all over the world. The most important question is what can you do? When you think of what to do, raise awareness amongst your peers, get them involved and then moving from there. Just think of your plan as a business plan. I know the multinationals are good at one thing, making the strategic plans to place their products out there. So that is what we can learn from them. Building our strategic plans and putting them out there and making them work. While you build your strategic plans, always be true to yourself. A lot of people start an NGO with an ambitious plan and all of a sudden, when the money starts coming in for the project, the money disappears in their own pockets. This happens more than we do want to recognise. Look yourself in the mirror and say this is the money for the cause I am fighting for and that's where the money should go. It's a hard job and you need to be patient and keep up fighting and struggling. But in the end, it is worthwhile. This report is an example of that. The midterm report is just one step. Without us, without youth, which is one fourth of the world population, we cannot achieve the MDGs. People have to recognise that.

## **BUILDING PEACE IN AFRICA: WHAT IS BEING DONE?**

***Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer***  
**European Centre for Conflict Prevention**

To highlight the current momentum on an international level, two professionals were invited to share what their organisations are doing to promote human security, peace, and development in Africa.

### Why is there a need for a Global Partnership?

- Nature of conflicts changed, from between states to within states (civil wars). This requires a new way of dealing with them (civil peace).
- Responses are often too little and too late: there is a need for a shift from *reaction* to *prevention*.
- No actor (UN, Governments, or Civil Society) can solve conflicts alone. There is a need for new partnerships between CSOs and governments, Regional Organisations and UN.
- Need for more recognition of CSO achievements in conflict prevention & peace-building

### Origins of the Global Partnership

“I urge NGOs with an interest in conflict prevention to organise an international conference of local, national and international NGOs on their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with the United Nations in this field.”

- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report ‘The Prevention of Armed conflict’ (Rec. 27)

June 2003: Global Partnership established.

Process started in 15 regions worldwide, to prepare for Global Conference at UN HQ in New York (19-21 July 2005)

### Increased momentum

- UN Panel on CSO-UN Relationships (Cardoso-panel): urges for multi-stakeholder partnerships for global issues
- UN Panel on Global Security Threats, Challenges and Change: urges for UN reform, proposal for a peace-building commission & dept. Under-Secretary General for Peace & Security
- In Larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all. Report of the Secretary-General for Millennium +5 Summit in September
- Millennium + 5 Summit in September 2005

*“The partnership between the UN and civil society is ...  
not an option; it is a necessity”*

- UN SG Kofi Annan during Security Council  
Open debate, 22 June 2004

### Objectives & Aims

#### *Primary objective:*

To create a fundamental shift from reaction to prevention

#### By:

- Developing a common platform for effective action in conflict prevention from the community to the global level.
- Exploring the role of civil society in conflict prevention and peace-building.
- Improving interaction between civil society, UN, regional organisations, and governments.

- Strengthening regional and international networking.
- Regional Consultations: to engage relevant civil society in research and discussion
- Regional Agendas for conflict prevention: rooted in own cultural, geographic, and operational realities
- Recommendations for a Global Action Agenda for conflict prevention
- International Conference at UN HQ in New York: Global Action Agenda to guide future conflict prevention initiatives (19-21 JULY 2005)

Highlights of People Building Peace:

*People: It's people who build peace*

Focus on:

- Civil society
- Human Security
- Women as peace-builders

*Building: Peace cannot be achieved alone. We need to work together, build bridges*

Focus on:

- Networking
- Peace education
- Early Warning & Response
- Regional Organisations

*Peace: Prevention is possible – but action is needed, with greater commitment, resources & élan*

Focus on:

- Shift from reaction to prevention
- An international programme of action
- Development
- UN Peace-building Commission
- Arms reduction & demilitarisation, disarmament and resettlement
- Rebuilding after the war
- Financial resources
- GPPAC after the Conference

Primary Function of GPPAC:

- To promote implementation of agendas and activities set by regional networks, and the global action agenda and principles derived through a global interactive process.
- For this purpose GPPAC represents important regional concerns on the International level, enhances the functioning of the international systems for conflict prevention and uses its capacities to assist the implementation of key regional activities.

Specific Functions include:

1. Promote Acceptance of the Ideas of Conflict Prevention
2. Mobilise Civil Society Early Response Actions for Prevention
3. Promote Policies and Structures for Conflict Prevention
4. Build National and Regional Capacity for Prevention
5. Generate and Disseminate Knowledge

Topics:

- Dialogue and mediation
- Peace education
- Early warning/early response systems
- Civil society interaction with regional and UN agencies
- Governance and democratisation
- Disarmament, demilitarisation and arms control

## YOUNG PEOPLE CONTRIBUTING TO CREATE A CULTURE OF PEACE

*Anika May*

### **UNOY Peacebuilders**

Having a look at the invitation flyer for this conference, the very first line that catches the eye of the reader are the powerful and meaningful words “Building Peace in Africa”. I don’t know how you feel about it, but whenever I personally come across the term “peace-building”, I am confronted with ambivalent feelings. “Building Peace”, doesn’t this sound a little simplistic, given the increasing complexity of all the violent conflicts around the globe, particularly if we look at the African continent? Creating sustainable peace, that isn’t as easy as building a house - making a plan, calculating resources and materials, laying a foundation and then putting one stone on top of the other, till the house is finished and provides - if properly built - a safe shelter for a long period of time. A little renovation work every now and then, that’s it. Isn’t peace a too serious issue to say that we could simply “build” it?

Well, if I as member of the UNOY Peacebuilders team recapitulate the nine months I am working now within our team, and if I think about all the activities our network members report to us from all over the world, “Building Peace” is transformed from abstract terminology into practice and pictures. We won’t change the world into a peaceful place from one day to another, but every single activity carried out by us or by members of our network can be seen as one stone contributing to the building of a Culture of Peace, which is going far beyond ceasefire agreements.

A Culture of Peace, as defined by the United Nations, “is a set of values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations”. This requires new attitudes, a new compelling sensitivity regarding human rights, human dignity and a deep respect for nature and its infinite variety. It calls for a sense of global responsibility and an awareness of the fundamental unity of all mankind.

Since 1993, UNOY Peacebuilders has been promoting a Culture of Peace. UNOY Peacebuilders has organised various actions in support of the Decade for a Culture of Peace. For instance, in 2001, our organisation organised the African Youth for a Culture of Peace Conference in Cape Town. We have collected hundreds of essays by youth from around the world on the topic. And, as the heart piece of all achievements towards a Culture of Peace, UNOY carries out the PEACE IT TOGETHER campaign.

The PEACE IT TOGETHER campaign was launched at the African Students Conference two years ago. It is a global campaign with local emphasis, carried by a network of enthusiastic youth and youth organisations who believe that a Culture of Peace is not only necessary but possible...if we do it TOGETHER!

The campaign is action-based and encourages the sharing of knowledge, skills and experiences to promote active non-violence as an effective approach in building a Culture of Peace. It builds on the commitment and potential of youth. It empowers them to work with organisations, the UN, the Media, governments, groups or simply friends and the family to develop actions in the context of the UN “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010”.

The three main objectives of the Campaign are therefore:

- To raise awareness about the urgent need of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence
- To empower youth
- To support the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010.

UNOY has been active in various ways during the first half of the decade in order fill it with life

and to promote a global culture of peace. The spectrum of activities included local and international training courses for young peace-builders, such as a course on peace-building in Sierra Leone in 2004. Our greatest success was the recent lobbying action carried out by the youth advocacy team from October 1<sup>st</sup> till October 14<sup>th</sup>. I had the honour to be a member of this team of eight committed young people from our network, who under the coordination of Hilary Jeune went to New York in order to lobby among the UN-member states for the Civil Society Mid-Term Report on the Decade, and to win their support and commitment in strengthening and promoting the Culture of Peace.

In two intensive weeks, we made around 700 phone calls, sent more than 100 faxes, managed to reach 69 Permanent Missions and talked to 48 country representatives, in many cases with the Ambassadors themselves. No one had ever expected that this action would be that successful. Thursday afternoon 20 October 2005, while watching the live web-cast of the General Assembly session which was dedicated to the evaluation of the Decade, we became witnesses of our own achievements:

- The number of co-sponsoring countries who supported the Resolution was raised from 66 to 104, among them many countries that we lobbied
- The opening speech of Bangladesh mentioned the importance of civil society commitment for the realisation of a decade for a Culture of Peace and the Civil-Society Mid-Term Report in particular
- The British representative Adam Thompson, who spoke on behalf of the 25 EU member states, said that “The European Union pays particular tribute to the United Network of Young Peacebuilders. Their work is an example to us all, and evidence of the significant role that civil society can play in advancing a culture of peace.” *I don’t know how often it actually happens that an NGO gets mentioned in a GA session!*
- Our amendments to the draft resolution, which refer to the Midterm Report and emphasise civil society commitment to the realisation of a culture of peace, were accepted.

This is an overwhelming success and a true reason to celebrate. But even more it is a reason to believe in the power of civil society, in the power of the combined commitment and action of individuals all around the globe working towards the same goal: Building sustainable peace by living and creating a culture of peace.

One does not need to go to New York in order to make a difference. As important as trying to influence political decision makers, are activities realised on the grass-root level. Every single person can contribute to the promotion of the decade and help to fill it with life through peace-building activities all around the globe! Every one of you can become active, for instance by becoming a member of the Campaign. By joining the Campaign you will:

- Get inspired by young people’s actions worldwide
- Have the opportunity to express your ideas and dreams
- Learn new skills to make your work more effective
- Be updated about local and international events
- Become part of a global movement in support of the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace
- And much more!

At the end of this full-packed day of interesting and stimulating plenary sessions, speeches, discussions and activities, we would like to encourage you to become promoters of a culture of peace. There are many ways to become active either on local, national or international level, and the facilitators of this conference would like to support you in your enthusiasm and planned activities. Let’s use the momentum of this day and let’s follow up on the long path towards a Culture of Peace. Use the facilities UNOY is offering to organise your own peace group, your own event, an online discussion forum... You can also become active at your university and then link up to The African Committee (TAC). Those who want to learn more about the Culture of Peace and ways to promote it are invited to our Information Event on 19 November (Saturday) to the UNOY office.

I would like to finalise with some words related to a famous quote of Margaret Mead: “Since war

and conflict are created in the mind of people, it is in the mind of people to create a culture of peace”

Let’s start within our own minds, and let’s start today by becoming youth peace-builders and advocates for a culture of peace!

### **Closing speeches**

Final speeches to the conference audience were delivered by Mr Tanko Azzika, Secretary General of The African Committee at ISS, and Mr Hans Ola Haavelsrud, International Coordinator of UNOY Peacebuilders, who both thanked participants for attending and for contributing to the success of the conference.

## WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

In order to develop recommendations in regards to the MDGs and their role in Africa, seven Working Groups discussed MDG targets by focussing on:

- *Poverty Eradication*
- *Education*
- *Health*
- *Gender*
- *Environment*
- *Global Partnership Structures*
- *Peace & Security*

These working groups provided an opportunity to review the MDGs and to critically assess their current standing in African countries. After examining the weaknesses and the strengths of the respective sub-themes, reports were presented in the plenary, which reflected the outcomes of discussions in the individual working groups.

### WORKSHOP 1: POVERTY AND HUNGER

MDG1: "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger"

#### SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS RAISED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Poverty, as one of the main issues to be addressed in the broader context of human security, is itself a multidimensional phenomenon. The reciprocal relationship between poverty, hunger and human development is multifaceted too. In this regard, however, the African youth is one of the most vulnerable social groups to poverty and hunger. Following are some of the main points raised and recommendations of the working group on poverty and hunger:

1. Africa's rural youth face problems such as lack of access to vital resources like land, vocational education and credit. In order to combat the current high proportions of unemployment among African rural youth, access to these resources has to be granted and/or promoted;
2. In terms of successful poverty reduction strategies, it seems that different African countries or regions have a great deal to learn from each other. The 'best practices' in one country/region can be replicated elsewhere. The communication gap, in terms of exchange of ideas, information and knowledge sharing, can be addressed through better collaboration of concerned institutions at all levels. To this end, the modern ICT technologies should be promoted with particular emphasis in the rural areas. The already available means/technologies should be also benefited by the poorer sectors of the society;
3. Brain drain: there is no meaningful human development without adequate human resources. In this area Africa lags behind with respect to other developing regions. The current trend of the brain drain phenomenon has to be reversed. Therefore, African Governments need to create a conducive environment so that highly skilled workers, professionals and academics are encouraged to remain in their countries. Likewise, the highly skilled immigrants and African professionals living already in the developed countries should be considered as valuable human capital at the disposal of the development efforts directed to Africa. In a time when much attention is being dedicated to Africa both by the international donor community and civil society organisations, paradoxically, most of the African professionals living in OECD countries are marginalised both socially and intellectually. The human development process in Africa can hardly succeed without actively engaging Africa's best educated people. It is a loose-loose scenario that needs an urgent solution.
4. Education system has to be matched with the local needs and problems. Some times there ex-

ist in Africa paradoxical situations in which graduated or trained young people are unemployed while there's local demand for skilled workers. There seems to be mismatch between the demand for professionals and skilled workers on one hand and the "output" of the education system on the other. This has also to be addressed effectively in order to combat unemployment, poverty and the emigration of the educated people. In this regard, more vocational education is needed;

5. More equitable foreign investment: there is perception that the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) of the 1980s and 1990s have imposed on Africa forced liberalisation. In this context, many foreign investors have been taking advantage of the weak negotiation capacity of many African countries leading to exploitation of certain resources while other economic sectors are underinvested. Furthermore, the profits are not reinvested, which leads to considerable capital flight. This phenomenon exacerbates also the erosion of the natural resources base on which, among other things, the poorest segments of the African societies depend. Therefore, more balanced and less exploitative foreign investment is needed. Likewise important sectors for the African economies such as Agriculture and rural areas need to be adequately invested for they generate pro-poor growth and contribute effectively to employment creation efforts and food security;
6. Human security: the vulnerable groups such as the youth living in the slums of the big cities are particularly threatened by lack of security. The example of the Nairobi slums was mentioned whereas these vulnerable groups are highly insecure both in terms of physical violence and rampant poverty. The problem is aggravated by the presence of numerous armed gangs and the widespread circulation of small fire arms. Consequently, it is for example hard for the unemployed youth to set up small businesses. The African governments need to provide the security for their citizens;
7. Food security: in order to fight poverty and hunger, there must be solid strategies (short-term and long-term) aiming to achieve food security, especially for the vulnerable and hunger-prone social strata.
8. Better preparedness for natural disasters: one of the main problems threatening human security in Africa by exacerbating hunger and poverty in the continent is represented by recurring severe droughts. The African agriculture is predominantly rain-fed. Significant part of the population relies also on pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems with few external inputs. These important socio-economic sectors are occasionally swiped out by famine caused by droughts. It seems that African Governments have leaned very little, if anything, from the past catastrophic events of this kind. There is an urgent need, therefore, to improve the situation in terms of emergency preparedness and emergency response so that the impact of these naturally-occurring catastrophic events is minimised. For the same reason, similar plans should be worked out for similar emergencies such as break out of pandemic diseases, etc.
9. Better natural resources management: a declining resource base is both the cause and consequence of poverty throughout Africa. Many violent conflicts are caused by dispute relating to the access of resources such as water, grazing land, forest resources, etc. More sustainable resource management can boost not only the sustainable utilisation of local resources but similar mechanisms can also serve as effective conflict prevention measures and peace-building in the long term.

## **WORKSHOP 2: EDUCATION**

### **MDG2: "Achieve Universal Primary Education"**

#### **SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS RAISED AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The African system of education is colonial based. It lacks practical skills and needs.
2. Different countries have different challenges and different starting points to reach their goals.
3. Importance to support poor families to be able to send both boys and girls to school and to convince them to do so, specifically girls.

4. Often the laws exist, but they are not implemented. Religion and culture play an important part. Patriarchy *is still a major problem*.
5. Need to hold parents accountable.
6. Start of programmes should be the culture of a country.
7. Often the institutions are there, but not open to all.
8. The focus on primary school stands in the way of further education.
9. Just opening schools is not enough. There should also be interest in quality. Funding and evaluation *are of equal importance*.
10. The human resources and infrastructure to realise MDG2 are lacking.
11. Lack of salaries for teachers prohibits them from offering quality education in public education.
12. MDG2 can be achieved provided that there is good governance, resource management and security especially in conflicts and post-conflict areas.
13. Teachers need respect, education needs facilities and resources.
14. Education needs to be structured.
15. When opening schools, you have to make sure that quality and infrastructure grow along.
16. Make sure education is sustainable and children continue.
17. Curricula need to promote respect for all.

### **WORKSHOP 3: GENDER EQUALITY**

MDG3: “Promote gender equality and empower women”

MDG4: “Reduce child mortality” and MDG5: “Improve maternal health”

#### SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS RAISED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

##### **Current situation:**

1. Unequal access to opportunities, especially in culture.
2. Subordination and suppression persisting in many areas.
3. Socialisation challenges/ perceptions/ subjective identities.
4. Lack of full knowledge of rights by rural women as well as elite women.
5. Dialogue is taking place.
6. Low representation in decision-making.
7. Girl child is still ignored.
8. Child mortality and poor maternal health are very alive in Africa.
9. There are positive aspects of culture that can be maintained.
10. Lack of information, poverty, laws, inaccessibility, high workload of women, poor nutrition and bad culture.

##### **Way forward:**

1. Education and sensitisation, both formal and informally (training in health education, skills, outreach and in the rural areas on rights, roles and responsibilities.)
2. Media’s role should be enhanced to actualise gender equality.
3. Involve men in all initiatives and campaigns.
4. Increase access to technologies, facilities and information.
5. Open dialogue, work with voices of authorities.
6. Conduct research and document current status.
7. Changing our attitudes, perceptions and being.
8. Increase opportunities to articulate issues.

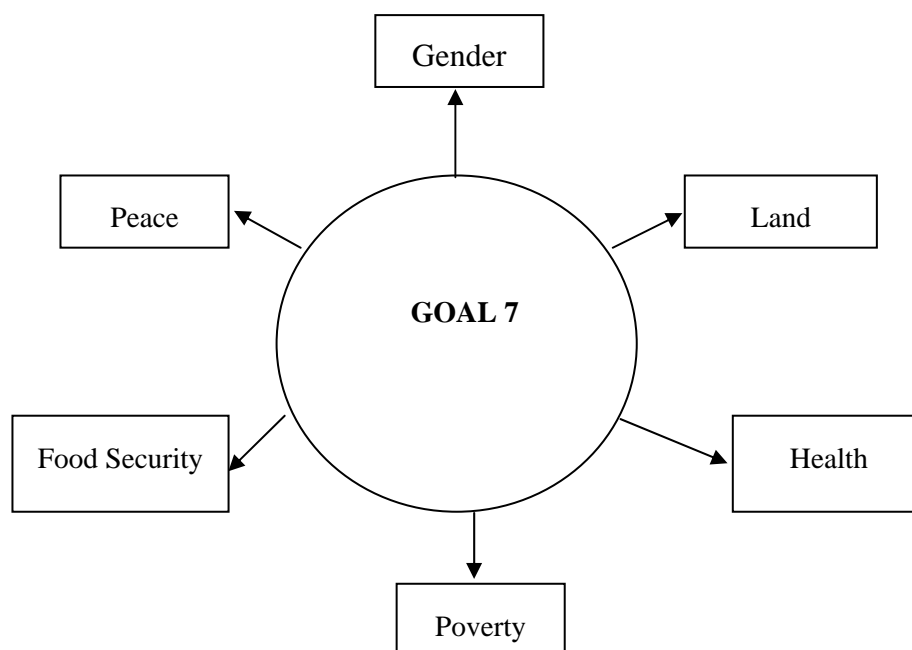
## WORKSHOP 4: HEALTH (FOCUS ON HIV/AIDS)

### Recommendations

- 1) Youth, who are they and where are they – context and definition
- 2) Human Security
  - Physical
  - Political
  - Socio-economic
  - Socio-cultural
- 3) MDG 6: HIV/AIDS
  - Dual relationship between HIV/AIDS and security
- 4) Socio-Economic Insecurity
  - Unemployment
  - Illiteracy
  - Commercial sex work
  - Lack of partial care and sugar "daddism"
  - Inability to procure preventive care/services
    - Condoms
    - VCT
    - ARV
- 5) Socio-Cultural
  - Taboos about sexuality
  - Taboos about condoms
  - Misconception about HIV/AIDS
  - Stigmatisation of people with HIV
  - Mass media/ pornography
- 6) Political Security
  - Poor social security
  - Rape as a strategy of war
  - Arms productions
  - Conflict initiation

## WORKSHOP 5: ENVIRONMENT

African countries should understand the meaning of GOAL 7



- Keep Environment Central in all the other 7 goals
- Importance of Building capacities/skills to manage Goal 7-focussed programmes
  - Environment → Human Development
    - Peace
  - Environment → sanitation → Poverty Reduction & Good Health
- Capacities/Skills → Wide Range: political, technical, civics
- Need for concrete plans/agenda
  - An environmental sustainability in Africa
  - Priorities
  - Time-bound action
  - Strong environmental structures of education
  - Education & awareness-raising culture
- How can we achieve environmental sustainability?
  - Financing
  - Good planning (short-term/long-term?)

## WORKSHOP 6: GLOBAL NETWORKS

### MDG8: “Develop a global partnership for development”

#### For an effective network:

1. It should be connected to grassroots.
2. NGOs need constituencies and sustain a membership base.
3. NGOs need to avoid elitism and should be democratic at the organisational level.
4. NGOs should build capacity.
5. NGOs should cooperate on advocacy measure and field projects.
6. NGOs should work with local authorities.
7. Civil society should spearhead new approaches such as having “rights-based” approach towards the implementation of the MDGs.
8. Experiences should be shared and clear inter-linkages should be shown and co-operation should be stronger.

#### For the effective implementation of the MDGs:

1. There should be ownership among local people.
2. There should be co-operation without co-optation.
3. NGOs should not underestimate local CBOs and NGOs.
4. Transnational global-local partnership should be established and enlarged.

## WORKSHOP 7: PEACE AND HUMAN SECURITY

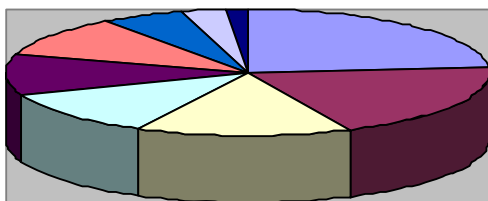
Freedom from fear }  
Freedom from want } Dual concepts of Human Security

- Government related education measures
  - School fees – how ‘free’ is ‘free’?
  - Governments should invest in youth
  - Government responsibility to educate population
  - Key: leadership, enabling environment, good policies
- Socio-economic factors: what one can do & achieve
- Role of political parties
- Conflicting parties all to agree on how to implement MDGs
- Peace-building that is supportive of:
  - Empowerment of girls
  - Access to info
  - Skills
- MDGS implementation
  - Less political, more accountable
  - But who will do it?
- Role of civil society

- NGO's = "mass of politicians"
  - ↳ Don't do what they claim
    - Dire need for transparency
    - Aid doesn't always reach the needy
- Role of Diaspora
- Countries coming out of conflict have no infrastructures that could support the MDG's
  - Learn from suc. examples e.g. Rwanda
- Role of teachers: respect & social recognition has decreased
  - Sponsoring of TTCs stopped
  - How to reinstate respect for teachers?
- More cooperation between south & south
  - Brain-drain
- Project implementers ('experts') – paid much more
  - Foreign teachers
  - Learn from Latin America
- Education for all? → What are the facts, figures, and statistics? Records how to set targets?
  - Objectives → closer to

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX I - EVALUATION

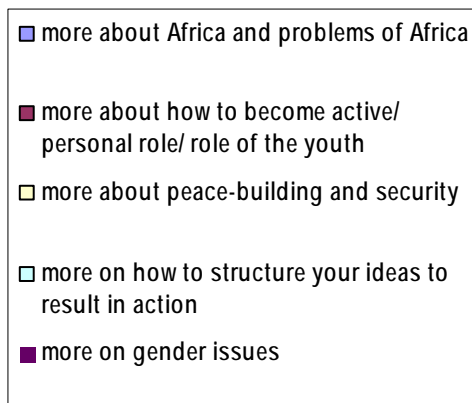
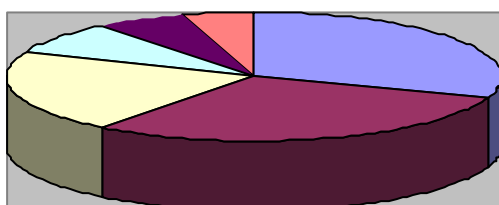


- There were 250 participants. 91 evaluation forms were returned. Respondents were generally highly satisfied with the overall organisation and programme of the ASC 2005 and the Pre-conference organisation. The best things about the ASC 2005 were the presentations (33 respondents; theme (27 respondents) and the quality of the participants (20 respondents). 44 respondents rated the lectures excellent; 33 rated it good; 8 sufficient and 1 insufficient.

#### The best things about the ASC 2005 were

- Conference enhanced the knowledge of and/or inspired the respondents on the MDGs, on Africa, on the role of youth, on peace-building and created awareness on gender (in) equality.
- Workshops: Most of the participants thought they were good, while 21 of the 87 respondents thought that the workshops were excellent
- There was a non-negligible dissatisfaction about the time-keeping and chairing.

#### Respondents learnt:



<i>Activity Ratings</i>	<b>Insuf- ficient</b>	<b>Suffi- cient</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excel- lent</b>	<b>Nr. Re- sponds</b>	<b>% Good</b>	<b>% Exc- cellent</b>
Lectures	1	8	33	44	86	38.37%	51.16%
Working Group. Please, indicate which one you participated in:	2	17	38	28	85	44.71%	32.94%
Questions and answers period	12	23	39	14	88	44.32%	15.91%
Time keeping and chairing	10	25	35	18	88	39.77%	20.45%
Presentation of working groups	7	21	38	21	87	43.68%	24.14%
Overall organization of the conference	1	5	43	39	88	48.86%	44.32%
Pre-Conference Organization	3	6	47	41	97	48.45%	42.27%
Conference Documentation/ materials	2	22	35	30	89	39.33%	33.71%
Catering	4	8	39	38	89	43.82%	42.70%
Conference venue	2	6	27	54	89	30.34%	60.67%
	44	141	374	327			

The overall trend of the responses show that most of the respondents were satisfied with the overall organisation, the pre-conference organisation, the conference .venue, working groups, lectures and the documentation

#### **The things that respondents would like to change are:**

- Their own attitudes
- People’s views on the MDGs
- Gender inequality
- Decision-making procedures (inclusion of the youth)
- Governance in Africa
- Less presentations, more Q&A and more time for working groups

#### **The Level of Knowledge on the MDGs**

##### **Pre-Conference Knowledge on MDGs**

- Half of the respondents did not have detailed information about the MDGs. Conference helped some of them to structure their ideas.
- 1/10 of the respondents did not know anything.

##### **After the Conference**

- 13 % of the respondents responded that they did not learn anything from the conference. 75% of the respondents clearly stated that they understood the MDGs better after the Conference.

#### **Additional comments were:**

- **Pessimist remarks:** “I wish we could make an effect”, “I wish leaders could hear us.”
- **Remarks about things to be improved:** Time allocation, content, the event itself.
- **Remarks about issues left out or not underlined sufficiently:** Democracy, how to become an activist, focus on the MDGs instead of youth.
- **Remarks about the speeches and presentations:** The inspiring speeches treated the difficult problems on reaching the MDGs from different perspectives.
- **Remark about conference mix:** The diversity of activities, subjects and speakers was very interesting. It was good to see many motivated people.
- **Positive Remark:** Conference was great. Thanks. Keep going!

## **ANNEX II**

### **BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF THE SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS**

#### ***Ama van DANTZIG***

Ama van Dantzig is Ghanaian/Dutch and is currently pursuing her Master's in International Development at the University of Utrecht. She is a volunteer at UNOY and at the Dutch National Youth Council. Her interests are in youth involvement in peace-building.

#### ***Dinansas ABDURASHID ABDELLA***

Dinu Abdella is from Ethiopia and is currently completing her research Master's in Human Geography. She is also a volunteer at UNOY and has previously done research in Africa.

#### ***Hafsat ABIOLA***

Hafsat Abiola is a human rights and democracy activist from Nigeria, where she fights to advance civil society and democracy. She is the founder and director of the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND), and is involved with various initiatives promoting youth and women's development. She was a founding member of the State of the World Forum's Emerging Leaders Program and Global Youth Connect. Currently she is a Fetzer Fellow and serves on the Boards of Youth Employment Summit, Educate Girls Globally, Women's Learning Partnership, Hewlett Packard's World e-Inclusion Project, and the Global Security Institute. She is the daughter of the late M.K.O. Abiola, the elected president of Nigeria (1993) who died in imprisonment.

#### ***Kevin CLEMENTS***

Kevin Clements is a Professor in Peace and Conflict Studies and Director of the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Queensland Brisbane Australia. He has held numerous prestigious positions, most recently he was the General Secretary of International Alert in the UK, which is a multinational NGO working on conflict transformation and peace-building initiatives. He is an expert in the areas of peace-building, security sector reform, and conflict and peace theory.

#### ***Guido de GRAAF BIERBRAUWER***

Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer is of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), where he is the project coordinator of the 'Communication & Lobby, and Europe' unit. He is also the coordinator of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), which is a worldwide civil society led process that aims to increase understanding and consensus in terms of peace-building and conflict resolution.

#### ***Hilary JEUNE***

Hilary comes from Jersey, Channel Islands. She completed her BA Geography in the UK and MA International Development in the Netherlands. She has experience in doing research and working for NGO's in West Africa and East Africa. Hilary started at UNOY Peacebuilders in September 2003 where she coordinates the Peace It Together campaign. Presently, she works a communication officer for ANPED, The Northern Alliance for Sustainability, a democratic network that links NGOs and voluntary organisations in all parts of the Northern hemisphere

#### ***Sahro MOHAMED***

Sahro Mohamed is from Somalia, and a youth activist and board member of the UNOY. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Medical Anthropology and Development Studies at Leiden University. She has been awarded the ECHO award in 2004 for her efforts at raising awareness for gender issues and promoting empowerment of (young) African refugees. She is also a lauded poet.

#### ***Charity MUSAMBA***

Charity Musamba is President of the debt relief organisation, Jubilee 2000 of Zambia, an NGO linked to the Jesuit Centre for Theological reflection (JCTR). She is a respected speaker on poverty reduction and debt relief issues, and has been very active in the recent 'Make Poverty History'

campaign. In 2005, she also facilitated the International Convention on Debt and Development in Edinburgh, Scotland.

***Louk de la RIVE BOX***

Louk de la Rive Box is the rector of the Institute of Social Studies and professor of International Cooperation, while also an honorary professor at Maastricht University. Formerly he was a professor of geography at Utrecht University, President of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes, of the European University Association for the study of Society, Science and Technology ([ESST](#)) (2002-2005) and of OneWorld Netherlands, an internet platform for Dutch civil society organisations (2001-2005). He has held numerous other prestigious positions, where he has consulted on topics ranging from civil society, environmental issues, to education.

***Jan Gustav STRANDENAES***

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes is Senior Policy Adviser with ANPED, the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, a European/North American /Central Asian NGO network headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. His professional expertise lies in the fields of international political processes, Sustainable Development and civil society development. He is presently facilitating NGO input into the Commission on Sustainable Development process for the SDIN, the Sustainable Development Issues Network, a cooperative effort by ANPED, ELCI, the Environment Liaison Centre International, Nairobi, Kenya, and TWN, Third World Network, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

***Sayida VANENBURG***

Sayida Vanenburg is a member of the National Youth Council and was the Dutch youth representative at the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2004. Her specialisations are in the field of youth, urban and sustainable development.

### ANNEX III

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Family name		Name	Nationality	Institute
Abdelgabar	Mohammed Elbeshir	Abdelrahman	Sudan	Amsterdam University
Abdella	Abdurashid	Dinansas	Ethiopia	UNOY Peacebuilders
Abeliwine		Emmanuel	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Abiola		Hafsat	Nigeria	Kurdirat Initiative for Democracy
Abshir	Haile	Demeke	Ethiopia	Erasmus University,HIS
Adekola	Alade	Olalekan	Nigeria	Wageningen University
Adiang		Acuil	Sudan	
Aga	Jebessa	Firdissa	Ethiopia	University of Twente
Agaba	Agaba	Vincent	Uganda	University of Groningen
Ahanhanzo		Desire	Benin	ICJ, The Hague
Ahemesah	Offei	Isaac	Ghana	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam
Ahmed		Asad		Salmar Foundation
Ahmed Dhahar	-	Fatima	Somalia	
Akakpo	Blankson	Patricia	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Akebe		Grace	Cameroon	
Akinyoade		Akinyinka	Nigeria	Institute of Social Studies
Alanbo	Zaza	Zemedkun	Ethiopia	Wageningen University
Alhaji-Raji		Ali	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Al-Harethi	Naser	Ali	Yemen	Ptc+Barneveld College
Ali		Deega	Somalia	Haagse Hogeschool
Aliseka		Pauline	Uganda	Maastricht School of Management
Allotey	Kpakpo	Festus	Ghana	Radio Nederland Training Center
Alupo		Barbara	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Amirsarvezi		Shahlala		Haagse Hogeschool
Amos		Rose	Nigeria	Radio Nederland Training Center
Andrew	Aate	Florence	Sudan	Southern Sudanese Women Association in The Netherlands
Appiah		Eugenia	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Apuun	Agan	Mary	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Argentini		Catarina	Italy	University of Leiden
Arotiba	Banye	Abel	Nigeria	Institute of Social Studies
Awidi	Teye-Mensah	Isaiah	Ghana	University of Twente
Awor		Albina	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Awortwe-Abban	Rudolf	Jerome	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Bagamba		Fredrick	Uganda	Wageningen University
Banya	Natal	Emmanuel	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Bekker		Jessica	The Netherlands	University of Amsterdam
Benos	Twine	K	Uganda	University of Groningen
Berhe	Hruy	Getachew	Ethiopia	Larenstein University
Berhe	Gebre-medhin	Yeshi	Ethiopia	Larenstein University
Berthe	Kouam	Kapsukouekam	Cameroon	Larenstein University
Biermans		Marion	The Netherlands	Groningen University
Bogale	Gezahegn	Girmaw	Ethiopia	Wageningen University
Bukenya		Christopher	Uganda	Wageningen University
Chilufya		Friday	Zambia	Institute of Social Studies
Chiputa	David	Philemon	Tanzania	Larenstein University
Chludova		Lenka	The Czech Republic	Utrecht University
Chol	Nicknora	Gongich	Sudan	Rotterdam Business School
Clements		Kevin	Australia	Australian Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Queensland University
Cornell	Brilliant	Upendo	Tanzania	

<b>Family name</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Institute</b>
Costa Rovira	Maria	Anna	Spain	Wageningen University
Cruz	Manansala	Maria Blesilda	The Phillipines	National Broadcasting Network
Dalyan		Emine	Turkey	Leiden University
Daramola	Olawale	Michael	Nigeria	Wageningen University
Daramy	C	Lamin	Sierra Leone	Hogesschool Utrecht
Darimaani	Ngmenkaara	Felix	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Dawotola	Wunmi	Alex	Nigeria	TU Delft
de Graaf Bierbrauwer		Guido	The Netherlands	European Center for Conflict Preventiom
de la Rive Box		Louk	Brazil	Rector, Institute of Social Studies
Diaby-Kassamba		Oumou Koul-toum	Burkina Faso	Leiden University Linguistics Center
Dickinson	Louis	Nicolas	Switzerland/US	
Dimoso	Lucian	Romanus	Tanzania	Wageningen University
Dommerholt		Gerda	The Netherlands	Dutch Ministry of foreign Affairs
Dronkers		Bodil	The Netherlands	UNOY Peacebuilders
Droti		Benson	Uganda	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam
Dube		King	Zimbabwe	Radio Nederland Training Center
Dumbuya	Simah	Michael	Liberia	Hogeschool Utrecht
Ejalu		Rhoda		Institute of Social Studies
Engedaw	Yeheyis	Likawent	Ethiopia	Wageningen University
Essandoh-Yeddu		Faustina	Ghana	Larenstein University
Firjubin		Nikolai	Russia	UNOY Peacebuilders
Foano Fola		Didana	Ethiopia	Institute of Social Studies
Foday-Musa		Teddy	Sierra Leone	West Africa Peace Chapter
Fon		Bruno	Cameroon	UNOY Peacebuilders
Formadi	Fafa	Patricia	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Gambrah		Vincent	Ghana	AfroEuro Foundation
Garba	Ishaku	Habila	Nigeria	Wageningen University
Gasana		Grace	Rwanda	Saxion University
Gbeassir		Eric	Togo	UNOY Peacebuilders
Gebre	Aragaw	Getu	Ethiopia	University of Twente
Gebreegziabher		Zenebe	Ethiopia	Wageningen University
Golo	Kwame	Harrison	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Grah		Mark	Ivory Coast	Leiden University
Guedes		Alan	Brazil	University of Amsterdam
Haavelsrud		Hans Ola	Norway	UNOY Peacebuilders
Hambizyi	Chibozu	Vinus	Zambia	Ptc+Barneveld College
Hangoma		Liver	Zambia	Practical Training Center, Barneveld
Harbor		Chimere	Nigeria	Utrecht University
Hassini		Yahya	Rwanda	Saxion University
Hebinck		Marieke	The Netherlands	University of Antwerp
Heleba	Christopher	Siyambonga	South Africa	Utrecht University
Hellema		Marte	The Netherlands	UNOY Peacebuilders
Hlabangana	Bongani	Immanuel	Zimbabwe	Institute of Social Studies
Hoerberigs	Aminata	Amy	Sierra Leone	West Africa Peace Chapter
Hossade		Rahin		Salmar Foundation
Huber		Paul	The Netherlands	UNOY Peacebuilders
Hussein		Bashir	Somalia	Somalia Center for Development Research
Ibui	Kajira	Alfreda	Kenya	Leiden University
Imayo		Lucy	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Ishengoma	Benedict	Bonaventura	Tanzania	Practical Training Center, Barneveld
Jei	Dinla	Relindis	Cameroon	Larenstein University of Professional Education, Larenstein
Jeune		Hilary	The United Kingdom	UNOY Peacebuilders
Kabiso	Firresilassie	Aklilu	Ethiopia	Erasmus University
Kadama		Rebecca	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies

<b>Family name</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Institute</b>
Kahsu		Samuel	Eritrea	Radio Nederland Training Center
Kaki	M	Salih	Sudan	MONPEAD
Kakissa	Degaga	Wondu	Ethiopia	Institute of Social Studies
Kakuba		Godwin	Uganda	TU, Eindhoven
Kamal		Mostafa	Bangladesh	Institute of Social Studies
Kambewa	Verah	Emma	Malawi	Wageningen University
Kaneza	Nakalema	Florence	Rwanda	University of Twente
Kaoneka	Rashid	Seleman	Tanzania	Larenstein University
Kapsu Kouekam	Kouam	Berthe	Cameroon	Larenstein University
Karela		Josephine	Mozambique	
Karssen		Irene	The Netherlands	Hogeschool Utrecht
Kasumba		Henry	Uganda	TULE
Kazungu	Mallimi	William	Tanzania	
Kelei		Kon	Sudan	Radboud University,Njm
Kessi	Theophil	Mary	Tanzania	Institute Of Social Studies
Keyzers		Loes	The Netherlands	ISS/PPSD
Khan	Sultan	Tipu	Pakistan	
Khisa		Elvis	Uganda	Maastricht School of Management
Kiatgungwalgri		Saichol	Thailand	Thammasat University, Thailand
Kibalama	Shannon	Elizabeth	Uganda	
Kidane	Yifter	Fikru	Ethiopia	
Kilwake	Nabwala	Lillian	Kenya	Institute of Social Studies
Klein Klouwenberg		Fiona	The Netherlands	Leiden University
Kohi		Edward	Tanzania	Wageningen University
Kolay	Emre	Ahmet	Turkey	Erasmus University,
Kooijman		Maria	The Netherlands	UNOY Peacebuilders
Lalika	Mathias	Severine	Tanzania	Institute of Social Studies
Lever		Esther	The Netherlands	UNOY Peacebuilders
Lo Lado		Tombek	Sudan	TU Delft
Lufungulo	Simon Ma-chibya	Peter	Tanzania	ITC
Lulamy	Ngagard	Steward	Tanzania	Institute of Social Studies
Mabior	Michael	Amol	Sudan	Hogeschool Rotterdam
Mahonge	Paul	Christopher	Tanzania	Wageningen University
Maikarfi	Yagyona	Francis	Nigeria	Radio Nederland Training Center
Malinga	Atim	Keziah	Uganda	ICC
Mallya		Emmanuel		Institute of Social Studies
Mania		Jane	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Maria		Catharina	Indonesia	Institute of Social Studies
Marthins	Babe	Marilyn	Nigeria	Vital Aid Foundation
May		Anika	Germany	UNOY Peacebuilders
Mayanja	Dimitrios Kikabi	Dithan	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Mburu	Moses	Mnugua	Kenya	Institute of Social Studies
Mean chop	Claudius	Youmbi	Cameroon	University of Utrecht
Menyah		vincent De-Paul	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Mesfin		Yilma	Ethiopia	Erasmus University I.H.S.
Meyer		Charlotte	Denmark	UNOY Peacebuilders
Mohamed		Sahro	Somalia	UNOY Peacebuilders
Mohmoud	Ahmed	Mohamed	Somalia	Stichting HIRDA
Mpehongwa		Gasper	Tanzania	Institute of Social Studies
Mubeezi		Ruth	Uganda	Wageningen Universty
Mulew Ngutuku	Mulong	Elizabeth	Kenya	Institute of Social Studies
Mulo		Emmanuel	Uganda	TU Delft
Musamba		Charity	Zambia	JUBILEE 2000
Mutumbi	Ngala	Eric	Kenya	Ptc+Barneveld College
Mwila		Simon		RNTC

<b>Family name</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Institute</b>
Mwinyimbegu	Shaaban	Khamis	Tanzania	Utrecht University
N- Palme		Ruby	Ghana	Larenstein University
Nakatudde		Brenda	Uganda	Maastricht School of Mgt
Nalunkuma		Justine	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Nangendo		Christine	Uganda	Ptc+Barneveld College
Nasr		Khalid	Sudan	HvU Amsterdam
Nassaka	Mayanja	Catherine	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Nazziwa		Eva Mary	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Nazziwa		Eva Mary	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Ngamije	Festo	Ngamije	Rwanda	
Ngochembo	Gwemelang	Gaston	Cameroon	Hogeschool Utrecht
Nguthi		Faith	Kenya	Wageningen University
Nitsche		Dennis	Germany	University of Augsburg
Njee	Mussa	Robert	Tanzania	Utrecht University
Njong	Banye	Brendan	Cameroon	Utrecht University
Nkoom		Charlotte	Ghana	Practical Training Center
Nombo	Ignatius	Carolyne	Tanzania	Wageningen University
Nyakenda	B	Deus	Uganda	University of Twente
Nyalana		Joseph	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Obae	Mose	Lawrence	Kenya	Wageningen University
Obanda	Wanyama	Peter	Uganda	Maastricht School of Mgt
Odowa	Liban	Muhyadin	Ethiopia	Institute of Social Studies
Oel	van	Yves	Rwanda	InHolland University
Olaide		Dayo		Institute of Social Studies
Ololkeri	Long'oni	Majuka	Tanzania	Radio Nederland Training Center
Olujic		Franka	Croatia	
Ongaro	Ambrose	Stephen	Kenya	Wageningen University
Onkundi	Charles	Dennis	Kenya	Utrecht University
Otim	William	Patrick	Uganda	Radio Nederland Training Center
Owusu		George	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Parren		Franny	The Netherlands	UNOY Peacebuilders
Peilouw		Lusia	Indonesia	Institute of Social Studies
Peters		Lillian	The Netherlands	
Poh Chen		Paul		
Polota	Edinah Si- mataa	Mufaweli	Zambia	Ptc+Barneveld College
Quaedvlieg		Anne	The Netherlands	Radboud University,Njm
Qureshi		Samina	Pakistan	Institute of Social Studies
Rimbere	Kathure- Mungatia	Agnes	Kenya	Institute of Social Studies
Roehl		Ute	Germany	UNOY Peacebuilders
Romney		Yohishi	The Netherlands	InHolland
Rwechungura		Faustin		InHolland
Scheewe		Lieke	The Netherlands	University College, Utrecht
Scheewe		Selma	Dutch	University of Groningen
Seidn		Mahama	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Semindu		Omari		Radio Nederland Training Center
Shahab		Ahmed	Egypt	Embassy of Egypt
Shiripinda		Iris	The Netherlands	Radboud University,Nijmegen
Sijtsma		Carolien	Netherlands	Hogeschool Utrecht
Sipatunyana	Moono S.	Benson	Zambia	Ptc+Barneveld College
Smits		Josephine	Sierra Leone	Wanda Foundation
Sorma	Jamain	Amal	Sudan	MONPEAD
Ssemaganda		Vincent	Uganda	TULE
Ssengooba	Mukasa	George	Uganda	University of Groningen
Steen		Ellen	The Netherlands	BBO
Stolte van Empelen		Bea	The Netherlands	UNOY Peacebuilders

<b>Family name</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Institute</b>
Strandenaes		Jan Gustav	Norway	ANPED(Northern Alliance for Sustainability)
Sukkar	Awad	Harai	Sudan	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam
Sumaili	Murumba	Baza	Burundi	HHCCA/Foundation
Tefurukwa	Muganyizi	Kenneth	Tanzania	Ptc+Barneveld College
Tekumafor	Angel	Enjoh	Cameroon	Hogeschool Utrecht
The African Bulletin			All	The African Bulletin
Thomas		Mhlingo	South Africa	Radio Nederland Training Center
Tinagli		Massimo	Italy	University of Pisa
Tinuga	Kajojo	Deusdedit	Tanzania	Utrecht University
Turinawe		Kenneth	Uganda	Royal Tropical Institute. Amsterdam
Ulalo		Elizabeth	Kenya	University of Twente
van Berkel	Brent	Derek	Canada	Utrecht University
van Dantzig		Ama	Ghana/Netherlands	UNOY Peacebuilders
Van den Berg		Paul	The Netherlands	ICCO
van der Kamp	Sien Wai	Jessica	Hong Kong / Canada	University College, Utrecht
Vanenburg		Sayida	The Netherlands	NYC
Visser		Wout	The Netherlands	War Child Holland
Volz		Julian	Germany	Eirene Nederland
Wabyona		Jacqueline	Uganda	Institute of Social Studies
Waliwuhya	Kungu	Martins	Uganda	ITC
Wamakote	W.	Leonard	Uganda	University of Twente
Wambura	Datus	Delphina	Tanzania	Larenstein University
Wanjala	Glenda	Rosemary	Kenya	Institute of Social Studies
Wekhichu	Nelima	Justine	Kenya	Institute of Social Studies
Yazid	Gayap	Theresa	Cameroon	Larenstein University
Yir-eru	Engmen	Steven	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Yussif	Tanko	Azzika	Ghana	Institute of Social Studies
Zebremariam	Gebreeg-ziabter	Ahmet	Ethiopia	Institute of Social Studies
Zenker		Jörg	Germany	

## ANNEX IV

### ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

#### **TAC – The African Committee**

This is an organisation for all African Students in the Tertiary Institutions in the Netherlands. The Secretariat is located at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague. The highest body of TAC is the Executive Committee, which comprises the President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary and Treasurer. There are ex-officio members who are representative students from each institution where there are TAC members.

TAC advocates for peace and development in Africa and facilitates networking among African students in The Netherlands, with the aim of fostering knowledge for lasting socio-economic development.

Its main objectives are to raise awareness and stimulate and facilitate intellectual dialogue; its main activities are to convene the African Student Conference (ASC) annually. It also has a social and cultural function. TAC commemorates important anniversaries and events taking place in Africa and organises social functions (including parties and video shows).

#### **UNOY Peacebuilders**

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) is a global network of young people and youth organisations in the field of peace-building, active primarily in conflict and post-conflict regions but presently expanded to include a wider range of countries. Its mission is to link up the initiatives for peace of young people / youth organisations in a global network of young peace-builders, to help empower their capacities and to help increase their effectiveness. UNOY Peacebuilders' vision is 'Youth committed to build together a world in which peace, justice, solidarity; human dignity and respect for nature prevail'. It runs a "Peace It Together" youth campaign for a culture of peace and non-violence, supporting the UN declared international Decennia for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. Activities include advocacy, women, conflict transformation, abuse of small arms and light weapons, child soldiers, HIV/Aids, peace education. The UNOY Peacebuilders works at a local and regional level. The UNOY members of the African continent are coordinated in the African Network of Young Peacebuilders (ANYP) which was created at the "African Youth for a Culture of Peace" training-conference, which took place in Cape Town in 2001. In 2002, in collaboration with the ANYP, a West African training conference was held in Benin, and a national training seminar in Sierra Leone. In 2004, in collaboration with The Network University in Amsterdam, an on-line training course was held for African members followed by a face-to-face Training Seminar in Freetown. For more information, see [www.unoy.org](http://www.unoy.org).

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#### **The African Committee**

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Kortenaerkade 12  
2518 AX The Hague, the Netherlands