

REPORT ON THE FOUNDATION SEMINAR:

“Peacebuilding in War-torn Societies”

14 November - 3 December 2004

IMPERIAL BOTANICAL BEACH HOTEL (ENTEBBE/REPUBLIC OF UGANDA)

ORGANISED BY:

Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)
Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)

IN CO-OPERATION WITH:

The Network of African Peacebuilders (NAPS)

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The Austrian Development Agency

Austrian

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Peace Center, Burg Schlaining, February 2005

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2. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHR	African Charter on Human and People's Rights
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADC	Austria Development Co-operation
ASPR	Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution
AU	African Union
CECORE	Centre for Conflict Resolution
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DDR	Demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African Community
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
EU	European Union
FERFAP	Federation of African Women's Peace Network
FRELIMO	Frente de Libertação de Moçambique
GLEWN	Great Lakes Early Warning Network
IANSA	International Action Network on Small Arms
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LCPP	Local Capacities for Peace
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
NAPS	Network of Africa Peacebuilders
NGO	Non governmental Organisations
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
RENAMO	Resistencia Nacional Mocambicana
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SIAT	Special Initiative for Africa
SPLA/M	Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement
UN	United Nations
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) and Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) in co-operation with Network of African Peace-builders (NAPS) organised its eight Peacebuilding in Africa (PiA) seminar. This year's seminar entitled "Peace-building in War-torn Societies" took place at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda from November 14 to December 3, 2004. The seminar was sponsored by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

The overall purpose of the seminar was to enhance a policy-related discourse combined with training workshops on conflict resolution/transformation aiming at the elaboration of relevant peace-building activities in the greater Great Lakes Region.

To achieve the overall purpose, 40 participants were selected to create a diverse group of professionals from 16 Africa countries that were interested and active in peacebuilding. Special attention was also given to qualified female candidates to ensure gender balance.

Similarly, faculty were drawn from an international group of experts with the majority coming from Africa. The faculty expertise reflected the combination of approaches to peacebuilding including, inter alia, humanitarian assistance, the role of gender in peacebuilding, trauma healing, role of culture and religion etc.

The methodology included workshops, lectures, case studies, working groups, exercises (including simulations) and readings. Participants were given the opportunity to present case studies and share their experiences in peacebuilding.

Overall achievements of the seminar included:

- The exchange of experiences and ideas among participants of various professional backgrounds;
- The development of professional skills in analysing the basic causes of conflicts and the art of conflict transformation;
- Understanding the multifaceted approach to peacebuilding in war-torn societies including the role of gender;
- Inter-ethnic/cultural understanding;
- Networking and the enhancement of relations between and among the representatives of various professions within the Great Lakes and across Africa;
- The inclusion of more active members into the Network of African Peacebuilders (NAPS);
- The creation and dissemination of recommendations for peacebuilding activities in the greater Great Lakes Region.

4. INTRODUCTION

Background of the seminar

The seminar on *Peacebuilding in War-torn Societies* described in this report took place at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel from November 14 to December 3, 2004. The seminar happened against a background of the current and ongoing conflicts and tensions being experienced in the greater Great Lakes Region and the various challenges faced as a result. The region, linked in many ways through language, history and culture is also a region in which the security of a country has tremendous impact on the security of its neighbouring countries. One need only reflect on the interstate tensions and conflicts between Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo; the large flow of Burundian refugees to Tanzania or even the issue of armed cattle rustling that is common in the region as examples of the urgent need to support and enhance peacebuilding efforts in the greater Great Lakes.

The seminar, therefore, aimed for a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to peace-building. It provided a platform for experts of different professional backgrounds to discuss and analyse the root causes of the problems experienced in the region and to develop mechanisms to positively transform the situation on the ground.

Seminar objectives

The overall purpose of the seminar is to enhance a policy related discourse combined with a training workshop on conflict resolution/transformation aiming at the elaboration of relevant peace-building activities in the greater Great Lakes Region.

The specific objectives of the three-week seminar were to:

- Provide state-of-the-art conceptual, theoretical and practical training in peace-building to individuals and career professionals who are looking to upgrade their skills and knowledge or to acquire new skills and perspectives in this area;
- Advance knowledge and an understanding of peace-building related issues and mechanisms, in relation to the African experience;
- Increase the pool of qualified peace-building experts to contribute to conflict resolution/transformation in Africa;
- Strengthen peace-building capacities of African institutions;
- Encourage joint initiatives and further strengthen the growing Network of African Peace-builders (NAPS);
- Encourage an understanding and acceptance of partnership between national and regional actors and international efforts to bring lasting peace;
- Reflect trends and causes of violent conflicts and document already existing peace-building efforts in the greater Great Lakes Region;
- Elaborate precise and specific recommendations for peace-building in the greater Great Lakes Region.

Participants and Resource Persons

The seminar was attended by 40 participants representing a wide range of professional backgrounds including lawyers, civil society representatives, diplomats, government representatives, journalists, military officers and ex-combatants, professors and researchers.

The participants came from 16 African countries across Africa namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Similarly, seminar resource persons were international experts and practitioners mainly from Africa with diverse experiences in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Each faculty provided the participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to critically analyse root causes of conflict as well as develop concrete proposals for peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Methodology

The methodology employed in the seminar included interactive lectures, presentations, participant contributions, workshops and simulation games. During the third week, participants grouped together to develop recommendations for conflicts in the greater Great Lakes Region. The seminar consisted of the following phases:

Week 1: Basic Concepts of Peace-building

Week 2: Peace-building Approaches and Activities

Week 3: Integrated Approaches for Peace-building: Elaboration of Recommendations for the Great Lakes Region

Recommendations were made for the following:

- Sudan Conflict
- Interstate Conflict: Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda
- The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Conflict
- Conflict Transformation in Burundi
- Northern Uganda Conflict
- Karamoja Conflict (Uganda)
- Ethiopia/Eritrea Border Conflict

The recommendations were presented at a press conference during the closing of the seminar by the participants. These results were also presented in local newspapers and radio stations.



PEACE - BUILDING IN WAR - TORN SOCIETIES SEMINAR.
AT IMPERIAL BOTANICAL BEACH HOTEL ENTEBBE UGANDA.
14TH NOV. -3RD DEC. 2004.

5. PEACEBUILDING IN WAR-TORN SOCIETIES

Concepts and Strategies for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation

By Professor Hizkias Assefa

The root causes of large-scale conflicts in Africa were discussed by analysing them in 3 different categories namely:

- Political
- Economic
- Socio-cultural

Political Causes

- Abuse of power (refusal to relinquish it, assuming power by force)
- Tribal/ethnic-based political parties
- Politicisation of ethnicity
- Demarcation of Africa (challenges of arbitrary borders and the 'African nation state')
- Abuse of human rights
- Self determination
- External actors' interference in political affairs

Economic Causes

- Struggle for and control of resources (water, oil, diamonds etc)
- Lack of and/or unequal distribution of resources
- Lack of development of infrastructure in some parts of the country
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Land shortage
- Poor working conditions for workers
- Globalisation

Socio-cultural Causes

- Mistrust and intolerance amongst ethnic groups
- Ethnocentrism
- Discrimination and marginalisation of groups
- Despotism
- Land conflicts
- Ideological/religious impositions
- Citizenship
- Cultural differences/diversity used as a political tool
- Language
- Lack of respect/disregard for indigenous knowledge
- Lack of Education
- Colonial legacies
- Gender roles
- Intermarriages

Lessons Learned

- Conflict is natural and normal between individuals

Economic

- Conflict is centred amongst people. Resources, situations and systems will only help to reflect their differences
- Relationships between individuals will determine how they would react to resources they may come across
- Africa is not poor, the problems stem from how its resources are shared/controlled.
- Equipping the population with the necessary skills is essential for the development of the country

Socio-Cultural

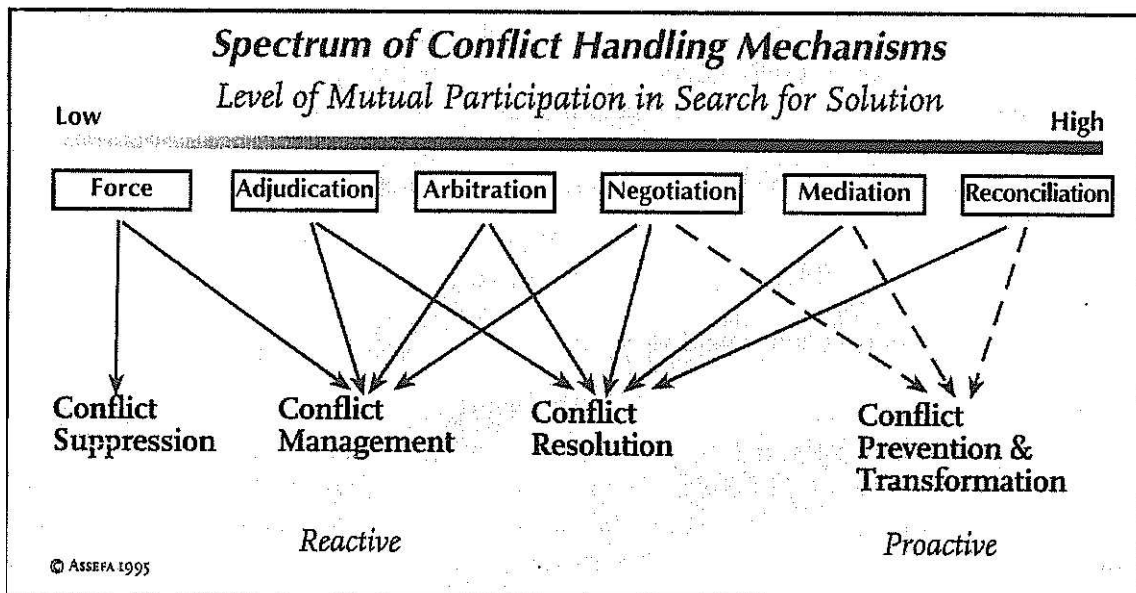
- Cultural genocide is what is happening on the continent of Africa in the name of freedom, commerce and education. We must be careful what we accept/reject/modify
- Perception of “the other” is an important factor to be considered in analysing conflicts
- It is important for people to cooperate with one another in order to positively transform conflict

Political

- The need for good governance so that the population can exercise their democratic and basic rights
- The only way to stay in power is to share it. Respect is also what gives one power e.g. Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Ghandi, Helen Mark

Workshops on Facilitation, Mediation and Reconciliation

By Professor Hizkias Assefa and Ms. Stella Sabiiti



As we increase the level of participation, the effectiveness and durability of the solution increases.

Force: One of the prevalent mechanisms used e.g. the use of military solutions to address conflict like in Iraq, civil wars etc. It is on the low end of the spectrum because the (zero) level of mutual participation due to its unilateral nature.

Adjudication/Litigation: When there is a third party involved to help find a solution to the problem such as a judge. Both parties present their views but the third party ultimately gives the solution. Here the decision is binding and the parties are forced to comply with it. The government normally appoints the third party.

Arbitration: The third party in this process is appointed by both parties to help find solution to the conflict. The solution may or may not be binding to the parties. There is some level of participation.

Negotiation: A higher level of mutual participation. Parties in conflict try to find a solution to their differences and do not involve a third party. There is mutual participation by both parties.

Mediation: Like negotiation except that there is a third party involved. The third party does not make decisions or impose a solution but facilitates the process for the parties in conflict in reaching a decision.

Approaches to Mediation include:

Power-based mediation is when the third party has superior power and can either reward or punish parties. The power may be subtle or blatant. The results are normally not sustainable.

Trust-based mediation: this relies more on the relationship the mediator has built with the parties in conflict. It is a slow process but the results are more durable.

Reconciliation: Parties look beyond the conflict to find out ways of establishing trust between themselves. The level of mutual participation is very high.

Conflict suppression: The stronger party is not interested in the position of the weaker party. The more you suppress the other group, the more the conflict intensifies and the backlash tends to be vicious.

Conflict management: Instead of dealing with the issues, they are managed so as to not escalate. It is like putting a fence to a problem without really solving it.

Conflict resolution: Issues pertaining to the conflict are resolved.

Conflict prevention and transformation: An attempt is made to foresee where conflict will emerge then appropriate measures are put in place in order to transform the conflict.

Peace: This is an art of transforming conflict in a constructive way from negative to positive and mutual coexistence between parties/communities.

Challenges in mediation

- Lack of political will for mediation to succeed.
- At the latent stage, the effectiveness of the mediation is not much because you do not know all the parties to the conflict and who is backing them.
- During the escalation phase, the parties believe they can win and are therefore not willing to negotiate.
- The causes of the conflict are not clear yet.

- Stalemate; the misperception of both parties' power are tested and they find out it is limited. Some schools of thought think this is the best time to intervene

Circle of Conflict

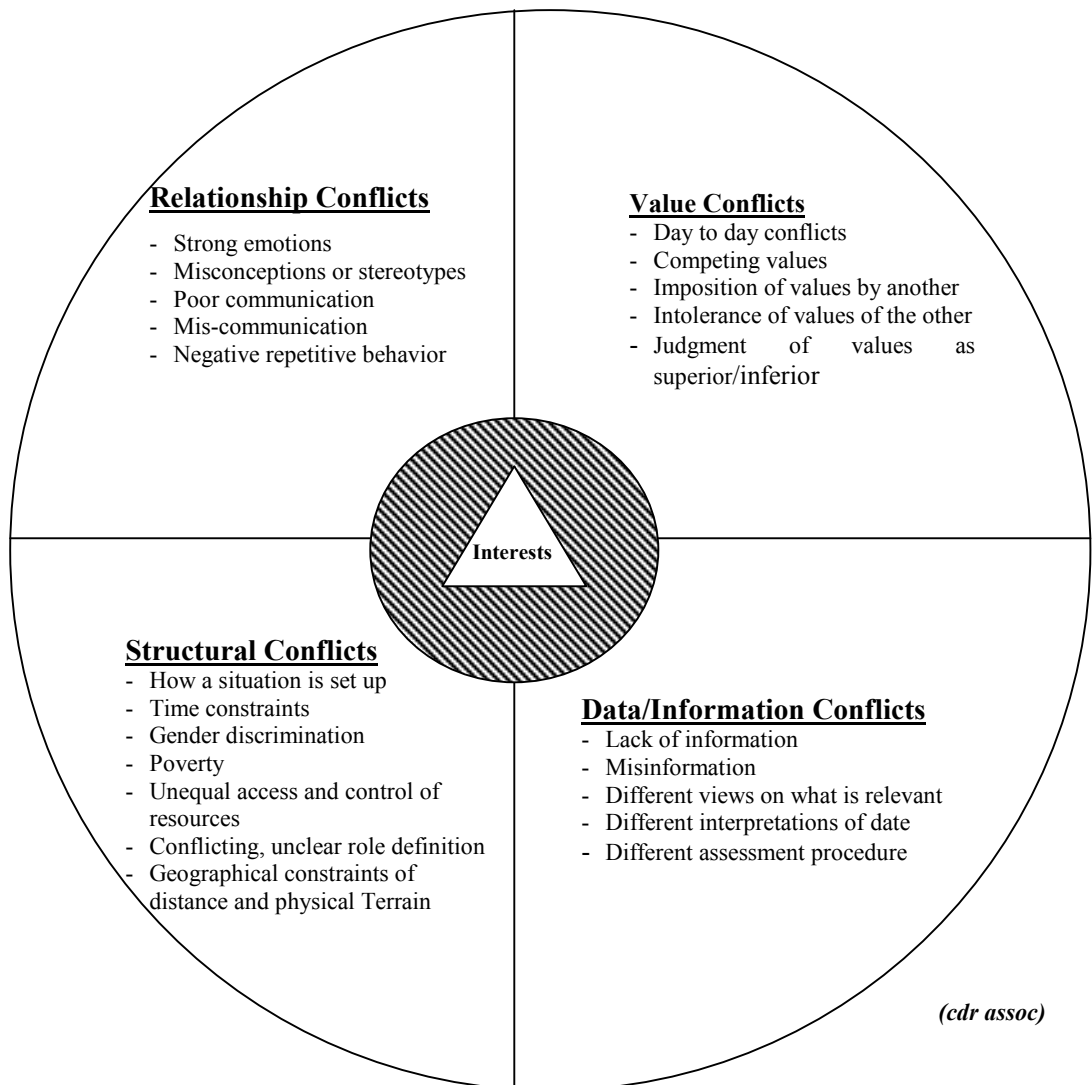
The diagram below shows some of the major types of conflict

Relationship Conflicts: Relationship conflicts arise out of the parties "failure" to build sustainable relationships (see examples in the diagram).

Data /Information Conflicts: These conflicts arise out of lack of necessary information or because of the wrong type of information. These conflicts could also come as a result of misinformation and disinformation (see examples in the diagram below).

Structural Conflicts: These are very difficult to detect because they are embedded in the structures, as they are institutionalised. These include Political conflicts, Religious conflicts and Gender discrimination among others (see examples in the diagram below).

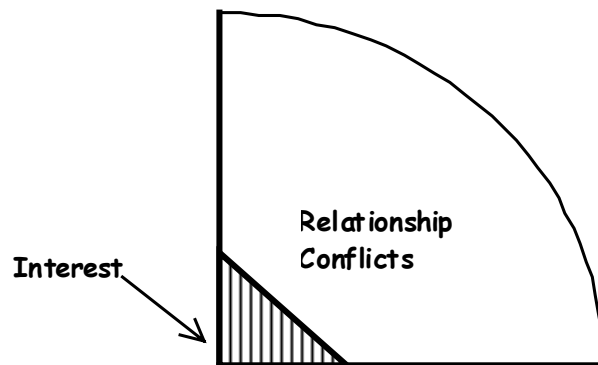
Value-Based conflicts: These are the most difficult to deal with as they involve the parties' entrenched values, beliefs, norms and identity.



Introduction:

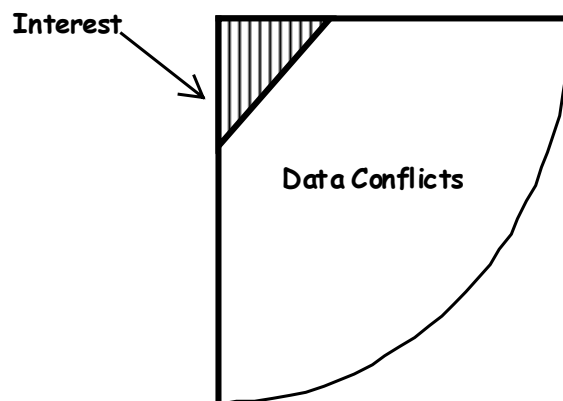
Below are strategies of how to deal with the four types of conflicts. It is necessary to deal with these conflicts because they prevent parties in the conflict from reaching their interests which are the main reasons behind the conflict.

Strategies for Resolving Relationship Conflicts:



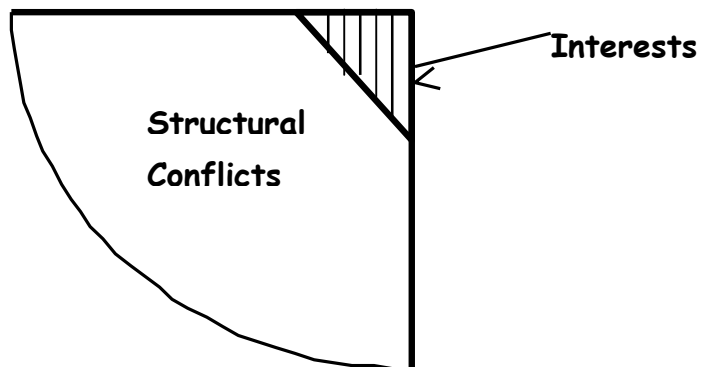
- Regular effective communication
- Honesty and trust
- Diversity management, awareness
- Workshops for parties in listening skills
- Reward good behaviour
- Consultations and information sessions

Strategies for Resolving Data Conflicts:



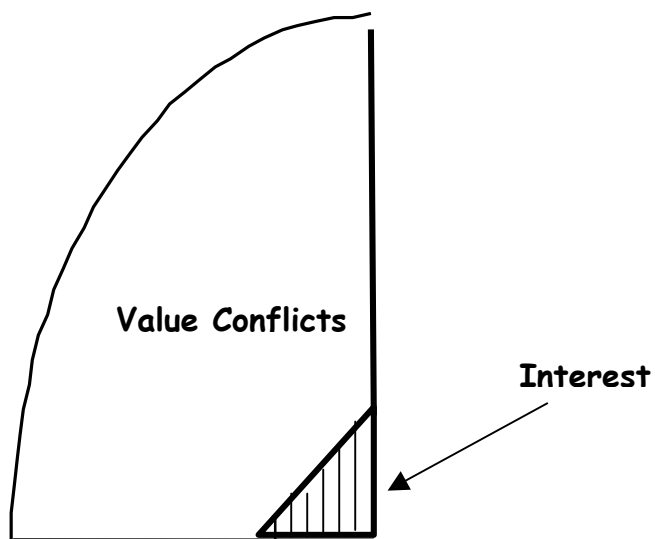
- Data must be used to solve problems, not to create them
- Interpretation
 - Honest
 - Clear
 - Accurate
- Updates
- Dissemination
- Capacity building for all
- User-friendly presentations of data
- Cost-effective collection of data
- Agree on subjectivity

Strategies for Resolving Structural Conflicts:



- Team work (instead of us/them attitudes)
- Communication
- Integration (instead of fragmentation)
- United approach
- Recognized all structures (e.g. formal + informal)
- Informed representatives (e.g. training, capacity building)
- Flexible/workable management structures
- Gender balance

Strategies for Resolving Value Conflicts:



- Educate one another on your differing values
- Identify core values

Lessons Learned

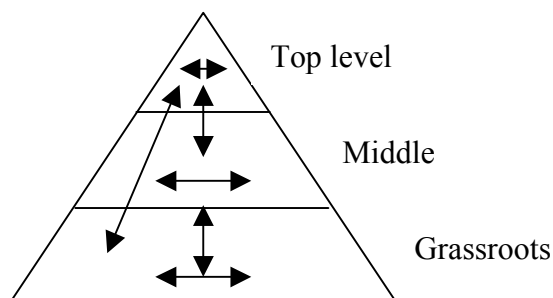
Negotiation

- All parties involved in conflict need to identify their needs in solving their differences. Exploration of our needs brings the parties to deliberate on realising their mutual needs.
- Parties in conflict should not hide their interests from the other group as this only aggravates the situation
- Communication between parties in conflict should be open with all cards on the table.
- If a solution, which makes both parties benefit from the outcome is reached, then it becomes a **Win-Win situation**. This is the best solution as it creates room for further relationships and trust between conflicting parties.
- Obtain background information before entering into any negotiation situation.
- Be fair in the negotiation process so as to enable the other party to respond in the same manner.
- Negotiation should not be central to an individual's needs but in all parties concerned.
- When negotiating, it is important to divulge our interests to obtain a fair outcome

Mediation

- The mediators to a conflict should know their mandate
- There should be institutions/ individuals backing their mandate
- Identify all parties to the conflict (primary, secondary and tertiary)
- Help parties in conflict to identify their core interests before offering solutions

Ways to enter a Conflict Situation



Top level: here the mediator's entry point is at the top level. You engage the leaders who are the decision makers. The advantage of entering at this level is that of representation and influence. The disadvantage is that they may make peace but people at the bottom may still be unsatisfied with the agreement and develop animosity.

Middle level: this includes elders, intellectuals, bankers etc. The advantage of this level is they have access to both the top and people at the grassroots.

Grassroots: The advantage with working with people at the grassroots level in the society is that they often have the highest stake in peace. The most successful and sustainable resolution of conflict is when the entry point is at the grassroots level as it is people-driven, with their own solutions. The disadvantage here is that it may be difficult to get to the people at the top and influence policy making.

It is important that once the mediator has an entry point, they should try as much as possible to get on board all actors at different levels. In general, the broader the consultation the better.

The Activities of the African Union in Peacebuilding

By Mr Eldred De Klerk

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the predecessor of African Union (AU), was more concerned with the liberation of all African countries in the continent and Pan Africanism. With the emergence of other dynamics experienced on the continent, it was important to redefine and restructure the OAU to better reflect the current situation and form a union against common problems faced on the continent.

The African Union (AU) is made of 53 African countries, which makes up the General Assembly with 15 of these countries making the Security Council.

Some issues that the AU currently addresses include:

- Governance
- Economic stability
- AIDS
- Environment issues
- Literacy
- Human rights violations
- Humanitarian disasters
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons
- Corruption
- Terrorism
- Drugs trafficking
- Money laundering

AU in Peace building

Over the past decades, some African countries have experienced intra and inter-state conflicts, exacerbated by natural disasters, coups in some countries, famine and inconsistent economic developments. It has been acknowledged that without peace in a country it becomes very difficult for it to progress and achieve its objectives. This is because there is some dissatisfaction among the population. This is also why it is important for AU to have this component in its activities.

AU has been mandated by its members to intervene in disputes of: -

- Governance
- War crimes
- Crimes against humanity (Human Rights)

It has thus been instrumental in trying to broker peace between the conflicting parties in Sudan (between the government and SPLA and in the Darfur region which over the past few months has been experiencing violence).

The AU participates in the Somali peace process through IGAD, which is a regional organisation in the Greater Horn of Africa, and other peace initiatives in West African region through ECOWAS and AU peacekeeping forces.

Some broad challenges experienced by the AU

- Issue of identity i.e. ethnic/tribal groups and encouraging strength through diversity .
- Financial position of AU; currently the organisation is not in a financial position to implement some of the identified activities it is supposed to engage in due to financial constraints.
- The ratification of all AU protocols by its members.
- Issue of migration; this is a challenge since the borders are artificial and porous.

As previously mentioned, the AU has divided the African continent into five regions to be managed by regional bodies such as ECOWAS, SADC and EAC. The argument here is that the regional organisations are stronger in terms of relationships with each other and understand the area dynamics better.

It is important for the governments to address the previously mentioned challenges in order to support the efforts in peacebuilding. More importantly, Africans need to work together to make this happen.

Culture and Religion in Peacebuilding in Africa

By Dr. Reverend John Mary Waliggo

*No peace among nation , without peace among religions
No peace among the religions without dialogue between religions
No dialogue between religions without global ethical standards
No survival of our globe without a global ethic.*

- Hans Kung

Religion and culture should be used as pillars in peacebuilding processes. Unfortunately, they can and have been main factors and causes of war, conflict, intolerance, revenge and unrest. The wars in Rwanda, Sudan, Nigeria, Pakistan/India and Sri Lanka are only a few examples among many others throughout time.

Major principles at the centre of every major religion

- Do to others what you want them to do to you (golden rule of most religions)
- Every human being must be treated humanely (we are one people)
- Have respect for life
- Deal honestly and fairly with others and the community
- Speak and act truthfully
- Respect and love one another
- Let your lives be guided by the religious moral and ethical principles

Example of the Golden Rule found in major world religions.

Christianity: *Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you.* (Mathew 7,12)

Confucius: *Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you* (Confucius, Analects 15.23)

Hinduism: *This is the sum of duty: do nothing to others which would cause you pain if done to you* (Mahabharata XIII.114.18)

Islam: *No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself* (40 Hadith, sayings of Mohammad of anNawawi 13)

Judaism: *Do not do to others what you would not want them to do to you* (Rabbi Hittel, Shabbat 31a)

Factors leading to abuse of religion, violence and war

- Religious fundamentalism, extremism, superiority complex and refusal to dialogue with others. Everyone is either for God or Satan; for Good or Evil; for salvation or condemnation.
- Abuse of religion for political gain and control of uncritical minds and emotions of the ordinary citizens
- Failure of religious leaders to give necessary guidance to their members
- Failure to seriously study the religious influence in African politics and to come up with clear guidelines on the relationship between religion and politics, and the clear separation, co-operation and co-ordination between the two sectors in peacebuilding in Africa.

Culture and Peacebuilding

Ubuntu: The African philosophy, worldview, culture and practice of Ubuntu summarise all the basic values of peace, justice and respect for human rights. Ubuntu essentially means what a human being (Muntu) is naturally expected to do to another Muntu.

Reverend Walligo stated that the African culture is rich, with various values that need to be utilised in peacebuilding. These include:

1. The Ubuntu philosophy of human relations
2. Priority of life, life-centred worldview
3. Proper relations of all kind: mother-father, family-neighbours, clan-ethnic group, living-dead-ancestors.
4. Concern for peace, harmony and unity
5. Concern for respect for the societal hierarchy of leaders and values.
6. Moral ethical and religious centred values and guidelines or code of conduct
7. Cultural taboos to control those who wish to violate the rights of others.

Some factors that promote conflict

- Abuse of ethnicity and diversity
- Ethnocentrism
- Failure of any cultural group in Africa in making a critical assessment of what it must incorporate, neglect and/or modify in the face of globalisation
- Cultural vacuum; when values are no longer in existence
- The struggle and agony of building a nation state based on our cultural values.

Recommendations:

- Adequately know commonalities between religions
- Advance genuine religious dialogue
- Adequately know those old and new movements which are against dialogue and cooperation and how to deal with them
- Openly discuss issues of ethnocentrism and how to protect the rights of the marginalised and minority ethnic groups
- Above all, know how to fully utilise our African indigenous skills and knowledge and wisdom to promote the process of negotiation, mediation and reconciliation

The Role of Non-Governmental Actors in Peacebuilding

By Dr. Josephine Odera

The focus on NGOs in conflict prevention and peacebuilding is not uniform. This is because each organisation has its own mission and objective, which is unique to it. Thus the need to analyse roles and responsibilities must be linked to appropriate conceptual analytical framework. It is also important to recognise the role of NGO's as critical to peacebuilding.

Definition of an NGO

NGOs are organised civil society organisations independent from the state. They fill certain gaps in the society in the provision of goods and services. They also span the different sectors in the society e.g. faith-based organisations, women organisations, human rights e.t.c.

Peacebuilding can be defined as a measure to consolidate peaceful relations and creating an environment that deters the emergence of escalation of violence.

Peace is a process and not a project. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding are integral to that process. NGOs are critical actors but whose impact varies according to their nature, area and level of management.

Analysis of NGO roles through different lenses

Democracy

Governance

Human rights

Human security

Development

Natural resources

Vulnerable groups

Hard and Soft areas of intervention

Hard areas: democracy, governance and human rights (governments consider these areas their domain).

Soft areas: human security, development and vulnerable groups. Natural resources oscillate between soft and hard areas.

The above determine:

- i. how and what NGOs are considered to be strategic or non-strategic (consultations with government)

- ii. the nature of partnership that evolves locally, regionally and internationally.

Reality of the operational environment of NGOs

- The state is still the principle actor in international law.
- Governments have the means to determine the space offered to NGOs and the latter have to constantly agitate for more space
- Ability of NGOs to be effective, largely dependent on their levels of development, organisation and strategic agenda.

Examples of operational issues

Kenya

- Vibrant civil society active in a range of peace and security, human rights and governance
- Initial resistance from governments denied certain NGOs registration or deliberately slowed it down
- Authorities distinguished between soft and hard issues. Human rights, governance and conflict categorised as hard. Peacebuilding is considered as a soft area of involvement.

Rwanda

- Impact of genocide came to define the vast range of NGO role and activities
- Peace building focus on reconstruction, reconciliation and care for victims of conflict and genocide with women NGOs being active
- Issues relating to vulnerable groups invisible in national agenda.

Uganda

- NGOs have increasingly expanded their areas of operation. They are now recognised as players in conflict prevention and peace building. However, they are still limited in addressing the serious conflict in Northern Uganda as dialogue and mediation are as a waste of time.

Eritrea

- Policy decisions to confine work of NGOs to health and education that these were priority areas for the country's development
- Net effect of above decisions was to slow down and restrict NGOs' roles in conflict prevention and peace building

NGOs and their scope of work – Challenges faced

- Nature of NGOs hinders or advances objectives
- Where NGOs organisational structures are weak, their agendas easily hijacked by politicians and others
- Limited capacity of national or even grassroots' NGOs to engage on some issues unless with strong partnerships.

State responses to NGOs

- In Kenya, NGOs contribution is acknowledged although sometimes seen as errant
- Some appreciation for NGO roles in democratisation, conflict prevention and peace building hence their absorption into government
- Now commonplace to find NGOs and Kenya government jointly taking on responsibilities in conflict prevention and peace building.

NGO Partnership in Greater Horn of Africa

- Partnerships will vary depending on group specifics
- On crosscutting issues which are relevant to conflict prevention and peacebuilding e.g. IANSA, FERFAP, GLEWN etc.
- Partnerships are characterised by shifts and impermanence due to perception on peace or donor funding
- Public and private sector partnership is less evident in conflict transformation and peacebuilding but is growing out of the need for a profit-making environment.

NGO partnership at Intergovernmental level

- Some NGOs serve as partners with IGAD and EAC in conflict prevention and peace building programmes
- NGOs engage regional organisations like IGAD, COMESA and EAC
- The AU strived to incorporate NGOs in its programmes
- Cotonou Agreement expands for NGO participation

Recommendations

- NGOs to address accusations of practical economic considerations dominating over missions and competence by ensuring transparency in their activities and promoting democratic institutional practice
- NGOs must agitate for strong institutions and not strong individuals
- NGOs must be able to recommend what kind of institutions enhance peace
- Have a strategic vision
- Build capacities for fundraising for sustainability
- Have clear and focused objectives
- Engage in policy debates and related research to influence appropriate response to conflict prevention and peacebuilding
- Have clear agendas and to continue expanding constituencies for conflict prevention and peacebuilding to remain paramount
- Multiple tasks and approaches necessary in addressing peace and security
- Regional contextualization is important
- Develop more efficient mechanisms for co-ordination among all actors and promote wider understanding of responsibilities of NGOs in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Activities of the European Union

By Mr. Christian Manahl

The EU is made up of the following structures:

- EU Presidency and member states
- European Commission
- Council Secretariat

In particular, the European Commission is responsible for management of EU funds and is thus responsible for preparing the ground for avoiding conflict. It draws its mandate from its members. It is in charge of political and military actions.

With regards to the involvement in Africa, the EU has co-financed the mediation process between the Sudanese government and SPLM through IGAD. The EU prefers to partner with

regional organisations like AU, SADC, and IGAD etc in providing the framework for negotiation.

In the negotiation process, the EU is involved in the following three stages:

- i. Pre-negotiation phase
- ii. Negotiation phase
- iii. Post-agreement phase

i. Pre-negotiation phase

- Conflict analysis
- Initiating dialogue between parties
- Identifying possible mediators
- Bringing stakeholders in the conflict together for negotiation.
Diplomacy and sanctions are methods used.

ii. Negotiation phase

The EU has co-financed some negotiation process e.g. Sudan peace process and in some case participating as mediators.

iii. Post-Agreement phase

The EU being a major provider of development assistance, it has an important role in facilitating the process of resolving conflict situations. It also co-ordinates with relevant African post -agreement follow-ups under African leadership e.g. the use of SIAT in Congo. It also supervises the implementation of the peace agreement.

Military interventions

The first European Security Defence Policy (ESDP) intervention in Africa was in Ituri (eastern DRC). This was in response to a request from the UN and operated in close cooperation with the UN to help end the violence. The EU also hosts a project on community reconciliation.

Gender and Peacebuilding

By Ms. Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda

Addressing the issues of conflict is a personal journey an individual undertakes. The most vulnerable groups in conflict are women, children and the aged. The United Nations has taken the initiative in addressing the conflict in the Great Lakes Region which has plunged the region into conflict especially in the DRC.

With women being vulnerable in conflict, their agenda has been mainstreamed in some policies, with their issues being addressed concretely.

Four broad parameters:

1. Gender relations and gender equality as a concept
2. Women's empowerment; proceedings from acknowledging women's discrimination.
Need for their empowerment to assert for their rights and contribute to develop issues as citizens
3. Gender mainstreaming; it is critical as it implies the analysis of planning at the implementation level. It is also a process and strategy

4. Women's Human Rights; it emphasises on areas that women are discriminated upon.

Women's role in peace and security

It has been recognised as an area where women are excluded. Women are the majority in terms of internally displaced persons. It is important to understand the core reasons making them vulnerable in situations of conflict. Women also contribute in solving conflict; this led to the mobilisation of women to press the UN Security Council to include women in the process.

Regional Level

At the AU, there are various tools adopted to address women rights. These are:

- African Charter on Human Rights
- African protocols on women's human rights to peace which was adopted in Maputo by all African Heads of State
- All Head of State are to provide reports on gender progress of their respective countries

Sub regional level

IGAD; in its last two summits, it adopted the role played by women in peace and security.
SADC; gender declaration on violence against women

National

In most countries, there is either a constitution or charter for the government's commitment to women's human Rights in its legislative framework.

Guiding Principles

1. Participation of men and women in peace and conflict resolution in the well being of their countries, region and the continent
2. Participation is a Human Right. Women are normally excluded at the macro level
3. Protection of all rights
4. Respect of Human Rights
5. Principle of maximisation of human resources (the participation of women in not maximised)

UN conference on the Great Lakes Region

A total of 11 countries participated in this conference (Burundi, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Zambia). Other countries took part as observers.

Some of the issues they discussed included issues dealing with women. The pillars for these issues were:

1. Commitment made at the national level preparatory meetings. A national meeting for women was convened to streamline issues to present during the conference
2. A regional women meeting was convened to be fed from national recommendations (Kigali Declaration)
3. Outcome of the meetings of the women, youth and the civil society was to identify issues that were to be included in the Declaration.

In conclusion, it is important to champion for the rights of women more so when addressing peacebuilding mechanisms, poverty eradication and democratisation. Identified frameworks need to be translated into practical activities in the daily lives of women and children.

Recommendations

- The various role of women in peace and conflict must be acknowledged i.e. ex-combatants, victims etc
- Women are often forgotten in demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration programs
- Domestic and sexual violence are also issues demanding attention as much as arms trade.
- The issue of HIV/AIDS; the growing number of orphans and the feminisation of poverty have to be mainstreamed into peacebuilding

Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts

By Lt. General Arnold Quainoo

The art of war has changed from the traditional style to war lords fighting in the streets which increase the death of many civilians in times of war. It is thus very important to come up with strategies to check this situation.

In situations of war in many countries, the UN member countries may request the UN to send troops into their country to help maintain peace e.g. in the case of Liberia, Sierra Leon, DRC, Iraq and other countries of the world. The Security Council then co-ordinates the mobilisation of the volunteer armies from member countries. What has been noted is that there is an over reliance in peacekeeping efficacy that helps in perpetuating the situation. In most of these situations, peacekeepers are never actually prepared to fight and die when carrying out their tasks. This means, therefore, that there is a need to tackle the lack of conceptual clarity in peacebuilding. It is important for peacebuilders to teach politicians in using the right terminology when discussing peace matters. Sometimes leaders send wrong signals that lead to further conflict.

The UN has no standing army and thus depends on member countries to volunteer to assist a country in crisis. The commanders of these troops (from different countries) normally are expected to assess the situation on the ground before strategizing and sending their troops to the field.

In situations of differences between peacekeepers, the problem is referred to their respective governments to handle it. This is because no commander can discipline troops from another country. This is why it is important to have a credible and disciplined force.

Recommendations

- When negotiating for a Peace Agreement, it is important to include all actors so that all their needs are addressed for the agreement to be honoured.
- It is important for African national armies to be strong in terms of skills and equipment to be able to sufficiently protect their citizens (one of the reasons that civilians are killed in large numbers during insurgencies is because they are taking up arms).
- Countries should aim to have training institutions to specifically train the youth in leadership. Most countries have army academies and never leadership centres. This is an important aspect in the security of a country, as it will help the country analyse the mistakes previously made and prevent them from re-occur.
- African countries must see the need to develop security documents which clearly spell out players in conflict and develop recommendations on how to address conflict issues.
- Psychologically prepare and equip peacekeepers before they get involved in conflict situations in countries experiencing wars. Credible and disciplined troops are important in

these operations so as to enforce the role of the UN without abusing the rights of the civilians (some peacekeepers have been implicated in violating rights of the civilians they are supposed to be protecting in DRC).

Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR)

By Lt. General Arnold Quainoo

Peace Agreements normally deal with demobilisation, disarmament and re-integration (DDR) of ex-combatants and special groups that are victims of the war. Thus for the success of the peace agreement, enforcing the agreement is very important. The humanitarian aspect of the agreement is very important for its success.

DDR has been implemented in for a long time and in some cases has been successful (Angola) and in others failed (Sierra Leone). Demobilisation is not the collection and destruction of arms or downsizing the arm nor is re-integration the inserting of the ex-combatants into the society. DDR should be done concurrently to maintain effectiveness, it is also very important to demilitarise the minds of the combatants. This will help them to re-enter the society to co-exist with their families and community.

African politics also need to be demilitarised and to reverse the minds of the nation from military ideology, which will reject the notion of violence as the only means of responding to conflict.

Actors in DDR

- The whole community needs to be involved in the process
- Traditional and political leaders to be incorporated since people listen to them
- Ex combatants to be actively involved in the implementation of the programme
- Collaborate and partner with other local, regional and international actors

What next after DDR?

- The rebels who have been disarmed to be equipped with skills to enable them participate fully in the community
- Ex-fighters can be assisted in returning back to their families
- The government to offer health care to traumatised victims and ex-combatants

Recommendations

- Need for clarity in the mandate of implementers of projects.
- Implementation of activities to be done one at a time.
- Identify all ex-combatants and integrate them in DDR programmes
- Need to have clear definition in the purpose of DDR.
- Complete analysis of the history of conflict to prevent a repeat of a violent situation
- DDR to be humanised.
- Need for specialised training for all involved in the programme.

In conclusion, to be successful in the implementation of DDR, a Peace Agreement needs to be in place. Its mandate should also be clearly stated for the implementers to work within a legal framework.

The Activities of Comunità di Sant'Egidio

By Dr. Fabio Riccardi and Mr. Stefano Carmenati

Main Activities

1. Peacebuilding
2. Education
3. Health

Some of the main factors that lead to conflict are:

- Exploitation of natural resources
- Ideological differences
- Religious differences

Case study of FRELIMO and RENAMO (Mozambique)

Sant'Egidio was engaged in the peace process as a mediator to bring the two conflicting parties together. Due to lack of experience, it requested the assistance of South Africa and the UN observers. Eventually, the two parties came to an agreement.

Challenges experienced

- Perceived neutrality of the mediators: The government of Mozambique did not trust the Archbishop who was a mediator as they perceived him to be sympathetic towards the rebel group. Eventually an agreement was reached.
- Cultural/'racial' differences: Parties perceived the Community of Sant'Egidio as non-African and therefore not in a position to mediate.

Lessons learned

- Incorporation of all parties in conflict into negotiation
- Make contact with the key persons for a successful process
- Never be obsessed with publicity
- Identification of a suitable venue for the talks
- Never impose solutions to the parties in conflict

Humanitarian Assistance

By Mr. Tiberius Hakim

Humanitarianism is the desire to prevent or alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found in protecting the life, health and respect of the human life. Humanitarian action addresses human suffering whether resulting from disasters caused by natural hazards or by situations of conflict. The assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality.

International Humanitarian Law

Humanitarian law is comprised of international rules, established by treaties or customs which are specifically intended to solve humanitarian problems which may arise from international or non international armed conflicts.

Its principle aim is to protect persons and property that are and/or may be affected by conflict e.g. civilians and prisoners of war.

Principles

The right to life with dignity

We understand an individuals' right to life to entail the right to have steps taken to preserve life where it is threatened, and a corresponding duty on others to take such steps. Implicit in this duty is the duty not to withhold or frustrate the provision of life-saving assistance

The distinction between combatants and non-combatants

Non-combatants are protected under international humanitarian law and are entitled to immunity from attack

Principle of non-refoulement

This means that no refugee shall be sent to a country in which his/her life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, and membership of a particular social group or political opinion; or where there are substantial grounds for believing that s/he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.

International Refugee Law

The law was developed to protect individuals who have crossed international borders and are at risk or victims of persecution in their country of origin.

The law prohibits the forceful return of refugees to their countries of origin and provides basic human rights guarantees during their stay in the country of asylum. The main international instruments are:

- 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees
- 1969 OAU Convention Governing the specific aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa

Enforcement Mechanisms

Humanitarian laws can be enforced through:

- National courts
- Ad hoc tribunals
- International Courts of Justice
- International Criminal courts
- Sanctions
- UN security resolutions.

Humanitarian response in peacebuilding – Local Capacities for Peace Project (LCPP)

With the nature of conflict having changed over the last two decades, the dynamics of the humanitarian assistance and humanitarian principles have also undergone much change.

- i. the nature of conflict has moved away from wars between nations to intra-state conflicts
- ii. there has been a proliferation of organisations which are active in humanitarian operations. Even when they normally embrace the same principles, the way these principles are translated into practice may differ substantially
- iii. Humanitarian principles have been further elaborated, thus creating more potential for diversity
- iv. Humanitarian organisations to different degrees have taken on additional , but not so always compatible, sets of principles such as human rights, justice, development and peacebuilding
- v. Humanitarian principles have come to be debated as a result of increasing doubts about the effectiveness and impact of humanitarian aid

As a result, a number of initiatives now aim to enhance the quality and learning capacity of humanitarian organisations. An example of one such initiative that are tries to respond specifically to the conflict situation is the Local Capacities for Peace Project (LCPP) also termed as ‘DO NO HARM’.

Formed in 1994, the LCCP responded to the new conflict context that propelled aid workers and their activities into situations of increasing danger. It was noted in some cases their aid exacerbated conflicts, thus, the need for humanitarian actors to ensure that their activities did not fuel the conflict. LCPP approach is to analyse interactions between aid programs and conflicts where they work and then make appropriate adjustments to projects in order to ensure that aid does not harm but instead supports local efforts towards conflict transformation.

Basic Recommendations

- Means and mechanisms must be identified to ensure that organised armed groups apply IHL and to sharpen their sense of accountability
- Strengthen existing rules – but the challenge is to improve the respect of IHL
- Spreading knowledge of the rules and why they are important to authorities, combatants (including organised armed groups) as well as to civil society
- Increase research and practical work on peacebuilding such as Do No Harm Theory
- Disseminate what works

Dealing with Trauma

By Ms. Miriam Fredricks

Trauma is a situation where an individual experiences or witnesses an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury.

Professor of Psychology, Ronnie Janoff-Bulman, has said that humans share 3 basic assumptions:

- We believe in a benevolent world
- The worthiness of self
- The meaningfulness of the world

These assumptions are often shattered by trauma, especially in communities where people live in constant fear of threat. Some of the symptoms of trauma include:

- Haunting memories
- Fear
- Anger
- Confusion
- Digestive problems
- Depression
- Avoiding people
- Nightmares
- Trouble sleeping
- Trouble concentrating
- Avoiding activities e.t.c.

Interventions

- Individual and group counselling/therapy –debriefing, trauma counselling, behaviour modification, etc
- Support groups
- Networking and partnership
- Lobbying and advocacy
- Body mapping
- Memory Box workshops
- Outreach programmes
- Commemoration of certain days
- Awareness rising campaigns
- Care for caregivers
- 24 hour phone line
- disaster management

Conflict is like a fire: it can keep you warm and can cook your food but if it gets out of control, it can burn your house down.

In situations of conflict, which is out of hand, you can deal with it using the following mechanisms:

- Strengthening local healing practices
- Use certain customary/religious rituals, practices, symbols etc – makes healing more contained, practical, acceptable
- Professional mental health workers training others at community level
- Reaching children at a young age – having learnt skills of conflict resolution children are able later in life to make connections between personal conflict management and peace making on a national and global level
- Mobilising resources to reach all affected individuals
- Developing structures that prevent conflict

Example: Memory Box Workshops

Victims are encouraged to create mementoes for history. This way, people can share pain and hurt. These stories are validated because it is their stories. This is part of the healing process. These workshops were meant to focus on the verbal expression of the lived experience and to incorporate art therapy to identify where the physical pain was inflicted such as wounds and how that impacted on the emotional and psychological pain. In this respect it would include both healing of the body and the mind (physical and cognitive/emotional).

It is also very important to improve the mental health as it:

- Helps one feel good about oneself
- Help one feel comfortable with others
- Meets one's basic needs in life

Introduction of the Network of African Peacebuilders (NAPS)

By Mr. Rinos Simbulo

The Network of African Peacebuilders (NAPS) is a continental, multidisciplinary independent, non-profit network connecting state and non-state actors. NAPS was established against the background of peacebuilding seminars supported by the Austrian Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) and her African project partners through the sponsorship from the Republic of Austria.

Membership is drawn from the government, civil society and the private sectors. This gives the network a comparative advantage of bringing all parties into policy dialogue. Currently NAPS has over 200 members from 34 African countries.

Some other advantages that NAPS enjoys include being the only African peacebuilding network which is continental, multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral in nature with a large human resource.

The overall objective is to mainstream peacebuilding conflict prevention policies into state and non-state policies in order to have a coherent approach towards peace-building and conflict prevention.

Thematic Areas

1. Reconciliation and traditional methods of conflict resolution and transformation
2. Early warning in conflict prevention
3. Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration

Activities

- Organise conferences, workshops, seminars and symposia on peacebuilding
- Provide consultancy services as well as professional and technical assistance
- Research, documentation and dissemination of information on African conflicts
- Identify African best practices in conflict resolution
- Develop a database and directory of African conflicts and practitioners
- Disseminate a biannual newsletter on peacebuilding activities

Networking

Africa is a large continent with different dynamics needing different responses. It is, therefore, important to collaborate with different actors in promoting peace on the continent. Some of the organisations that NAPS currently interacts with are Africa Union, ECOWAS, SADC and others.

Challenge

Lack of frequent communication between members due to technological disparities of countries.

Way forward

To get more committed peacebuilders on board to define avenues to conflict prevention and alleviate suffering of the people.

Protection of Human Rights and Protection of National and Ethnic Communities

By Mr. Patrice Vahard

Human rights are inherent to human nature, universal, mutually reinforcing and interdependent. The human rights dynamic can be represented as a triangle involving three main actors:

- The rights owner
- The duty bearer
- The third party

Rights Owner: If we take women's rights as a case study, it will seem obvious that the woman is the right owner. It could be argued that most of the rights being advocated as women's rights also affect others, in particular children.

Duty Bearer: The one to fulfil that right. The emphasis on the state as the sole duty-bearer no longer reflects the reality. On the one hand there are numerous non-state actors, third parties, individuals, families and groups responsible for unimaginable violation of human rights and who must also account for their actions or omissions. On the other hand, in the era of globalisation, states, in particular African states, no longer have the same control over national political and economic matters. The duty of fulfilling human rights is a shared responsibility.

The Third Party: The role of the third party is to build the capacity and capability of the rights owner to claim his/her rights and that of the duty-bearer to fulfil his/her obligation. The third party is often the civil society organisations, an agency of the UN or a humanitarian organisation. It should also be noted that sometimes the state can be a right owner via the international community. For example, the state has the right to ask for support from the international community to fulfil its own duty.

Relevance of Human Rights to peacebuilding

- Violation of Human rights is part of the root causes of conflict and issues to be addressed by peace efforts
- Human rights accountability is a confidence-building measure in peace processes
- Human rights offer legal tools, process and benchmarks for measuring progress in peace building

Durable peace cannot be achieved without a serious analysis of the human rights dimension of the conflict. Human rights instruments offer a perfect normative framework for measuring peace processes. Peace is a human right taken both at the individual and collective stand point. Peace and conflict resolution as processes are best achieved through a rights-based approach.

The African Human Rights Framework

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child
- The Protocol to the African Charter related to the rights of women in Africa
- The Protocol to the African Charter related to African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

It is argued that this framework will remain irrelevant so long as it will be unknown to many and not complemented by a genuine national human rights mechanism which includes independent judiciary and the frequent use of human rights instruments.

Ground Rules for successful Human Rights work

1. Gender sensitivity – do not contribute to the marginalisation of women
2. Confidentiality – to expose the facts and protect the source
3. Neutrality and Impartiality – take the side of the truth and keep to it
4. Accuracy – extract the fact from its fat of judgement and interpretation

Key Lessons

1. The need to rethink human rights to reflect new dynamism created by the end of the cold war
2. The threats, opportunities, rules and principles apply to all human rights. They should not be used for the advancement of one category only. The application of human rights methods must be contextualized and adapted to domestic realities
3. Open up to, respect and explore other knowledge systems in order to be efficient in protecting human rights
4. Human rights alone cannot do the trick

Peace Education

By Mr. Noel Chicuecue

Peace education is the process through which we are equipped with skills that enable us to respond non-violently in conflict situations. In a conflict situation, we tend to dehumanise the other party in order to commit an inhuman act on them. Education has the ability to construct or deconstruct perceptions of one another; to disarm the mind and to educate others on how to handle contradictions. It lays emphasis on values, equality, inclusiveness, participation, human rights and living with others without excluding them.

Peace education may be:

Non-formal: the education is not structured in the governments' education curriculum

Informal: you learn from experiences wherever you are

Formal: structured by the government

Case Study Southern Africa

Peace education was initiated in Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The objective of the education was promoting a culture of peace, human rights and democracy with emphasis on capitalising on peace values, equality, diversity, free flow of information and the cultures in the community.

Impact of the training:

- The developed manual from the training taught conflict resolution and transformation
- The management of the schools in which the education was taught transformed into a more participatory approach
- Government participation, creating favourable atmosphere for learning
- Participation of both parents and the community in realising the objective of the program

In peace education we should not assume that all actors in conflict are interested in peace, it is then important to put peace in the minds of all. But in some cases, it may be difficult since some actors are invisible.

It is important for peace education to be practical and not wholly theoretical and the programme needs to be tailored according to the communal needs.

The Role of Intergovernmental Actors in Peacebuilding: Activities of the United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB)

By Ambassador Nureldin Satti

The civil society has been playing an important role in bringing peace actors together and addressing issues in peacebuilding in the region. Over the past decades, the UN has been mandated to engage in peacebuilding activities and it is engaged in various countries all over the world. In Burundi, the UN is engaged in peacekeeping and reconstruction of the country.

The conflict in Burundi between the Hutu and Tutsi can be traced back to 1966 soon after independence. Over time, the dynamics of the conflict have evolved into a class struggle for the ruling elite though still confused as an “ethnic conflict”. The intellectuals and the media who do not take time to analyse the situation on the ground have perpetuated this myth.

The conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi ten years ago has evolved with other dynamics emerging like the struggle for political power between Tutsi parties leading to alliance formation with Hutu political parties and vice versa. This has also spilled over to the military with Tutsi and Hutu groups collaborating to contain violent conflicts from erupting in the country.

The Peace Agreement reached by the conflicting parties was signed in Arusha, Tanzania. A transitional government was put in place for three years but due to emerging dynamics, its mandate was extended for six more months. The people of Burundi are to go for General Elections in the coming year to elect their government with assistance from the United Nations and other development organisations.

Some of the questions and challenges experienced under this Peace Agreement include:

- What kind of democratic system needs to be developed?
- A clear constitution needs to be developed with no one group monopolising power

The role of the UNOB

Under the Peace Agreement in Burundi, the UN has been helping Burundi find solutions to some of its problems by identifying the nature of its conflict and trying to build a new Burundi from the lessons drawn from the conflict.

Some activities of the UNOB

1. Security for all through its peacekeeping force in Burundi
2. Helped to enforce the power sharing formula under the Peace Agreement
3. See to it that DDDR programs are carried out
4. Mobilisation of resources to help rebuild the society
5. Engaged with the government of Burundi in political, military and socio-economic reforms

Reconciliation remains the ultimate task. All the above mentioned activities are only means to this end.

Challenges experienced by the UNOB:

1. Impunity; many crimes against humanity were committed during the time of the conflict but the perpetrators have not been brought to justice due the provision of immunity in the Peace Agreement.
2. Transitional justice; inquire and identify crimes committed during the conflict period
3. Reconstruction and development of the Burundian society which was ravaged by the war
4. Repatriation and reintegration of refugees into the society
5. High rates of unemployment

During the reconstruction period in a society that has undergone violent conflict, the activities of developmental organisations need to be harmonised for efficiency and effectiveness. A good start for this was the recent UN security meeting in November 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting brought together key actors in the region to promote peace.

New Thinking on Transition from War to Peace

By Dr. Alejandro Bandaña

With the end of the cold war, the dimensions of peacebuilding have changed to encompass these changes. In the post-cold war era, the term peacebuilding was used. In 1992, the former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali talked of an agenda for peace.

All the above had an effect on developing countries. A majority of African post-independence movements were supported by arms from the Soviet Union and China. After the break of the Soviet Bloc, the balance of power shifted with USA being the sole super power. It was also the period of negotiation of political prisoners as in the case of Nelson Mandela in South

Africa in 1990, the peace process in El Salvador in 1992, Guatemala in 1994 and Nicaragua in 1990 and Cambodia in 1991.

The post-cold war era was characterised by:

- UN involvement in peace keeping in countries in conflict
- Reconciliation between parties in conflict

Most problems experienced in African countries are not of their own creation but of their colonisers and in today's case - globalisation.

Globalisation is a process that excludes a majority of the small players from the markets giving way to big multinationals who get richer, thus widening the gap between the rich and poor. It is, therefore, time for the Bretton Woods to address the issue of wealth reduction instead of poverty reduction. According to a study done by Paul Collier, there is a direct co-relation between export dependency and violent conflict. This is because of the structure put in place by international organisations that increasingly impoverish developing countries.

The violence experienced is in part as a result of unemployment. The large number of street children whose parents are not in a position to take care of them due to Structural Adjustment Programs reflects the erosion of the social responsibility of the government. Thus, in peacebuilding we have to deal with the problems brought about by neo-colonialism. We need

to address international rules (particularly those of the IMF, World Bank) that our governments have to follow which are detrimental to the population.

It is therefore important for peacebuilding to be global, pre-emptive and permanent for the achievement of sustainable peace in the world.

Actors, Interests and Strategies

By Professor Mwesiga Baregu

During the presentation, Prof. Mwesiga challenged the participants to re-evaluate various conventional beliefs on:

- Root causes
- Actors and interests in peacebuilding
- Peace agreements
- Inclusiveness

Focus on root causes: conventionally, when analysing conflict, we begin with the root causes. It is suggested that when analysing conflict; we should look at obstacles to peace. Thus make a shift from root causes to obstacles when analysing conflict.

Interest in peace: There is a general assumption that all actors in the conflict are interested in peace. It is, therefore, important to differentiate categories of actors in the conflict. E.g. peacemakers, peace spoilers, peace opportunists.

Peace Agreements: There is a lot of preoccupation and analysis that once peace agreements have been signed, the lack of political will may lead to its non implementation. Interests should then replace political will. The behaviour of the actors is thus determined by their interest in the conflict. The political will should be a function of interest. Political will should thus be explained, and it is not as an explanation on its own.

Inclusiveness: Arising from the above issues is inclusiveness. It is important to define strategic and non-strategic actors. All inclusiveness may create a lot of confusion or avoiding tasking strategic and non-strategic actors. Strategic actors may prevail upon the ones they have power over e.g. Somali Peace Agreement.

Actors Analytical Framework

The common feature in the conflict, which has been ravaging the continent, is multiplicity of actors. Some of the actors are visible while others are invisible in the conflict but have a party pushing their agenda. The latter tend to operate in the background protecting their interests. Their activities play a crucial role in either prolonging or terminating the conflict.

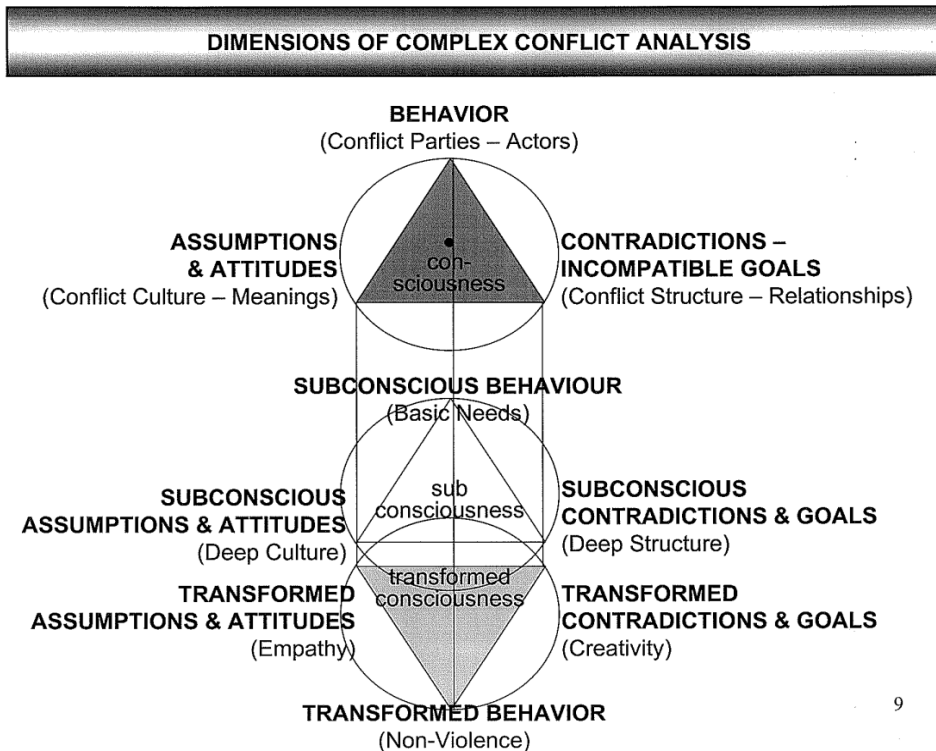
The activities and impact of these actors may also be decisive in determining the outcome of a conflict. It is therefore very important to have an analysis in terms of interest of the actors and strategies employed in the conflict situation.

In a general discussion that followed, it was suggested that an all-embracing analytical approach should be adopted to include root causes in this analysis since they also play a key role.

Workshop on the Art of Conflict Transformation

By Ms. Gudrun Kramer and Dr. Wilfried Graf

Participants were asked to analyse and discuss the phases for conflict transformation as a guide for developing recommendations for peacebuilding activities in the greater Great Lakes Region. The following diagram and questions were used for conflict analysis:



Phases and Dialogue for Conflict Analysis and Conflict Counselling

Phase one: What are the *goals* of the conflict parties? Challenging our assumptions

1. What is the conflict about?
2. How did the conflict occur? – History of the conflict including omissions and alternatives in the past.

Phase 2: what are the “*legitimate*” and “*illegitimate*” goals of all conflict parties?

3. How will it continue, if the human basic needs are not fulfilled? – **Prognosis** of the future (negative).
4. What is the conflict really about? – **Diagnosis** of the past.

Phase 3: What is an *overarching formula* for transformative negotiations/mediation?

5. What are the solutions respecting the human basic needs of all conflict parties? – Visions for the future.
6. What are the next steps? – An **Action Plan/Therapy** for the present.

What is peace?

Process-oriented:

Peace is the creation of possibilities to transform conflicts by peaceful means

Structure-oriented:

Peace is not only the absence of direct violence (negative peace), but also the absence of structural and cultural dimensions of violence (positive peace)

In short: Peace is power symmetry and equal satisfaction of **basic needs** of all parties concerned. Basic Needs defined as: **Identity, Freedom, Survival and Wellbeing**

6. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUPS



Seminar participants in plenary presentation and discussion of the working groups

WORKING GROUP I: The Sudan Conflict

Diagnosis

The Sudan conflict is the longest running conflict in Africa. It is driven by the struggle for power and resources, which have fed on social and cultural contradictions of race, class, religion, ethnicity as well as geo-political space and the search for identity. This situation is also a direct consequence of colonial rule in the Sudan, which was characterised by the manipulation of social cultural and geo-political contradictions. These contradictions were not resolved during the hasty retreat of colonialism. The political heirs of the colonial overlords, instead of resolving these problems soon after independence, by building a united Sudan became locked in an intra-elite struggle for political power and resources. These struggles weakened the state, impoverished the rural masses, and further exacerbated the contradictions, which then ignited the conflicts in the regions of the country.

The earliest dimension of these conflicts is the one between the central Government in Khartoum versus the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement (SPLM/A), led by John Garang, both of which recently entered a 'fragile' peace deal after decades of war. The contradictions that led to the conflict between the South and the Government were evident elsewhere in the Eastern region, the Nuba Mountains, the Southern Blue Nile and the Darfur region. However, the relative wealth, in unexploited natural resources of the South exacerbated the conflict in that region as external actors with a variety of interests joined the fray on the side of parties.

The sudden outbreak of the Darfur crisis, which has pitched the Government and its nomadic Janjaweed allies against the predominantly agrarian community who form the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), both of whom are Muslims puts paid to any over-simplification of the Sudan conflict as merely religious or even racial or ethnic. The same point is valid for the rebellions in the Nuba Mountains, the Southern Blue Nile and the Eastern region of the country. Overall, external, interests among

European, American, Arab, Asian and African countries, particularly the neighbouring ones who have all pursued their individual agendas rather than Sudanese peace, complicate the conflict in the Sudan.

Prognosis

The non- resolution of the conflict in the Sudan will have far reaching implications not only for the country but also for the fragile situation in the Horn of Africa as well as the Great Lakes Region. For Sudan itself, the humanitarian situation, which has currently been dubbed the worst in the world, with over two million persons displaced under appalling conditions, could rapidly deteriorate. Many more people will be displaced and the human rights abuses including, what has already been described as genocide will materialise exponentially. The conditions in other parts of Sudan will deteriorate as the government deploys resources to support the war effort in Darfur. This will lead to a significant weakening of the state to a point where the state will fail. This could lead to a generalised civil war, which could ultimately lead to the fragmentation of the country.

The internal processes, already described, will also lead to a more direct involvement of the neighbouring states, including Ethiopia, Uganda, Eritrea, Libya, Egypt and Chad, each of which will be attempting to protect their diverse perceptions of security interest. Almost certainly, the big powers, including the U.S.A., the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China will become involved under the perceived threat of terrorism and other interests.

Therapy

The complexity of the Sudan conflict requires a solution that is imaginative, and for purposes of elaboration, may be sorted out according to the short, medium and long-term solutions, not necessarily arranged for sequential implementation.

Short-term

- In the short term, there is an urgent need for cease-fire on all sides so that humanitarian assistance may reach all those in need;
- The AU force on the ground should be increased, and their mandate expanded to include peacekeeping as well as expansion in the areas of their deployment to include existing displacement camps as well as permanent settlements of the Darfur population. These areas must then be designated as ‘peace-zones’, free of arms by all parties except those of peacekeepers.
- All parties to the conflict should work tirelessly to conclude the Naivasha peace process and commence implementation
- During the interim period, all development assistance to Sudan should be channelled through agencies of the United Nations. However, the most immediate assistance that the international community can render to Sudan will be in the form of debt cancellation and political space to enable it resolve its problem without external complication.

Medium-term

- There should be a national conference, mediated by the AU, which should bring various shades of leadership representation from the government, the South, the Southern Blue Nile, the Darfur, the Eastern Region, the Nuba mountains and other regions of the country to deliberate on an interim constitution of which the base working document should be Naivasha Agreement;
- The national conference should constitute a transitional government that will oversee election of a constituent Assembly that would deliberate and ratify the draft

constitutional document and then oversee a general election, conducted on the basis of the ratified constitution;

- The transitional government should commence the process of repatriation, resettlement, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconciliation as well as DDR in addition to the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Long-term

The long-term solution to the Sudan conflict would include a structural and political arrangement that will refocus social and economic development to the grassroots level while refocusing identities toward the national level. This will involve:

- An arrangement which anticipates only a three-tier federal structure of government of which the existing local councils will be the lowest tier, followed by the existing 26 states or any adjustments to these, and then the central government in Khartoum will form the third tier.
- As a complement to this arrangement will be a revenue formula that is based on both derivation and equality of state, with mutually agreed percentage allocations to the central and local governments.
- Other long-term solutions will include the empowerment of community based-organisations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that will mobilise Sudanese Society towards political and economic development.

WORKING GROUP II: Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda – Interstate Conflict

Diagnosis

Serious tensions between Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are threatening to re-ignite dormant conflicts. Since the Rwanda genocide in 1994 that forced Interahamwe militia, civilians and members of the then Rwanda armed forces to flee into Zaire (now DRC), then under President Mobutu Sese Seko, there have been misunderstandings between Rwanda and the DRC government on one hand, and DRC and Uganda on the other. During the last term of the Mobutu regime, effective control over the entire territory of Zaire by the government was lacking and this created opportunity for Ugandan and Rwandan rebel groups to use parts of the country to organise themselves with the aim of fighting/destabilising Uganda Rwanda and the DRC.

Mr. Laurent Desire Kabila (LDK) took advantage of the situation and with assistance from the governments of Rwanda and Uganda proceeded to fight and overthrow the regime of Mobutu in 1996. Two years later, President Kabila fell out with his allies, whose troops that were still deployed inside the DRC, joined forces with local rebel groups against the government. Consequently, Kabila requested Namibia, Zimbabwe and Angola to support him against Rwanda, Uganda and the rebel groups they supported. This is seen as the biggest and most complex interstate war to emerge in modern Africa. What was initially a security problem between the DRC and its neighbours eventually turned into the struggle over natural resources (minerals and timber) in Kisangani and other areas of the DRC, and the territorial integrity of the DRC.

While in DRC, the Rwandan forces and Ugandan forces started supporting different rebel groups in Eastern DRC and to the surprise of many in 2001, the Rwandan forces clashed with the Ugandan forces on the Congolese territory. Since then, there has been mutual distrust and suspicion between the governments of Rwanda and Uganda. The situation worsened when the

two countries started receiving renegade soldiers from each of the two former allies, with accusations that each country is supporting opponents of the other. Recently, the Ugandan government expelled an attaché at the Rwandan Embassy in Kampala and the Rwandan government expelled a first secretary at the Ugandan Embassy in Kigali in a diplomatic row between the two countries.

Though Rwanda and Uganda have withdrawn their forces from the Congolese territory following the Lusaka agreement of 1999, the governments state that there are rebels on the Congolese territory targeting both governments. The rebels who threaten the government of Rwanda include the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), whereas the rebels who threaten the Uganda government on the Congolese territory include the People's Redemption Army (PRA) and the ADF (Allied Democratic Front). Both the government of Rwanda and Uganda claim that the Lusaka agreement, which included the disarmament of the rebel groups, based in Congo seemed to have stalled. Recently, the Rwandan government threatened to deploy its forces in DRC to pursue the FDLR rebels who are opposed to the Rwandan government.

Beyond the borders of the DRC both Rwanda and Uganda face other challenges. Uganda is still fighting a war with the Lord's Resistance Army in the North. Further, with the second term of Museveni nearing its end, the government is under political pressure to open up space for multi-party politics to take centre stage this time round. Rwanda on the other hand is still facing the challenge of reconciliation among its Hutu and Tutsi main ethnic groups following the 1994 genocide and the challenge of some 130,000 prisoners, pockets of opposition living in the Diaspora around the world, and agitation by the civil society for freedom of expression and democracy in a one-party led leadership.

With decades of bad governance, and weakening state, the eastern regions of the DRC, particularly in the regions of Ituri, South Kivu and North Kivu, host many rebel groups with different agenda and shifting loyalties. Some of these rebel groups include the RCD - Goma, tribal armed groups such as Mai-Mai and Banyamulenge (in Kivu regions), RCD – Kisangani, Lendu and Hema armed tribal militia (in Ituri regions). Whereas these rebel groups and militia focus on their survival in Congo, there are other rebel groups whose agenda is to fight the governments of Rwanda (FDLR, Interahamwe and Ex-FAR), Uganda (ADF and PRA), and Burundi (FNL Palpehutu). The explosive nature of these rebel groups is that they have become strategic “useful” allies of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC depending on the dynamic of the foreign relations between the four countries. Notably, beside the governments of Burundi and DRC who have shown interests in negotiating with rebel groups, the governments of Uganda and Rwanda have insistently demonstrated that the only options to deal with rebel groups opposed to them is to use military force and have demonstrated unwillingness to find peaceful solutions.

The accords signed in Lusaka, Pretoria and intergovernmental talks that have been held elsewhere have all been “Government – win, rebel – lose”. This scenario does not provide sustainable peaceful solutions to the problems of the Great Lakes Region.

Allegations are that there are rebel groups (Interahamwe, FDR) based in the DRC planning to destabilise the peace in Rwanda. There are further allegations of rebel groups (PRA) based in Rwanda planning to destabilise Uganda and also allegations of rebel forces in Uganda planning to destabilise Rwanda. Besides this, there are long standing accusations by the DRC that Uganda and Rwanda are abusing its territorial integrity by fighting within its boundaries and plundering its natural resources. Like the other states concerned, the DRC has a duty to secure its people, resources, property, Territorial integrity and Sovereignty. Uganda Wants to

secure the state from rebel incursions and prevent PRA rebels in DRC allegedly being trained by Rwanda (PRA). Rwanda wants to secure its people and the State given that Army officers have defected from Rwanda and were allegedly based in Uganda and regrouping to fight the Rwandan government.

Meanwhile, the fact that some perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide remain at large in DRC remains a threat to the people of Rwanda. The quest for security, well-being, identity and freedom of refugees, IDPs, and other victims of the conflicts in the Great Lakes Region have not been fulfilled. Child soldiers, particularly in DRC, pose a challenge for the future survival of the people of the Great Lakes Region. Women who have been raped, genocide survivors, maimed individuals, and other victims of conflicts remain insecure. This insecurity is worsened by the fact that the well-being of many remain in pathetic conditions.

Prognosis

The persistence use of force as the principal means to solve security problems in the Great Lakes Region has contributed toward heavy military spending by governments at the expense of socio-economic development in the Great Lakes Region.

Interstate conflicts have negatively impacted the free movement of peoples and properties, and contributing toward the non-fulfilment of the basic needs of the people. The security of the people, particularly those living on border areas remains a challenge.

The focus on “Great Lakes Region” conflicts by the governments of DRC, Rwanda and Uganda has suffocated democracy and freedom of people in these countries. The persistence of the use of force to deal with rebels is linked to the rise of the “internal accomplices” whose struggle for identity remains a challenge.

Ignoring the tensions and misunderstanding between Rwanda, DRC and Uganda will have far reaching implications to the stability and social economic development of the great lakes region with resources being diverted from human and economic development to warfare. For this reason it is important to work together for the restoration of peaceful dialogue and cordial relations between them. In this regard, allegations of hosting and/or training of rebel forces by neighbouring states for planned aggression must be investigated.

Incursion of the forces of one state into another can lead to rising tensions and inter-state armed conflicts which if not promptly addressed will affect the well-being of the socio-economic development of the populations in general and among other things, can impact inter-state trade and restrict free movement of the citizens of the three states. If rebel groups in the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda are not neutralised, rebel incursions prevented, inter-state aggression arrested and territorial integrity secured, the result can be interstate conflicts and destabilisation or even their disintegration.

Therapy

- Hostilities must stop. The use of force to solve problems in the Great Lakes Region has become insufficient and ineffective. Leaders and people in the Great Lakes Region must honestly identify and acknowledge the root causes of the conflicts and the dynamic way of dealing with them peacefully.
- It goes without saying that International Law should be adhered to by national leaders and government and in line with this the training and/or hosting of rebel forces by the said nations should be stopped to prevent rebel incursions that could spark inter-state aggression or conflicts. In the case of Rwanda, the concern is further heightened by the

fear that the incursion of the Interahamwe/Ex-Far faction based in DRC could lead to genocide.

- States must respect the international law particularly on the provisions related to the respect of sovereignty of states. Otherwise, mechanisms that enforce violations on international law such as embargo must be imposed on states violating sovereignty of other states.
- The civil society should be empowered and encouraged to provide leadership in building a culture of peace and democracy in which opposition and governments transcend tribal and/or ethnic linked politics and focus on developing clear programs that are based on issues that affect the people such as poverty, HIV/ AIDS, economic and social development, education, health, agriculture, tourism etc.
- There is need to explore how regional integration and cooperation through the East African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes (CEPGL) can be useful in solving the interstate conflicts in the Great Lakes Region. In this case we are proposing a regional integration and cooperation that bring together EAC and CEPGL.
- The Joint Investigation and Verification Committee (JIVC) established between Rwanda and Uganda must be strengthened to enhance its credibility so that its reports can guide decision making by the state-owners. Further, the JIVC should be expanded to include DRC and Burundi.
- There is need to establish an ethical code for civil servants and holders of public office with a provision on wealth declaration as a mechanism of harnessing honesty, accountability and credibility of public figures in governments in DRC, Uganda and Rwanda.
- There should be a reliable mechanism for enforcing customs regulations in order to combat illegal businesses across the borders.
- There is need to establish an official website for the Great Lakes Region through which the people of the Great Lakes Region and interested parties can channel their opinions, complaints, compliments and any other ideas that might be of use to sustaining peace in the region.
- Values of democracy, good governance, rule of law, and accountability must be pursued by governments of the Great Lakes Region. These values should not be compromised by cosmetic amendments of the constitution to suit individuals, parties or groups of individuals.
- States must be encouraged to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other states; In this regard, Regional, Pan-African and other International organisations should be requested to facilitate compliance with international provisions and standards of interstate relations as a means of curbing the culture of conflict and impunity in the region. Those perpetuating abuses in conflict zones including the recruitment of child soldiers in the region should be penalised according to international Law.
- In relation to current tensions between Rwanda, Uganda and DRC, there is need to establish a common agreement to Disarm, Demobilise, Repatriate and Re-integrate armed

groups that are allegedly being trained to destabilise the concerned states. For the reestablishment of cordial relations and peaceful co-existence, there is need to maintain dialogue through the establishment of a joint commission on security as a way of reinforcing confidence-building measures and establishing regional verification mechanisms i.e. the Joint Investigation and verification Committee (JIVC) to address common concerns.

- There is need for re-commitment by the concerned leaders for total implementation of the signed agreement. Parties to the agreement should involve civil society in the peace process from the beginning as observers, and in the implementation and review/evaluation of the terms of the Agreement. The agreed cease-fire between the DRC and Rwanda seems to be collapsing and therefore calls for the reinforcement of the mandate and capacity of MONUC for it to facilitate implementation of the Agreement between Rwanda and the DRC within a realistic time frame.
- There is need to reinforce the current mechanisms for controlling the alleged illegal exploitation of minerals and other natural resources from DRC by the neighbouring states during conflict. For sustained peace and collaboration between the concerned states, it is recommended to establish joint border patrols between their national armies, and improve inter-communication for more reliable information flow and sharing of intelligence.
- In case of a stalemate or irreconcilable differences between the parties concerned, Regional, Pan-African and other International organisations should be requested to facilitate the quick implementation of signed agreements relevant to the conflict.

WORKING GROUP III: The Democratic Republic of Congo Conflict

Diagnosis

Under the pressure of the international community and an internal dynamic for democratisation, Mobutu Sese Seko reluctantly granted multiparty system on 24th April 1990, and allowed the Sovereign National Conference. As the recommendations of the Conference were planned to be used by the population as a strong weapon to overthrow, arrest and judge him. Mobutu categorically opposed the implementation of the resolutions of the Sovereign National Conference. The resistance of the former dictator threw the country into chaos and confusion. As a result, there was a power vacuum, which facilitated the entrance of other nations.

In 1994 the Rwandan genocide came to worsen the situation with the arrival in the DRC of 3 million Rwandan refugees including civilians, military and Interahamwe militiamen- that constituted a cause of insecurity for the Rwandan government and therefore a reason to launch an attack against the DRC.

In 1996, taking advantage of the situation, Laurent-Désiré KABILA supported by Rwandans and Ugandans started a war in order to overthrow Mobutu's regime with secret promises to his allies. Refusing two years later to respect the terms of the agreement signed, Kabila became the enemy of his former allies who orchestrated 2 rebellions in collaboration with some Congolese, Rwanda supporting the RCD and Uganda the MLC (*Congo Liberation Movement*).

The Mai-Mai groups rose up against the presence of Rwandan troops in eastern Congo. In order to protect the sovereignty and the integrity of the country Laurent D. Kabila called for troops from Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola and Chad. Unfortunately, the presence of all those foreign troops in the country rather exposed the DRC to an illegal exploitation of natural resources. Laurent D. Kabila also decided to call the United Nations to help his government to pacify the country.

The DRC crisis entered into a new phase with the assassination of LDK and the assumption of the leadership by his son as the president whose main mission was to bring peace and stability in the country. It is in its search for peace that the DRC had many negotiations, from Lusaka in Zambia to Sun City in South Africa, which gave birth to the 1 + 4 formula in November 2002 during the Inclusive and Global Agreement. The transitional government brought a relative peace but there still exists pockets of crisis in Ituri, North Katanga and the Kivus (with the Banyamulenge issue).

Prognosis

If the Presidential Space (one president and four vice presidents) does not establish efficient power-sharing by revising the 1 + 4 formula;

And if the international community does not fully get involved in stopping the repetitive external attacks of the DRC, the chaos will increase and a greater and a regional armed conflict will be inevitable. This will result further to plundering of the national resources, depleting the social economic set-up and increasing the humanitarian crisis already at hand.

The current invasion of the Rwandan army in the Kivus and its heading to the Ituri region despite the tripartite Agreement between Rwanda, Uganda and DRC in Dar es Salaam is testimony to the urgent need for fast intervention and sustainable solutions to the conflict.

Therapy

The solution to the DRC (*Democratic Republic of Congo*) problem can be found both internally and externally. There is need to really conform to the multiparty system with an aim to achieve peace and stability. And this can be achieved by:

- The revision of the 1 + 4 formula (*1 President and 4 Vice Presidents*). The presidential space should be revisited, and should be replaced by a new structure whereby we have 1 President and 1 Vice President because the Vice Presidents and members of their political groups in the government, parliament (lower and upper house) are using their veto to impede the initiatives of their counterparts.
- The civil society and the international community should put pressure on the current government to conduct democratic elections. But before conducting these elections the civil society should be given financial, material and moral support to contribute to the successful conduct of the elections.
- In order to address the suspicions existing between Rwanda and Uganda and the DRC, there is need to create a synergy that can appropriately handle the rebel groups destabilising the region instead of suspecting each other. This can be done by forming a joint patrol of the borders of the 3 countries with the help of MONUC.
- In compliance with its mandate, MONUC (*United Nations Mission in Congo*) should assure the security in the eastern borders of the country through the disarmament of the FDLR (*Democratic Force for the liberation of Rwanda*) and Interahamwe and other armed groups in North Katanga, Maniema, Kivus and the Oriental Province in DRC.

- As a deterrent to further territorial violations by Rwanda, the UN Security Council should impose sanctions on that country and place an embargo on its importation of arms for occupying DRC territory despite UN warnings.
- The DRC Army in collaboration with the MONUC should make it impossible for the Rwanda troops to cross the eastern borders of the DRC, since the Security Council has agreed to add 6,000 soldiers in the country. On the other hand, the MONUC should effectively play its role in assisting the army of Democratic Republic of Congo in pacifying the country, disarming the Interahamwe Hutu rebels and FDLR (*Rally of Democratic Forces of Liberation of Rwanda*)
- The African Union should be strengthened so as to protect the sovereignty and integrity of its member states and endow itself with a peacekeeping force capable of taking over from the UN forces.

WORKING GROUP IV: Conflict Transformation in Burundi

Diagnosis

Before the colonial period, Burundi was habited and shared by four ethnic groups with each one dedicated to a specific activity: the Hutus (Agriculture), the Tutsis (Cattle) Ganwa (Chiefs) and Batwa (pottery and hunting). Since 1962, the divisions brought by the colonial administration of divide and rule provoked violent conflicts. Until 1966, conflicts were mainly political competition for power between Hutu and Tutsi. The only one party, Union pour le Progres National (UPRONA) was a non-ethnic national party. The assassination of the national leader, Prince Louis Rwagasore led to violence and the Hutu Prime Minister with other leaders were assassinated. The result of those conflicts was a shift from national politics to politicisation of ethnicity.

Between 1966 and 1993, the minority Tutsi monopolised the state power, controlled the army, marginalized and excluded Hutu and Twa in socio-economic relations. The Tutsi minority maintains control of the government, not allowing the Hutus to have access to higher education, important position or the armed force. This has been followed by killings and massacres during the period of 1972-1973. With the introduction of multiparty system in 1992, a Hutu political party Front pour la Democratie au Burundi (FRODEBU) won the election of June 1993. Melchior Ndaye was elected and assassinated after three months in October 1993; massacres followed. Then Hutu began fighting the government of Burundi that was dominated by Tutsi after the military coup of 1996.

A Regional Initiative process of peace negotiation with a fear that the genocide of Rwanda in 1994 could also take place in Burundi started supported by the UN and OAU, actual AU. Mwalimu Nyerere was the first mediator from 1996-1999; after his death, Nelson Mandela succeeded him in the year 2000 that thereafter has delegated Jacob Zuma to continue the mediation. Three important parties were involved: The Government, FRODEBU and UPRONA. Following the coup d'état of June 25, 1996 negotiations in Arusha involved nineteen parties where an ethnic character came out with ten Tutsi-based groups (G10) and Hutu-based group (G7). Negotiations ended to a cease-fire and succession of hostilities agreement signed on 28th August 2000 but the National Front for Liberation (Palipehutu - FNL) refused to sign. That was the beginning of a transitional period of 3years in which the first phase will be led by a Tutsi and the second phase by a Hutu. The National Council for

the Defence of Democracy – Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) also signed the cease-fire and the power sharing in October 2003. Though the cease-fire has been signed, there are still attacks between the Government and the FNL, the remaining rebel group.

The actual situation appears optimistic as the conflict is no longer ethnic but class based. However, the transitional period, that was supposed to end in October 2004 with elections, has been extended and the elections postponed from December 2004 to April 2005.

Prognosis

If the conditions producing conflicts are not removed, the same situation will be replicated. The situation is very complex since no basic needs are met for any of the groups: access to socio-economic structures, reintegration of returnees and the inclusion of minority ethnic groups (Ganwa and Batwa) are still problematic. But one should bear in mind that the crisis is no longer based on ethnicity. The main problem is power sharing and access to resources amongst political Leaders. In such a case, the latent conflict situation runs the risk of creating two groups of underprivileged and over privileged. If there is no equitable sharing, the underprivileged will see no alternative than violence; on the other side, the over privileged will try to protect themselves by using pre-emptive violence. So far, the current proposed all does not accept constitution; ‘the anti-constitution parties’ may seek other strategies, adding to the complexity. Though the conflict is no longer ethnic but class based, the major challenges are the disarmament, demobilisation, the reintegration (DDR) and the establishment of a new national army, security and justice.

If the basic needs are not met, the civil war will continue and the other groups may start building rebel groups. This will intensify the fighting. Instead of refugees returning to Burundi, the exile will continue. There will never be political stability, economic recovery in the country. There will be mistrust for ever and insecurity due to widespread armed criminality.

Therapy

- The conflict in Burundi is a very complicated one, and therefore needs a holistic approach. Deep and comprehensive strategies should be put in place to challenge the social structural foundation of Burundi; this should include the ethnic, political, security (army), economic, cultural and regional dimensions.
- The opposition Hutu – Tutsi should not let aside the other minority groups (Batwa and Ganwa) who also need a guarantee. The overall peace process should be based on a comprehensive educational program on peace, where peace values, living-together values are disseminated amongst the population starting at the grassroots level (schools, communities, public administration, etc.). The understanding and adhesion to such values will foster strong and sincere compliance to common commitments by stakeholders.
- Inclusive, accepted free and fair elections will be an important condition in dealing with the Burundian situation. If the process is not inclusive, matured and rooted on the will of the population, elections may exacerbate the crisis. Indeed, elections are planned to take place in a period running from December 2004 to April 2005. However, the level of preparation and the situation on the ground may have reasons to doubt that the outcomes will be redeeming. In a context where people are not reintegrated in their homes and farms, it is difficult to have them commit themselves to elections. Inclusiveness also means that the regional context should be favourable to democracy; that will reinforce and consolidate the national process.

- A lasting solution to the Burundian problem is difficult without comprehensive socio-economic development programmes. People are not rebels or conflict makers by nature; if they have some opportunities to satisfy their needs in the society, they will not want to destroy it; they will want to be part of it. Therefore restoring social justice is a key issue to the problem.
- Lastly, the international community and the neighbouring countries have a very important role to play in supporting and accompanying the process; there will not be peace in Burundi without a broader peace plan in the Great Lakes Region, a plan in which all the member states should take true commitments and comply with it.

WORKING GROUP V: Northern Uganda Armed Conflict

Diagnosis

The Northern Uganda armed conflict is between Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government, led by President Yoweri Museveni. The rebellion started in 1986 as an uprising by elements of the ousted regime of Tito Okello against the National Resistance Army/Movement (NRA/M) following the collapse of the Nairobi Peace Accord signed in December 1985 and the alleged human rights abuses in Northern Uganda. The early phase of the conflict ended when a Peace Agreement was signed in June 1988 between the Uganda Peoples Democratic Army/Movement (UPDA/M) and the Government of Uganda. However it degenerated into a cult-like rebellion led by self-professed prophetess Alice Lakwena who was defeated in 1987 in Iganga District, Eastern Uganda by the National Resistance Army (NRA). Following her defeat, Joseph Kony took over the rebellion and transformed it into what is now known as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which has fought the Uganda Government since then. In 1994 there was an attempt to resolve the conflict through peaceful means, which failed. The conflict took a different dimension when the Sudan Government allegedly embraced the LRA by supporting it.

The conflict has been characterised by brutality against the civilian population, burning of villages, and abduction and forced conscription of children into rebel ranks, gruesome murders, rape and defilement. This has resulted into a humanitarian crisis characterised by an increased number of people with HIV/AIDS, massive human displacements (approximately 1.6 million IDPs) who are living under deplorable conditions. In 2000, the Government of Uganda enacted the Amnesty Law. Its objective was to grant amnesty to armed groups and individuals willing to give up the rebellion. At the same time, Uganda and Sudan normalised relations aimed at ending the conflict. In 2002, Government of Uganda and that of the Sudan signed military protocols allowing the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) to pursue LRA rebels and route them out of Sudan under military operations code-named IRON FIST I and II. Instead of routing them out of Sudan, the two operations drove LRA back into Uganda and since then LRA has stepped up its operations, worsening further the humanitarian crisis.

In spite of its character and magnitude, the conflict did not capture international attention. The Government achievements in other areas such as macro-economic stability, control of HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction, Universal Primary Education overshadowed the conflict. The Government has continued to downplay it as acts of banditry, calling the LRA fugitives and a group without an agenda. However, due to its huge humanitarian implications, the conflict has attracted international attention and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator Jan Egeland has described it as the worst and most forgotten humanitarian crisis in the world.

Over the years, different actors such as UN agencies, Donor Communities, NGOs, Religious and Cultural Leaders have continued to bring the conflict to the world's attention and press for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Government seems to be responding positively.

Prognosis

Unless the conflict comes to an end, the humanitarian crisis will continue to worsen, the number of people living in IDP camps will continue to increase, pervasive poverty will increase, and development in Northern Uganda will continue to stall. All these negative conditions will fuel further the conflict leading to negative socio-economic and political implications.

Therapy

Both Government of Uganda and LRA seem to have acknowledged that the conflict cannot end through military means. On 19th November 2004 the Government declared a cease-fire in some limited geographical areas. This cease-fire has been extended for another seven days ending on 3rd December 2004 under the stewardship of Betty Bigombe¹. There is hope that the two parties will open up for peace talks. This is an opportunity for a peaceful resolution of the conflict and the Government's efforts in that respect are commendable and we therefore recommend the following:

- The cease-fire in place should be broadened in geographical coverage and extended in time to give room for trust and confidence building for both parties. We propose that the cease-fire should also cover passages between the current location of the LRA and the Government's gazetted areas of encampment. In addition the cease-fire should be extended for at least one month.
- The Government should observe greater flexibility for the success of this peace process.
- The Betty Bigombe initiative should be expanded into a facilitation team. The facilitation team should be supported by the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU).
- Neutral ground for negotiations acceptable to both parties should be identified. The parties could consider a neighbouring country to host the talks.
- A cease-fire monitoring team should be deployed by the AU/UN.
- There should be an all-inclusive tripartite arrangement for the peace negotiations that should involve the Government, LRA and the community
- The Government should collaborate with CSOs in establishing more counselling centres for trauma and stigmatised victims of violent conflict.
- The community should support the current peace process. They should also promote traditional reconciliation and healing processes.
- In partnership with CSOs, the Government should implement programs to educate and sensitise local communities on the rights and the need to co-exist, and update the people on the peace process
- Government should implement deliberate pro-poor development programs aimed at bridging the gap between the rich south and the poor north.
- The Government with support of Donors should step up humanitarian interventions.
- The LRA should respect and respond to Government offer of peace talks.
- The LRA should stop targeting the civilian population.

¹ Ms Betty Bigombe is a former Minister for the Pacification of Northern Uganda in the Museveni Government. She hails from Gulu District and currently works for the World Bank. She has made past efforts in brokering peace between LRA and Government.

- The Government should maintain the Amnesty.

WORKING GROUP VI: Karamoja Conflict

Diagnosis

Karamoja region, in North Eastern Uganda is comprised of three districts of Nakapiripirit, Moroto and Kotido. Semi-nomadic pastoralism and small pockets of subsistence agriculture characterize the region. It has a very harsh and fragile environment, with a very high risk of drought, crop failure and consequently, famine. The general climatic conditions are very harsh.

The Karimojong are a semi-nomadic group of clans (the Jie, Dodoth, Bokora, Matheniko, Pian, Chekwii, Tepeth, Labwor and Pokot) and have a strong culture of inter-clan rivalry and conflict revolving around use and control of resources. They are heavily armed with AK-47 assault rifles and constantly raid livestock from each other and from neighbouring tribes (Iteso, Acholi, Sabinu, Langi), as a means of acquiring wealth, achieving manhood and getting material dowry to acquire brides are part of the intrinsic complex issues of the armed conflict that transcends the border into Kenya (Turkana and Pokot) and South Sudan (Toposa).

Karamoja has been neglected since colonial period and with little recognition at political and economic levels, leading to isolation of the region, which has not changed with succeeding political administrations confirmed by such utterances “ we shall not wait for Karamoja to develop”²

In the aftermath of 1979 war in Uganda, the Karimojong looted armouries in Moroto, acquiring guns, which they used in frequent raids on their neighbours. In addition, they also acquired guns from Somalia, Ethiopia and South Sudan as a result of political conflicts over the years. This has sustained continued violent armed cattle rustling. In relation to this, Government of Uganda has developed a disarmament policy.

Nomadic way of life, commercialisation of raids, prevailing insecurity and isolation of the region has contributed to little socio-economic development with high illiteracy levels deepening the gap between Karimojong and rest of societies in Uganda.

Weak local government structures, poor law enforcement and an inefficient judicial system in Karamoja has led to the region operating under a weakened traditional system that is currently at the mercy of the Karachunas (young warriors) who carry out raids indiscriminately.

Prognosis

As long as the communities go on practising aspects of their culture that, promotes cattle raiding which is a source of bride wealth and acknowledgement of heroism, violent armed raids will continue.

If the disarmament planning process is not carried out in collaboration with the Karimojong themselves, there will be continued lack of cooperation. The use of force during the previous disarmament exercises has created further resistance by the Karimojong to the whole process.

² Former President Milton Obote

If Government of Uganda does not assure security for the Karimojong, the situation will not change. Having no other means and strategies to promote interaction of the various clans/communities in the whole area, there will always remain the mistrust and tension between some of these groups and this would promote raiding.

Due to diminishing resources (cattle, grazing land and water) the communities need to adjust to these realities and look at an alternative livelihood to sustain their existence.

Therapy

- The complexities of the situation in Karamoja need to be addressed sufficiently to eradicate continuous conflict that affects the area. This can be addressed through; change of attitude towards violent armed raids in the acquisition of cattle through the introduction of favourable policies that enhance pastoralism as an economic activity. Karamoja Members of Parliament should lobby for the implementation of the already established National Strategic Development Plan as a priority on improving the socio-economic conditions of the Karimojong.
- To realise the above, the Government of Uganda (GoU) should design a well-planned disarmament process in collaboration with the Karimojong and neighbouring countries (Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan) to improve on security and check the flow of small arms in the region. There is need for members of IGAD to ratify and implement the Nairobi Protocol on small arms and light weapons.
- The disarmament process should be done concurrently with other development programmes in the region. Through the disarmament process the “Karachunas” (Karimojong warriors) could be incorporated into the government security personnel.
- With enhanced security in the region, there would be development of infrastructure (roads, electricity, water, etc) and social amenities, making the area accessible to all, which will also build closer interactions with other communities.
- In conclusion there should be synergy between the customary governing system and modern system of governance to bridge the gap through revision of existing laws.

WORKING GROUP VII: Ethiopia – Eritrea Border Conflict

Diagnosis

Ethiopia and Eritrea have had long-standing strong economic, political and cultural ties. Before gaining its independence in 1991, Eritrea was a part of Ethiopia for four decades.

The conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea reached its peak on May 12, 1998 over a borderland called Badme, which has not been clearly defined. This could be attributed firstly, to the treaty of 1902 that called for a joint Italian-Ethiopian delegation to delimit the frontier in the Badme region. However, this never took place due to the expansionist intentions of Fascist Italy, which culminated in the invasion of Ethiopia in 1935. Secondly, during the UN supervised Eritrean referendum of April 23-25,1993 declaring Eritrea to be an independent state, the issue of border was not addressed.

Another root cause of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea is the identity issue which has manifested itself into a culture of mutual intolerance.

Previously, the Eritrean port of Assab, with its oil refinery, was a free port for Ethiopia until the border crises, which forced Ethiopia to result to the service of Djibouti port. The tension between the two countries further increased in 1997 when Eritrea introduced its own currency, the '*naqfa*' and the disagreement related to the exchange rate with the Ethiopian '*birr*'.

On 13th April, 2002 the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC) came up with a decision awarding Badme to Eritrea, since then Eritrea refused any further negotiations over this matter while the Ethiopian authorities did not recognise it, and considered it 'illegal and unjust'. Thus, the political unrest remained thus at a stalemate.

Prognosis

After all this time of conflict, it is clear that these two people, which historically share the same cultural, language, political, and social background, have developed mutual intolerance. Therefore, if this issue is not addressed further tensions are likely to occur.

A glimmer of hope to solve the conflict may rise from the acceptance "in principle", on Thursday November 25, 2004 by the Ethiopian Government of the EEBC decision³ of April, 2002. On one hand, this initiative is believed to make a contribution for peace, and on the other. Nevertheless, the non-implementation of this decision might, on the one hand, give way to the recurrence of violence or a stalemate and on the other hand the AU or the UN might come up with a solution mainly based on that decision.

With the continued stalemate, not only the marginalized population of Badme will suffer but the two respective countries will continue to economically decline. In addition, if the need for identity is not addressed then, the Badme people will be deprived of their basic human needs which may lead into frustration and eventual violence.

Therapy

- Lobby by the African Union and the civil societies of both Ethiopia and Eritrea to encourage the respective governments to implement the decision of the EEBC of April 2004 by consulting the Badme people. This decision was fully accepted by Eritrea while Ethiopia has only recently accepted it "in principle".
- Campaign by the civil society and the AU, in both countries, on peaceful mechanisms of settling conflict such as dialogue since they share the same background, the same culture, religion, language, and many other values.
- Develop bilateral economic cooperation.
- The UN mission should support the implementation of importance peace decisions.

7. EVALUATIONS

Qualitative Evaluation of Seminar

The overall evaluation is based on the written comments in the evaluation forms and the oral evaluation during the seminar.

Usefulness

95 % of the participants indicated that the seminar was excellent or good for their professional and personal development. These are some of the quotes:

- “As conflict advisor and trainer, the program is useful and I need more specialised courses”
- “Programme made me feel personal and professional growth, and encouraged me to go back and keep trying. I can make a difference”
- “The programme is good. It has enhanced my understanding of conflict, and how to analyse and transform them”
- “The seminar was very very useful for me and it enhanced my professional skills”

Basic Structure of the Programme

89 % of the participants considered the basic structure of the programme as excellent or good. Their main concerns were about the limited time factor and the large number of lecturers. These are some of the quotes:

- “Composition is good but little time... more time is needed”
- “Well selected”
- “The composition had good topics but all was not achieved because of shortage of time”
- “The composition was good but there was a lot of things to do in a few days”

Methodology of the programme

95 % of the participants considered the methodology of the programme as excellent or good. Particularly, the interactive approach and the use of working groups were highlighted:

- “The programmes should also allow participants to share experiences and also some of their tools.
- “It was quite action-oriented”
- “Fun, informative and extremely useful. 3 weeks practically flew away!”
- “The lectures and workshops mutually reinforced one another and blended in well”
- “Some of the lecturers (Gudrun, Stella, Assefa, Patrice...) were really good. Others were not good at all. Some gave impressions not to have made a lot of research about the topic they presented.”
- “If one misses an important point the colleague may touch and lectures become complementary. Exercises, readings and working groups are the key of teaching as they put the participants in action”

Organisation of the program

Daily time schedule

79 % of the participants considered the methodology of the program as excellent or good. Concerns were raised with regard to the time keeping and the long lecture hours. Suggestions were made to allow for more free time.

Staff of organisers

100 % of the participants considered the organisational support by the staff as excellent or good. Generally, participants believed the staff of organisers to be “efficient”, “friendly” and “supportive”. A comment was added that the participants felt included in the decision making.

Hotel facilities

72 % of the participants considered the hotel facilities excellent or good. Generally, the atmosphere of the conference venue was seen as relaxing and good for working. However, the main complaints were the house maintenance and communication with guests. It was requested to improve the facilities and adjust them to the participant’s demands and schedule.

1.5 Future Development of the Program

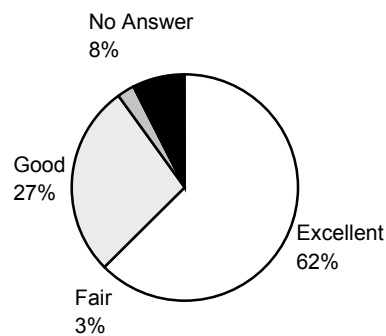
95 % of the participants responded positively to the question “Would it be useful to run another program like this for another group?” although there were suggestions to hold the next seminar in a different area. In addition, the need for follow-up programs was highlighted.

92 % of the participants declared that they would support the idea of establishing a participant’s network and would be ready to contribute to a newsletter.

Quantitative Overall Evaluation of Seminar

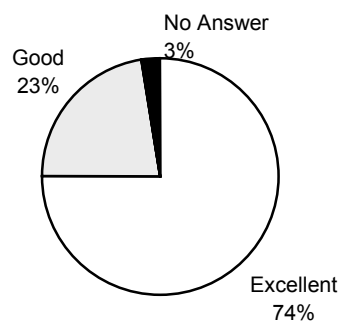
Usefulness for my professional development:

Excellent	25
Good	11
Fair	1
Poor	0
No Answer	3



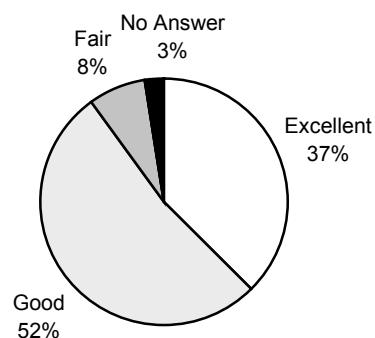
Usefulness for my personal development:

Excellent	30
Good	9
Fair	0
Poor	0
No Answer	1



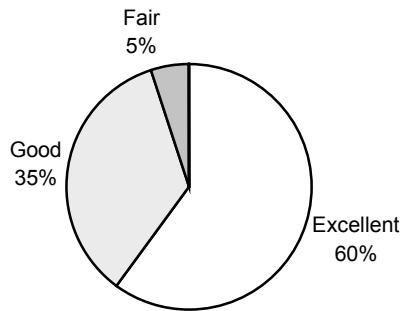
Basic structure of the programme:

Excellent	15
Good	21
Fair	3
Poor	0
No Answer	1



Methodology of the programme:

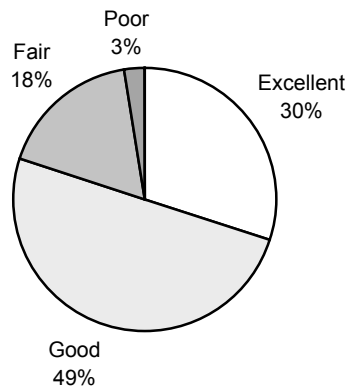
Excellent	24
Good	14
Fair	2
Poor	0
No Answer	0



Organisation of the programme

Daily time schedule

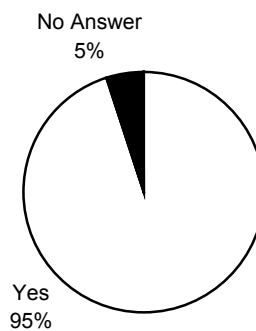
Excellent	12
Good	20
Fair	7
Poor	1
No Answer	0



Future Development of the Course

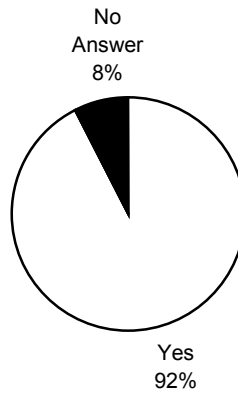
Would it be useful to run another programme like this for another group?

Yes	38
No	0
No Answer	2



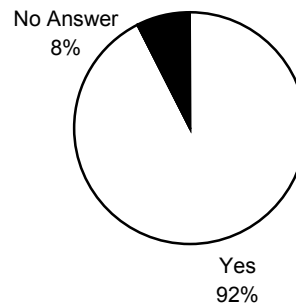
Would you support the idea of establishing a participants' network and a newsletter?

Yes	37
No	0
No Answer	3



Would you be ready to contribute to the newsletter?

Yes	37
No	0
No Answer	3



8 ANNEX

OPENING SPEECH BY DR. FRANZ BREITWIESER, HEAD, REGIONAL OFFICE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN KAMPALA

Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel
15 November, 2004

Honourable Minister of Internal Affairs
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you today for the opening of this seminar in which you are going to discuss different strategies for “Peace-building in war-torn societies”. It is a highly delicate and substantial issue especially here in the Great Lakes Region and I see that this seminar is focusing on this geographical area in its content as well as with you, Ladies and Gentlemen, nearly all of you coming from this region.

I am here representing of the Austrian Development Cooperation, who is supporting this seminar, therefore the question that I am addressing is the following one:

Where are the links between development cooperation and peace-building?

But before doing so I want to tell you a few words about the aims and issues of my countries development cooperation. During the deliberations you may already note some elements which are answering the above mentioned question.

Austrian Development Cooperation is based on 3 goals:

- First, the overall aim being the fight against poverty,
- Second, the Preservation of Environment and natural resources as a basis for development
- And third, to secure peace and human security in particular by fostering democracy, the rule of law, human rights and good governance.

Let me first elaborate about the **two ‘blue’ goals**:

Three quarters of mankind, namely 4.7 billion people, live in developing countries. The main problems they are facing go beyond national boundaries and will have effects on the future of all countries: wars, migration and environmental damage are often the reason for, but also the consequence of, poverty or unequal distribution of resources.

Reducing poverty

Poverty reduction therefore is a major challenge for both developing countries and the industrialised world. The focus is placed on the needs and interests of the groups affected by poverty according to national and international definitions: per-capita income of less than USD 1 per day or other indicators of the Millennium Goals⁴.

⁴ At the turn of the millennium the United Nations pointed to an alarming fact: more than one billion people still live in extreme poverty and have to subsist on less than one euro per day. More than 700 million people are malnourished and suffer

The share of poor people is more than one third of the overall population in Southern Asia, and approximately half of the inhabitants of Sub-Saharan Africa. Around 70% of these persons still live in rural areas and depend on agriculture. The majority of them are women.

Money transfers or individual projects are not enough to accomplish this enormous task. What is needed is a well coordinated bilateral and multilateral cooperation in order to create an enabling political, social, ecological and economic environment.

The other 7 goals will be referred to during the speech.

Environmental protection

Protecting and preserving the environment is also essential for sustainable development. Overexploitation of natural resources has fatal consequences such as contamination of water and air, destruction of biodiversity and soil erosion, which primarily affects the rural populations of developing countries, whose subsistence depends on natural resources. Therefore the aspect of environmental protection is integrated in all programmes of the Austrian Development Cooperation. In addition, all projects use appropriate, environmentally sound technologies, and specific ecology projects are implemented in particularly sensitive regions such as rain forests and arid or mountainous regions.

Before coming to the third goal ‘**ensuring peace**’ I want to talk about some of our principles

Participation of and initiatives by stakeholders

Endeavours aimed at sustainable development will succeed only if local stakeholders become active themselves. It is up to the governments and the people of developing countries to determine the pace and form of development processes, as development cannot be dictated from outside. Know-how of partners as well as their cultural and social environment are integrated in project planning to the greatest possible extent. At the same time, the developing countries are called upon to draw up national poverty reduction strategies, which have to be backed by the government and civil society and subjected to uniform rules and joint control.

The Austrian Development Cooperation pays particular attention to the integration of women in decision-making. Although they are very often the backbone of the family and society, they are disadvantaged economically, socially and legally. In the same way, the needs of children and people with disabilities, who suffer most from the consequences of poverty, are taken into account.

Bilateral development co-operation

As financial means are limited, it is particularly important for the Austrian Development Cooperation to base its activities on efficient programs with clearly defined regional and thematic focuses. For the past decade the Austrian Development Cooperation has

from hunger. 115 million children of primary school age do not learn to read or write. More than one billion people do not have access to clean drinking water.

In order to combat world-wide poverty and its consequences, in 2000 all members of the United Nations, among them Austria, adopted the eight Millennium Development Goals to achieve the following improvements by 2015:

concentrated on selected partner countries. This is done in accordance with the guidelines of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, in recent years, approximately 70% of bilateral program and project aid was accounted for by seven **priority countries** and 13 *cooperation countries* in five key regions.

A large part of the program and project management takes place locally in the partner countries.

For this purpose coordination offices were established in Addis Ababa/Ethiopia, Kampala/Uganda, Ouagadougou/Burkina Faso, Dakar/Senegal, Praia/Cape Verde, Beira/Mozambique, Managua/Nicaragua, Thimphu/Bhutan and Rám Alláh/Palestine.

My office here in Uganda is responsible for five countries:

Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. In addition to it we are also doing regional projects like with the East African Community.

We are working here in a region which comprises about 108 million people which is again about 1/8 of the overall African population.

In comparison, my county has only a population of eight million people.

Thematic Focus

For many measures to combat poverty, institutions in the developing countries themselves have assumed responsibility. However, demand for skilled workers and know-how continues to be high. Austria concentrates on the following themes and sectors, where it has long-standing experience:

- water and sanitation
- education and training, science and research for development
- rural development
- energy
- investment and employment, promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises
- conflict prevention and resolution, good governance and rule of law, development of democratic structures, decentralisation, strengthening human rights and human security

This is now the circle back to the third goal (**‘ensuring peace’**) of my country’s cooperation and the question:

Where are the links between development cooperation and peace-building?

Certainly, the two go hand in hand:

- Peace is needed for development and for the development cooperation to be effective.
- And on the other hand are development and development cooperation needed to sustain peace.

To put it in other words of what we might call a “conflict-cycle” – wars are one of the main sources of poverty. And wars are at the same time very often a result of poverty and a failed development of states.

With the three objectives, namely

- **combating poverty**

- **ensuring peace** and
- **protecting the environment**

Which are leading the Austrian Development Cooperation, we are dealing with conflict and peace-building **directly** as well as **indirectly**.

- **Directly** - with projects implemented in this area.
- **Indirectly**, as the level of security is dependent on the level of poverty as outlined before and furthermore, on the availability of and access to natural resources, like water supply for example.

You may have noticed that most of our **priority countries are located in conflict regions**: great lakes region (Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi), Horn of Africa (Ethiopia), Central America (Nicaragua), Himalaya-Hindukusch (Nepal and Bhutan), Palestine and based on these consideration the Austrian Development Cooperation is active in all **three phases** of a conflict – in the **pre-conflict phase**, in the **actual conflict phase** as well as in the **post conflict phase**.

Ex ante in a pre-conflict phase: There is a clear trend to focus on this phase to tackle the causes and natures of conflict. It is based on the wide understanding of “Human Security” which includes the protection from human rights abuses, physical threats, violence and also extreme social, economic and environmental risks and territorial and sovereignty threats. A wide range of activities contribute to this goal.

Austrian projects in pre-conflict phases focus on

- Projects to foster economic development (e.g. via SME support schemes, basic infrastructure as water and sanitation)
- Projects to support regional integration (EAC for example, also SADC in southern Africa)
- Projects to strengthen good governance, the rule of law and a reform of the security sector (e.g. Uganda, SEE, Human rights manual)
- Projects to strengthen local conflict prevention capacities in particular in the civil society (e.g. NAPS)

At this level of intervention we do not only think about traditional projects, but active participation in the political dialogue with the partner country has a crucial role to play.

Conflict phase: Once a conflict has become violent, de-escalation policies and strategies for conflict resolution need to be commenced with as quickly as possible.

Austrian projects during conflict phases are for example

- Mediation and support of negotiations as a impartial third party (Sri Lanka, Burundi Arusha process)
- Strengthening and involvement of civil society
- Peace enforcement (in the framework of an UN lead mission)

Certainly not to forget about Humanitarian aid and the need of protection of civilians in armed conflicts. A couple of weeks ago the UN-OCHA organised the first country conference on “the protection of civilians in armed conflicts” on the humanitarian challenges in Uganda and there it was widely discussed about how human rights can be protected by the state and its institutions even in such a difficult situation as war is.

The Post conflict phase - which is again a potential pre-conflict phase as long as the root causes of the original conflict remain unresolved - is most complex and needs to deal with so many issues, as first of all conflict transformation. Then, what is often referred to as DDDR – demobilisation, disarmament, reintegration and rehabilitation, but actually in my opinion there should a third R be added – for reconciliation - because it's the three R's with which the development cooperation is mostly concerned:

- **Reintegration** of former rebels or soldiers into their communities, reintegration of war-torn parts of a country into the state structures and its self-conception.
- **Rehabilitation** and trauma healing to heal the wounds of the war-affected people, especially women and children and in many countries the sad phenomenon of formerly abducted children who fought as child soldiers many times against their own people.
- And **reconciliation** which is such an important and big step towards sustainable peace-building and it's still a topic where I think there are no ultimate methods and mechanisms developed yet, nowhere in the world. What is certainly necessary for reconciliation within a war-torn society is a strong and confident leadership which is also why the Austrian Development Cooperation is strongly involved in Good Governance projects and programs, here in Uganda, but also in our other partner countries.

As projects in post-conflict environments Austria supports

- Demobilisation and disarmament (Rwanda)
- Reconstruction of infrastructure (e.g. Bosnia Herzegovina)
- Ending a climate of impunity for unacceptable acts of violence (e.g.
- Ability of achieving conflict resolution and peace are
 - the respect for Human Rights by all parties,
 - the special attention needed for gender related problems
 - as well as empowerment of the people, empowerment of societies and the civil society.

And I think – this is also why we and especially you come together here in Uganda for this seminar and why it is so worthy for Austria to sponsor it. Because you are all professionals in peace-building and it is to a big deal up to you, who active in the various CBO's, NGO's, institutions and organisations, to then implement ideas of peace-building and conflict resolution in your environments.

Seminars of this kind are organised by the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution and supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation since 1997 and all the seven seminars held so far were a great success and reached great achievements.

So I wish you good discussions during these three weeks and I am very much looking forward to your presentation of your findings at the closing ceremony of this seminar!

Thank you!

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Foundation Seminar

PEACE-BUILDING IN WAR-TORN SOCIETIES

November 14 – December 3, 2004

Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel

Entebbe, Uganda

Organised by:

Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)

&

Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)

In Co-operation with:

The Network of African Peace-builders (NAPS)

Supported by the Republic of Austria

WEEK 1: November 14 – November 21, 2004

Basic Concepts of Peace-building

Sunday, November 14, 2004

4.15 – 5.30 p.m.	Arrival	
7.30 p.m.	Welcome Cocktail & Dinner	

Monday, November 15, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Official Opening	Stella SABIITI Executive Director CECORE Gudrun KRAMER Project Director, ASPR Franz BREITWIESER Austrian Representative Richard NABUDERE Ugandan Commissioner Police
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Introduction to the Program & Introduction of Participants	
2.30 – 3.45p.m.	Causes and Nature of Conflicts	Hizkias ASSEFA Professor of Conflict Studies, Eastern Mennonite University; Coordinator, Africa Peace- building and Reconciliation

		Network
4.15 – 5.30p.m	Continued	

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Concepts and Strategies for Peace-building and Conflict Transformation	Hizkias ASSEFA
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Continued	
2.30 – 3.45p.m.	Workshops on Facilitation, Mediation and Reconciliation	GROUP A: Hizkias ASSEFA GROUP B: Stella SABIITI
4.15 – 5.30p.m	Continued	

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Activities of the African Union (AU)	Eldred DE KLERK Programme Manager: Capacity Building in Crime Prevention Programme, UMAC
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Workshops on Facilitation, Mediation and Reconciliation	GROUP A: Hizkias ASSEFA GROUP B: Stella SABIITI
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Continued	
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Continued	

Thursday, November 18, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Workshops on Facilitation, Mediation and Reconciliation	GROUP A: Hizkias ASSEFA GROUP B: Stella SABIITI
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Workshops on Facilitation, Mediation and Reconciliation	GROUP A: Stella SABIITI GROUP B: Hizkias ASSEFA
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Continued	
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Continued	

Friday, November 19, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Culture and Religion	John Mary WALIGGO Commissioner, Uganda Human Rights Commission
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Non-governmental Actors in Peace-building	Josephine ODERA Director of Program/Deputy CEO, Africa Peace Forum

		(APFO)
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Workshops on Facilitation, Mediation and Reconciliation	GROUP A: Stella SABIITI GROUP B: Hizkias ASSEFA
4.15 – 5.30 p.m.	Continued	

Saturday, November 20, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Activities of the European Union (EU)	Christian MANAHL Policy Unit, Council of the European Union, General Secretariat
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Gender in Peace-building	Nyaradzai GUMBONZVANDA Regional Program Director, UNIFEM East and Horn of Africa
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Integration and Evaluation of 1 st Week	

WEEK 2: November 22 – November 28, 2004

Peace-building Approaches and Activities

Monday, November 22, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts	Arnold QUAINOO Executive Director, Center for Conflict Resolution
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration	Arnold QUAINOO
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Workshop on The Art of Conflict Transformation	Gudrun KRAMER & Wilfried GRAF Senior Researcher and Advisor for Conflict Transformations, ASPR
4.15 – 5.30 p.m.	Continued	
8.00 – 9.00 p.m.	The Activities of Communita di Sant'Egidio	Fabio RICCARDI and Stefano CARMENATI Communita di Sant'Egidio

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Humanitarian Assistance	Tiberius HAKIM Sudan Project Coordinator for Repatriation and Resettlement, Norwegian Church Aid
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Dealing with Trauma	Miriam FREDERICKS Counselor and Team Leader, Political Violence Program, The Trauma Center
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Workshop on The Art of Conflict	Gudrun KRAMER &

	Transformation	Wilfried GRAF
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Continued	
8.00 – 9.00 p.m.	Networking and Introduction of NAPS	Rinos SIMBULO NAPS Africa Coordinator, Network of African Peace Builders (NAPS)

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Governance and Empowerment for Political Participation	Mwesiga BAREGU Professor of Political Science, University of Dar es Salaam, Department of Political Affairs
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Support for Sustainable Socio-Economic and Environmental Development	Mwesiga BAREGU
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Workshop on The Art of Conflict Transformation	Gudrun KRAMER & Wilfried GRAF
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Continued	

Thursday, November 25, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Protection of Human Rights & Protection of National and Ethnic Communities	Patrice VAHARD Human Rights Regional Advisor to AU, OHCHR-Regional Office
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Peace Education	Noel CHICUECUE National Professional Officer, UNESCO Office
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Workshop on The Art of Conflict Transformation	Gudrun KRAMER & Wilfried GRAF
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Continued	
8.00 – 9.00 p.m.	Peace Agreement between UNRF II and Government of Uganda	Participant Contribution: Mahmoud ANGOLIGA

Friday, November 26, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	The Role of Intergovernmental Actors in Peace-building Activities of the United Nations (UN)	Nureldin SATTI Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary General for UNOB (Burundi), United Nations Office in Burundi
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Sudan Conflict	Participants Contribution: Justin MODI & Arop Deng KUOL
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Workshop on The Art of Conflict Transformation	Gudrun KRAMER & Wilfried GRAF
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Integration and Evaluation of 2 nd Week	

WEEK 3: November 29 – December 3, 2004
Integrated Approaches for Peace-building:
Elaboration of Recommendations for the Great Lakes Region

Monday, November 29, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Actors Analytical Framework	Prof. Mwesiga BAREGU
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Gender and Religion in Peace-building	Participants Contribution: Jacqueline Ogega MOTURI & Celestil Pirre NKUNDABEMERA
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Elaboration of Recommendations for Fostering the Peace Building Process in the Great Lakes Region	<u>Working Group I:</u> Sudan Conflict <u>Working Group II:</u> Interstate Conflict: Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda <u>Working Group III:</u> The Democratic Republic of Congo Conflict <u>Working Group IV:</u> Conflict Transformation in Burundi <u>Working Group V:</u> Northern Uganda Conflict <u>Working Group VI:</u> Karamoja Conflict <u>Working Group VII:</u> Eritrea/Ethiopia Conflict
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Continued	

Tuesday, November 30, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Working Groups 1- 7	
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Continued	
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Continued	
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Plenary Presentation and Discussion of the Results of the working groups	

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Working Groups 1 - 7	
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Continued	
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Continued	
4.15 – 5.30 p.m	Plenary Presentation and Discussion of the Results of the working groups	

Thursday, December 2, 2004

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	Finalisation of Recommendations	
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Evaluation	
2.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Evaluation	
4pm	Travel to Ndere Center for press briefing and public presentation of the seminar results Official Closing and Farewell Dinner at Ndere Center	

Friday, December 3, 2004

Departures

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Peacebuilding in War-torn Societies
November 14 – December 3, 2004

	NAME	COUNTRY	PRESENT POSITION
1.	ABDEL-RAHMAN Maha Elshafie (Ms.)	Sudan	Program Assistant, Capacity Building for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building Project, UNDP; Secretary General, Development Action Now (DAN)
2.	ABEBE Eskedar (Ms.)	Ethiopia	Program Officer, Austrian Embassy Development Co-operation (AEDC)
3.	ABER Beatrice O. (Ms.)	Sudan	Policy Analyst, People for Peace in Africa
4.	ADAM Nasri (Ms.)	Kenya	Advisor, Peace-building Conflict Transformation & Civil Society Strengthening, SNV/Netherlands Development Organisation
5.	AJENE Oga (Mr.)	Nigeria	Professor of Political Science, Benue State University
6.	ANGOLIGA Mahmoud Salim (Mr.)	Uganda	Liaison Officer, Defunct UNRFII Ex Combatants Liaison Committee
7.	AYIKORU Joyce (Ms.)	Uganda	Executive Director, Participatory Rural Action for Development (PRAFORD); Peace Expert for the Civil Peace Service, West Nile
8.	BALDO Jane (Ms.)	Kenya	Program Officer/Consultant, Foundation for Dialogue
9.	BAROANI Leon (Mr.)	DRC	Director, Search for Common Ground Bukavu Office
10.	BASSEY Beatrice (Ms.)	Nigeria	Principal Research Officer (Senior Research Fellow), Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
11.	DITWAYI Robby Sakaumba (Mr.)	Zambia	Complaints Receiving Officer, Human Rights Commission
12.	HAMAN AOUDI Michel (Mr.)	Cameroon	Interfaith Committee Coordinator, Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC)
13.	IJANG Linda Oder (Ms.)	Uganda	Foreign Service Officer, MFA
14.	KAJIGI Betu (Mr.)	DRC	Campaigne and Advocacy, Heritiers de la Justice
15.	KAYEMBA Benon (Mr.)	Uganda	Foreign Service Officer, MFA
16.	KAZAHURA Felix (Mr.)	Uganda	Senior Settlement Officer, Office of Prime Minister
17.	KINAAWA Cissy (Ms.)	Uganda	Program Officer, Rule of Law Association
18.	KISHINKWA Jean-Guy (Mr.)	DRC	Advisor in Charge of Budgetary Matters and Resources Mobilisation, Solidarity and Humanitarians Affairs Ministry of Congo

	NAME	COUNTRY	PRESENT POSITION
19.	KUOL Arop Deng (Mr.)	Sudan	Representative, Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLA/M)
20.	LIMA Paulo (Mr.)	Cape Verde	Journalist, President of Cape Verde's Journalist Union
21.	LOKO C. Theodore (Mr.)	Benin	Roving Ambassador, Permanent Secretary of Strategic Analysis
22.	MACHIRA Evans (Mr.)	Kenya	Program Assistant, Center for Conflict Resolution
23.	MAGOOLA Moses (Mr.)	Uganda	Voluntary worker, Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)
24.	MANIRAKIZA Godelive (Ms.)	Burundi	President/Director, Association for Repatriated Women
25.	MAO Norbert (Mr.)	Uganda	Member of Parliament, Chairman of Great Lakes Forum for Peace
26.	MMASI Joyce (Ms.)	Tanzania	Journalist, reporting with Mwananchi Communication
27.	MODI Justin L. David (Mr.)	Sudan	Director, Women and Gender Affairs, Commission for Women Gender and Child Welfare (WGCW)
28.	MOTURI Ogega Jacqueline (Ms.)	Kenya	Regional Project Director, Africa Women's Mobilisation Program, World Conference of Religions for Peace International
29.	MUKASA Viola (Ms.)	Uganda	Hope for African Children Initiative
30.	NKHOMA Alfred (Mr.)	Malawi	First Secretary (Political), Malawi Embassy in Zimbabwe
31.	NKUNDABEMERA Pirre Celestin (Mr.)	Rwanda	Project Director, Conflict Transformation East/Central Africa, World Conference of Religions for Peace
32.	NSABIYUMUA Jean-Berchmans (Mr.)	Burundi	Director, Support Unit to the European Development Fund, National Authorising Officer and Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Finance
33.	OKELLO Stephen (Mr.)	Uganda	Volunteer worker, Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE); Northern Uganda Peace Initiative (NUPI)
34.	RUTIKARA Augustin (Mr.)	Rwanda	Head of America Division, MFA
35.	SAMUEL DENEKE Habte Michael (Mr.)	Ethiopia	Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Ministry of Justice
36.	SOME Kounkine Augustin (Mr.)	Burkina Faso	Intern Researcher, Ibn Khaldoun Center for Development Studies
37.	SSONKO John Paul (Mr.)	Uganda	Head of Child Protection Unit, UPDF

	NAME	COUNTRY	PRESENT POSITION
38.	TIVENGA Jacob (Mr.)	Zimbabwe	Provincial Peace Monitor, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS Consultant, Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP)
39.	YAV Katshung Joseph (Mr.)	DRC	Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights & Democracy Studies (CERDH)
40.	ZEDRIGA Lina Waru Abuku (Ms.)	Uganda	Conflict Adviser, ACORD, Gulu Country Office

PROGRAMME DIRECTORS:

1.	KRAMER Gudrun (Ms.)	Austria	Project Director, ASPR
2.	SABIITI, Stella (Ms.)	Uganda	Executive Director, Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR:

1.	UGBOR Chineme (Ms.)	Austria	Programme Coordinator, ASPR
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RAPPORTEURS:

1.	LAMWAKA Caroline Clara (Ms.)	Uganda	Conflict Management Expert, Food & Nutrition GTZ
2.	OKUMU Martha (Ms.)	Kenya	Peace Tree Network (PTN)

LIST OF LECTURERS
Peacebuilding in War-torn Societies
November 14 – December 3, 2004

NAME	COUNTRY	PROFESSION
Hizkias ASSEFA (Mr.)	Kenya	Professor of Conflict Studies, Eastern Mennonite University; Coordinator, Africa Peace-building and Reconciliation Network
Mwesiga BAREGU (Mr.)	Tanzania	Professor of Political Science, University of Dar es Salaam, Department of Political Affairs
Alejandro BENDAÑA (Mr.)	Nicaragua	Director, Centro De Estudios Internacionales
Noel CHICUECUE (Mr.)	Mozambique	National Professional Officer, UNESCO Office
Eldred James DE KLERK (Mr.)	South Africa	Programme Manager, Capacity Building in Crime Prevention Programme, UMAC
Miriam FREDRICKS (Ms.)	South Africa	Counsellor and Team Leader, Political Violence Programme, The Trauma Centre
Nyaradzai GUMBONDZVANDA (Ms.)	Kenya	Regional Program Director, UNIFEM East and Horn of Africa
Wilfried GRAF (Mr.)	Austria	Senior Researcher and Advisor for Conflict Transformation, ASPR
Tiberius HAKIM (Mr.)	Kenya	Sudan Project Coordinator for Repatriation and Resettlement, Norwegian Church Aid
Gudrun KRAMER (Ms.)	Austria	Project Director, ASPR
Christian MANAHL (Mr.)	Belgium	Policy Unit, Council of the European Union, General Secretariat
Josephine ODERA (Ms.)	Kenya	Director of Programme/Deputy CEO, Africa Peace Forum (APFO)
Arnold QUAINOO (Mr.)	Ghana	Executive Director, Centre for Conflict Resolution
Fabio RICARDI (Mr.)	Italy	Comunità di Sant'Egidio
Stella SABIITI (Ms.)	Uganda	Executive Director, Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)
Nureldin SATTI (Mr.)	Burundi	Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary General for the United Nations Office in Burundi
Rinos SIMBULO (Mr.)	Zambia	NAPS Africa Coordinator, Network of African Peace Builders (NAPS)
Patrice VAHARD (Mr.)	Ethiopia	Human Rights Regional Advisor to AU, OHCHR-Regional Office
John Mary WALIGGO (Mr.)	Uganda	Commissioner, Uganda Human Rights Commission

**CLOSING SPEECH BY HON. AUGUSTINE NSHIMYE, MINISTER OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (REGIONAL COOPERATION)**

Ndere Center, Kampala
2 December, 2004

The Representative of the Austrian Federal Government,
The Representative of the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution,
The Director of the Centre for Conflict Resolution
Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to have been invited to close this Seminar, and had it not been for my demanding schedule, I would have wished to be a participant, because the Government of Uganda considers the theme of Peace Building as relevant to our country and region at this particular time.

I am happy that two officials from my Ministry are part of the participants from Uganda Government and civil society.

I wish to commend the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) and the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) in Uganda for funding and organising this seminar, in cooperation with the Network of African Peace-builders (NAPS).

I also thank you for choosing Uganda as host, and in the same vein, I welcome to Uganda all participants from other countries. I hope you have enjoyed your stay and I am sure you benefited from this seminar. I am made to understand that you toured some parts of Kampala, Entebbe and Jinja. Please come again and see more of the Pearl of Africa.

I further commend the organisers for selecting participants who include representatives from regions in Africa torn up by conflicts. It is again commendable that you brought together around the table, diverse actors in peace building, including Government officials, members of the civil society as well as active fighters and former combatants.

It is also encouraging that many of the facilitators were sourced from Africa and all have vast knowledge and experience on conflict resolution and peace building. You probably all know that Mrs. Stella Sabiiti, who is one of the organisers of this seminar, successfully mediated in the peace negotiations between the Government of Uganda and the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNFT II).

As I just stated, this seminar could not have taken place at a better time than this. This is a time when most of the African countries are emerging from civil wars and interstate conflicts.

Specifically for the Great Lakes Region, you must be aware of the Summit of the Great Lakes Region Heads of State which took place in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania last month, where the countries signed a Declaration of Principles and re-affirmed our commitment

to working together towards achieving peace and security, good governance and democracy, regional integration and development, and also humanitarian and social progress. This is indeed a new chapter, not only in our region but also in the context of Africa renaissance.

I believe that the ideas and recommendations that you have generated during this seminar will reinforce this trend. And I wish to assure you that the Government of Uganda will remain a key role player in the process of stabilisation and development of our region, and Africa as a whole.

We are currently seriously engaged in initiatives to harmonise relations with our neighbours, particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sudan. Uganda is also playing a leading role in regional peace processes such as the Burundi Peace Process and the IGAD peace processes on Sudan and Somalia.

Uganda is also a champion of regional cooperation and integration as manifested by our active involvement together with Kenya and Tanzania, in the revival and revitalisation of the East African Community, and active membership to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

As a Government we have not only promoted regional cooperation and stability, but also shown a good example here at home by ushering in peace and security in the largest part of the country, restoring and sustaining political stability and reviving the economy which was in doldrums before the NRM Led by President Yoweri Museveni, took charge of state affairs in Uganda in 1986.

From our own, and others' experiences, we know that it is difficult to win war, but again it is even harder to win peace. During the all inclusive process leading to the recent International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, we identified the root causes and consequences of conflicts and also the way forward in terms of resolving outstanding issues and addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

It is our view that the lasting solutions to the conflicts in Africa and in particular in the Great Lakes Region should address the following key issues:

- Border communities which are vulnerable and often treated stateless;
- The refugees and displaced persons who deserve and must be accorded humane treatment;
- Armed groups whose elements should be disarmed, demobilised, reintegrated, resettled and/or repatriated
- Transformation of our economies through industrialisation and add value to our products, provide employment for our youth, increase government revenue and household incomes; and
- Secure enhanced market access in developed countries.

In our view, it is the resolution of those issues that will determine the stability and prosperity of our region.

While we solicit for continued financial and technical support from our development partners, Africans must lead and own these processes, and all stakeholders must be involved.

Once again, I wish to extend Government's appreciation to the organisers and sponsors of the Seminar, and I wish all participants a safe journey back home and success in your endeavours to contribute to security, peace, stability and development not only in your countries but in Africa as a whole.

I now have the honour to declare the Seminar closed.

Thank you.