



Association for the
Development of
Education in
Africa

Ministerial meeting on "Education for Peace – Integration and Partnerships" opens in Mombasa

Mombasa, September 14, 2009: The ministerial-level meeting on "Education for Peace: Integration and Partnerships" was opened today in Mombasa by Kenya's Minister of Education, Professor Sam Ogeri. Seven African countries are participating in the meeting, which is co-organized by the Ministry of Education of Kenya and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA).

"Without peace, there can be no human, social, economic or cultural development, be it at the individual, community or country level". The introductory comments of ADEA's Chair, Mr. Dzingai Mutumbuka, stressed how important the subject of this meeting is to the ADEA, from the standpoint of the development of African countries. "In the absence of conflict, we too often take peace as a given", he stated, calling on countries to consider peace instead as a process that must be continually be nurtured and sustained in human hearts and minds, even in periods of stability.

Mr. Mutumbuka quoted the UNESCO Constitution – "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed" – and emphasized the crucial role of education, as a foundation for development and as an instrument for fostering a culture of peace. He went on to note several factors that ADEA regards as crucial to education program design. Education should: not stop at knowledge and skills acquisition, but seek to enable human beings to live in harmony; induce learners to consider the racial, religious and cultural diversity of their societies as an asset instead of a problem; integrate this diversity into education programs (formal or non-formal) for children, youth and adults; and lastly, incorporate into these programs a dimension specifically concerned with eradicating violence and promoting love of oneself and others.

In his opening address, Mr. Sam Ogeri spoke of the misery experienced in countries facing conflict, insecurity and instability – particularly the plight of refugees and displaced people – and of the immensity of the challenges facing them. "Education is not spared: teaching and learning are interrupted; critical educational resources are often destroyed; in the long term, educational quality and achievement of the education for all (EFA) goals are compromised," he continued. To help

countries realize the need to take action and the scale of the resources that would be freed up if conflicts could be avoided, Mr. Ongeru pointed out that just 1 percent of the sums devoted to military spending would be enough to ensure achievement of both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the EFA goals. He reminded participants of the conflicts that had rocked Kenya – a country long considered as a haven of peace – the previous year, as well as their dramatic consequences, particularly for the national economy and the education sector. The education ministry has since developed and is now implementing an education for peace program.

Mr. Ongeru pointed out that the "education for peace" concept appears in several United Nations documents, including the United Nations Charter, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that education should promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations, races and religions. "The main aim of education", he declared, "is to instill the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed by individuals to live and operate effectively in society."

Finally, Mr. Ongeru stressed the importance of cooperation among countries and of partnerships with external partners in building peace through education. He hoped that the ADEA Inter-Country Quality Node (ICQN) on Peace Education would lead to the fertile exchange of good practice and to improved peace education programs.

Seven national delegations are participating in the meeting, from Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda. The national delegations will produce a communiqué to be released at the end of the deliberations.

The ministerial-level meeting on "Education for Peace: Integration and Partnerships" will conclude on the morning of September 16.

Mombasa, 14 September 2009

Press contacts:

- **Thanh-Hoa Desruelles**, External Relations and Communication, ADEA t.desruelles@afdb.org, In Tunis: tel.: +216/ 7110 3432 (office), +216/ 21 69 11 46 (cell). In Kenya: +254/ 72 16 28 267
- **John Mwandikwa**, Principal Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Education of Kenya, +254/ 72 26 24 237 (cell); +254/ 73 58 74 433 (cell)
- **Lawalley Cole**, Coordinator, ADEA Working Group on Communication for Education and Development (WG COMED), l.cole@unesco.org: +229/ 21 32 04 12/ 2132 03 53 (office); +229/ 95 29 51 55 (cell)

Association for the Development of Education in Africa

African Development Bank
Temporary Relocation Agency
BP 323 – 1002 Tunis Belvédère – Tunisia
Tel.: +216/ 71 10 39 00
Email: adea@iiep.unesco.org Web site: www.ADEAnet.org