

MOMBASA COMMUNIQUE SEPTEMBER 2009

PREAMBLE:

We, Ministers of Education of Africa and delegations of the represented countries in the Regional Workshop organized by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) under the auspices of the Inter-Country Quality Node (ICQN) on Peace Education, held from 14th – 16th September 2009 in Mombasa, on the theme: *Education for Fostering Peace: Integration and Partnerships*;

Recognizing 21st September as World Peace day which all countries should observe;

Recalling the Mombasa Declaration of 2004, where countries present committed themselves to utilize their education systems as agencies and forces for peace-building, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and nation building;

Recognizing that conflict, insecurity and instability continue to pose major challenges to economic, social and cultural development in several African countries and therefore the need to ensure good governance, democracy and the promotion of human rights;

Recognizing that without peace there can be no human, social, economic and spiritual development be it at individual, community, country and global level;

Recognizing that conflict and instability compromise educational quality and achievements made towards Education for All (EFA), Second Decade of Education and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Convinced that peace is not necessarily the absence of war and that peace and stability should not be taken for granted but nurtured and sustained in our hearts and minds, especially in times of stability;

Acknowledging the tremendous efforts our countries are making to integrate peace education into their education systems;

Agree:

To address structural issues that promote sustainable peace and justice; not forgetting promoting the means to assist citizens, young and old, to free themselves from emotional programming such as hate and suffering that could negatively influence the evolution of future generations;

That education, as a foundation for development and as an instrument for fostering a culture of peace, should go beyond the acquisition of knowledge and skills to seek the transformation of hearts and minds in order to enable human beings to live in harmony; bring learners to consider the racial, religious and cultural diversity of their societies as an important part of their national heritage, integrate this diversity into education, formal and non-formal programs for children, youth and adults as well as incorporate a dimension specifically aimed at eradicating violence and promoting peaceful co-existence among people;

To formulate and strengthen national policies and strategies and to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of peace education programs;

To build the necessary capacities for peace education at all levels, paying special attention to peace educators, trainers and teachers, curriculum developers, field officers and other civil society organizations, elders, parents, parents' associations and communities in general, in order to ultimately empower education managers and all learners to become agents of peace in their societies, paying special attention to the need for capacity building in post-conflict regions for the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with special needs;

To encourage strategic inter-disciplinary, inter-regional and multi-sectoral partnerships and collaboration with policy makers, community leaders, civil society, the business community and development partners for more effective implementation of peace education;

Appeal to all African governments to ensure constitutional and legal enforcement of human rights and the protection of human dignity as well the respect of cultural diversity;

Strongly appeal to African Governments to work with all partners and in particular the media, to promote positive messages and legislate against hate speech and inflammatory communication in order to protect citizens and ensure the preservation of peace and stability at all times;

Appeal to African Governments to urgently put in place programs and strategies that create employment and income generating activities for the youth in order to minimize desperation and hopelessness amongst the youth;

Encourage the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) to continue to support and coordinate the Inter-Country Quality Node on Peace Education.

Agreed this 16th day of September 2009:

ANGOLA

COTE D'IVOIRE

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

KENYA

SOUTH AFRICA

SUDAN

UGANDA