



Association for the  
Development of  
Education in  
Africa

## **Closing of the ministerial meeting on "Education for Peace – Integration and Partnerships"**

**Mombasa, September 16, 2009:** The ministerial-level meeting on "Education for Peace: Integration and Partnerships" was closed today in Mombasa by Kenya's Assistant Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the Hon. Mr. Kilemi Mwiria.

The proceedings concluded with the signature of the Mombasa Communiqué by the seven delegations attending the meeting, coming from the following countries: Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda.

In the communiqué, the ministers pledged to formulate and consolidate their national policies and strategies to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of education for peace programs. The communiqué emphasized the need for capacity building at all levels – particularly among educators, teachers and trainers, curriculum development specialists, field officers, civil society organizations, parents and communities in general – in order to empower all learners and make each and every one of them agents for peace in their societies. It called on African governments to cooperate with all interested parties, to adopt legislation against hate speech, while providing the means needed to identify the true causes of conflicts in order to eliminate them.

Lastly, the minister requested that ADEA continue to support the Inter-Country Quality Node on Peace Education, which the Kenyan Ministry of Education is providing leadership for.

In his closing remarks, ADEA Executive Secretary Ahlin Byll-Cataria reminded participants of the purpose of the Inter-Country Quality Nodes (ICQNs): "ADEA is first and foremost a forum for policy dialogue, and we organize many conferences. For ADEA, the Inter-Country Quality Nodes are a means of furthering our action at country level by facilitating dialogue between countries, notably on experiences, best practices and innovative ideas. Through the ICQNs, ADEA supports countries in implementing education programs which may arise from the topics it has explored".

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Mr. Byll-Cataria praised Kenya for its leadership role and assured the ministers that ADEA would continue to support the ICQN on Peace Education.

Mr. Kilemi Mwiria firmly condemned the misuse of power as well as the greediness of certain political figures. These negative factors are among the reasons for economic inequality, which he regards as the underlying cause of conflicts.

He stressed the need for morality and ethics, as well as the need for training and jobs for young people so that they will not be idle or easy prey for political manipulation.

He called on the ministers to realize the importance of neutrality and of clearly separating religion and education and the problems engendered by tribal rivalries.

Lastly, he expressed his conviction that the freedom granted to the media is in some cases excessive, as too much freedom can result in incitement to violence and conflict.

The minister from Angola, the Hon. Mr. Burity Da Silva Neto, speaking on behalf of the ministers present, stressed the importance of dialogue between countries. He also spoke of the psychological consequences of conflicts, which are difficult to recognize and to overcome. He spoke of the duty to pass on a culture of peace to younger generations. He reiterated the hope that support from ADEA will continue.

The ministerial-level meeting on "Education for Peace: Integration and Partnerships" was held in Mombasa, Kenya, from September 14 to 16, 2009. It was the first meeting of the ADEA Inter-Country Quality Node on Peace Education and was jointly organized by the Ministry of Education of Kenya and ADEA.

### *Mombasa, September 16, 2009*

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