



Association  
pour le développement  
de l'éducation  
en Afrique

## **Kinshasa hosts a regional round-table meeting to promote peace education throughout Africa**

**Tunis, 26 July 2011.** A round-table meeting on education and its role in building peace will be held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), from 26 to 28 July 2011. It will be officially opened this afternoon by the Hon. Maker Mwangi Famba, Minister of Primary, Secondary and Vocational Education of the DRC. Representatives of the education ministries of six countries in situations of conflict or fragility (Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, DRC, Somalia and Zimbabwe) will participate in the round-table "Education, Peace and Development". Also attending will be designers of school curricula and representatives of civil society, regional universities and institutes, and development organizations. The round-table will facilitate the sharing of information on education policies and practices as well as strategies that are liable to promote and strengthen peace, which is the fundamental condition required for social cohesion, political stability and economic development in the region.

The round-table is organized by the ADEA inter-country quality node (ICQN) on peace education, the education ministries of Kenya and the DRC, and UNESCO-BREDA. The ICQN, for which Kenya's education ministry serves as lead institution, is a platform for dialogue among African countries that have made peace education one of their priorities. Its purpose is, among other things, to strengthen networks for peace education in Africa, as well as collaboration among the development bodies that support education in Africa.

The purpose of the round-table is to promote:

- better understanding of the challenges connected with the conflicts and fragility facing the region;
- the fundamental values, ideas and competencies associated with peace education;
- political and legislative decision-making that encourages implementation of peace education, notably via teacher training, the development of appropriate curricula and the production of teaching and learning materials.

The following outcomes are expected of the round-table:

- discussion of the country case studies conducted by the ICQN on peace education in the countries represented at the round-table;
- formulation of a series of recommendations that will contribute to the 2011-12 action plan of the ICQN on Peace Education;

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- preparation for the ministerial round-table on peace education to be held during the 2012 ADEA Triennale on education and training for sustainable development, which will take place in Burkina Faso in February 2012.

Lastly, the round-table will provide the ICQN on Peace Education with a platform through which it can strengthen its network of ministers and education professionals who support peace education in Africa.

Many African countries are engaged in armed conflicts, which are the source of many ills: civilian deaths and disabilities, acts of extreme violence, separation and displacement of families, break-up of family and community structures, sexual exploitation, slavery, enrollment of children in the armed forces, etc. Conflicts also lead to the collapse of education systems, which deprives children and young people of places of safety and of opportunities to acquire knowledge, skills and human values that can contribute to their countries' development and social, economic and political stability.

The role of education in attenuating the impact of conflict and the fragility of societies and in contributing to reconstruction and development is widely recognized today, as noted in the 2011 EFA Global Monitoring Report published by UNESCO.

Recognition of the role of education in preventing and forestalling conflict and violence as well as in building, maintaining and consolidating peace led to the creation of the ADEA ICQN on Peace Education, which has been led by Kenya's Ministry of Education since 2010.

Further information on the round-table and the ICQN on Peace Education can be found on the ADEA website:

[http://www.adeanet.org/adeaPortal/programs/Fr-Kinshasa\\_Roundtable2011.jsp](http://www.adeanet.org/adeaPortal/programs/Fr-Kinshasa_Roundtable2011.jsp)

**Tunis, 26 July 2011.**

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