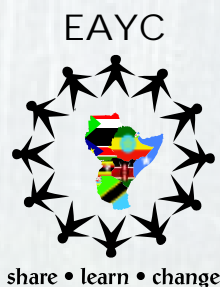


Youths for peace; Together making it happen!



a programme of



I have never liked to be identified as a Somali because Somalia is known only for war and violence. There is nothing good to talk about when there is no peace. When I attended the conference, I discovered that I have to do something to contribute positively to bringing peace in my country. I am tired of being voiceless and waiting for someone I do not know to come and save me. I have to start the wheel of change. Abdi Aziz, Somalia

The 2nd Eastern Africa Youth Conference (EAYC)

7th – 12th February, 2012

Pope Paul Memorial Hotel, Kampala, UGANDA.

Wake Up Call For Peace



It feels so good when you have a vision that you hold dearly at heart and think about oftenly. It feels even better when you write it down and share it with others. But it gives a great feeling of excitement and satisfaction when you translate those words into actions that reach out and impact in the life of others around you. My greatest satisfaction was to

see us share on the peaceful Africa we all want to see.

I am excited that as a planning team, we created an opportunity for honest dialogue and conversations around peace and youth involvement at an individual level in Africa. In the next months, we look forward to hear many stories of positive actions sparked from commitments made during this forum; actions of optimism, and harmony to re-ignite the hope of Africa as a continent of peace.

But even as we look forward to that, our challenge as young visionaries, is to shun constant conflict and violence fuelled by a lot of ethnicity, seasoned by bad politics and simmered by poor governance. We need not be used, misused, abused and later accused of the ills in our beloved Mama Africa. It is our challenge, it is our resolve. For the sake of our future and that of generations to come. As peace ambassadors within the Eastern Africa bloc, it's truly time for us to wake up and make peace happen!

Mbindyo Kimanthi
Chairman EAYC

EAYC – The Journey...

In 2009, the idea of hosting a regional platform to strengthen the youth was shared by young visionaries attending the 5th Harambee Africa Leadership programme in Ethiopia. They recognized the need to come together and share practical ways to address the challenges of the I-pad generation within the Eastern Africa bloc. Target countries within the region include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia. The forum aims to bring together about 90 youth from the region aged between 18 and 35 years as well as open an opportunity to a few delegates from outside the region to share on their experiences.

The first forum of its kind organized entirely by the youth, for the youth, and under the mentorship of elders was hosted in Kenya in February 2011. Under the theme 'Beyond me... it's time to act!' delegates present identified eight core needs that need to be responded to by the youth in the region. They include Violence, Unemployment, Moral decadence, Illiteracy, Youth marginalization, Poverty and Poor Education system.

After the inaugural forum held in Kenya in 2011, it was a great pleasure to host the 2nd Eastern Africa Youth Conference (EAYC) in Kampala, Uganda under the theme 'Youths for Peace: Together making it happen!' Over 60 delegates from the region and beyond made it to be part of this venture.



Delegates at the second EAYC after the opening ceremony.

EAYC II in a glimpse...

During the 2nd EAYC held in February 2012 in Kampala Uganda, the delegates explored practical ways to respond to conflict and violence in the region. It featured speakers with a great wealth of knowledge and experience in peace initiatives from Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. During the week, participants brainstormed and shared on issues including the Role of Civil Society as well as Accountability and Values as part of good governance, Peace and Security challenges in Africa, Role of Non-violence in conflict transformation and Youths as a pillar to building sustainable peace.



Hon. Dan Kidega, the chief guest speaking at the opening Ceremony

The conference gave way to a safe space for sharing and bonding through the creation of smaller family groups. Reflections gave a chance for delegates to inwardly audit their role as peace ambassadors through the four absolute values of purity, honesty, unselfishness, and love that are upheld in lofC. During the leading the way sessions, participants got to listen from stories of change shared by young people as a form of inspiration.



Delegates in a discussion group

Besides the plenary and inner development sessions, the participants also had a chance to build their skills through four workshops that were run concurrently. They included;

- **Forgiveness** by Dr. Karambu Ringera, a peace activist from Kenya
- **Peace through theatre** by Gerosome Mayanja, a creative's peace trainer in the area of conflict resolution from Uganda
- **Communications Skills** by Dan Mugeru, a public speaker and coach based in Kenya
- **Project Management** by Patrick Kagenda, Project Manager for community development from Uganda.

Participants also engaged in an open discussion exploring the theme, 'Is the best of peace or the worst of conflict coming to Africa?' They looked at the hope of Africa as a peaceful continent in the future and challenges towards attaining that culture of peace and stability. Afterwards, each country had an



Delegates from Sudan planting a tree

opportunity to plant a tree at the conference venue as a commitment to make peace real both in their lives and the community around them. As a way of taking it home, the delegates also created commitments they would engage in their respective countries.



With decisions made and lives examined through taking time in silence, the expectations and hopes of every heart is now 'we will enjoy peace if we only respond non-violently to violence and enjoy diversity when we start living each day working to preach the peace we long for. Mike Muikia,' Kenya

Hon. Dan Kidega is a Member of Parliament (MP) for the East African Community, representing Uganda.

He took great pride sharing on how the values of lofC have impacted his life and work serving as a legislator. 'What is lacking in Africa is not money, oil or gold. What we are lacking is moral leadership. We need integrity, purity, forgiveness, compassion to be able to reach the change we want in our region.' he said. He asked participants to stop glorifying leaders who rob resources, adding that these leaders are the reason why there is lack of peace, presence of poverty and all the street beggars in our region.



Dan Mugera is a motivational speaker and leadership developer based in Kenya.

'We have to teach ourselves to know the right thing and do the right thing because it is right to do right. Ask yourself what can make me a better person? What will make the world a better place? What is that specific thing that you can do to change this world?' In his concluding remarks, Mugera posed a challenge, 'When the world comes calling for men and women of values and accountability, will you stand to be counted?'



Sam Oyirwoth: A young lawyer from Uganda and EAYC organizer

'In this conference and beyond, issues of qualifications will not become the agenda. The passion we have for peace has to become the agenda for each one of us in our daily lives and wherever we find ourselves. However, it is good to note that qualifications are not useless. The problem lies with the people who hold those qualifications.'



Moses Monday is the Executive Director of Organization for Nonviolence and Development (ONAD), Juba.



'An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind. There is need to transform conflict in Africa but it is good to know that transformation starts within us. One way to fight against injustices is to refuse to cooperate with it. We can walk to transform the society from violence, it might take time but it will work and produce good results. Don't be afraid of growing

slowly but be afraid of not growing.'



Dr. Godber Tumushabe is the Executive Director of ACODE, Uganda.

'Peace is the product of good governance; it is not only the end but is the means that takes us to the dignity, liberty, freedom, just society among others. The role of the civil society in governance is to bring about the peace we desire in our region, advocate for the voiceless and bring freedom to the oppressed; to give liberty to the imprisoned, equality where there is inequality, and social justice where there is social injustice.'

The action at the conference



Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha is the Director of Research and Manager Peace and Democracy Programme at ACODE, Uganda.

'In Africa the disaster that stands outstandingly is the conflict in the region. Africa has undergone a lot of bloody conflict. I will urge you to stand for Africa, and be determined youths who can walk their talk and say no to violence and conflict and say yes to peace and social justice. We must cultivate tolerance; accept diversity and accommodate them. We also must introduce constructive pluralisation or democratic decentralization to share or devolve power to many citizens in order to deal with the issues of peace and security in the region'



Dr. Karambu Ringera is the founder and Director of International Peace Initiative, (IPI) Kenya.

'What do we envision for Africa today? Can we hold up this vision of peace everyday in our prayers and silent moments? I want my work to inspire others to dream more, dare more, feel more, do more and be more.' Dr. Karambu charged the gathering with her words of inspiration saying, "If I had met lofC at your age and learnt what you are leaning today, I would be the president of Kenya today!"



Rev. Fr. Bonny Kyaligonza, is the Prime Minister of Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom

Speaking at the closing ceremony, he challenged each of the delegates to take personal responsibility of their actions saying, 'We want Africa to rise and shine and that Africa is none other than you and me, Learn to grow where you are planted. And be a blessing wherever you are and wherever you go'



Dr. Immanuel Kizza is the National Executive Secretary of The Justice and Peace Commission of The Uganda Episcopal Conference and Former Prime Minister of Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom.



He passionately spoke from the heart on three major keys that he believes will unlock peace within the region. He demonstrated how poverty dehumanizes and how to eliminate it, the importance of holding on to our helpful roots and the virtue of serving without counting costs. 'Don't think of the cost first, think of service.'

Hon. Gerald Karuhanga, MP for Youth, Western Uganda.

The young and outspoken member of parliament from Uganda said, 'We need to rediscover our mission. Our mission is simple; to restore peace. Africa is not deficient of men and women of courage and hope. The challenge is, are we prepared to take charge and make a difference?'



The action at the conference





Memorable quotes

'There is peace in listening to ourselves.'

Hon. Dan Kidega

'There are things that you must know in life, things that you should know and things that you could know.'

Gen. Aronda Nyakairima

'When walking and unfortunately you fall down, please wake up and continue walking.'

James Napokholi

'... tomorrow's Africa is founded on the sons and daughters of today who will bring about renewal, hope and vision.'

Dorothy Tingu

'How do you make an informed decision? You must check out on your financial, health, academic, religious and social status. Don't live other people's lives. Accept who you are and live within your reach.'

Jamil Sebalu

'I have only today and as I live today, I give it my all.'

Dan Mugeru

'It is our greed that has caused absence of peace. To bring peace, we must stop being greedy....'

Hon. Dan Kidega

'Forgive people when they hurt you because forgiveness unlocks opportunities.'

Gorreti Bukombi

'We are the youths that will shape the future of our children.'

Dr. Godber Tumushabe



Delegates

Personal Commitments

Below is a highlight of some of the commitments made by the participants at the end of the conference as a way of making peace happen in the region.

- I commit myself to the cause of EAYC to ensure that I offer the necessary support to the core team now and in future. I believe Africa can rise up to the occasion and produce leaders and visionaries who will make the best out of it's (Africa's) challenge and opportunities.
- I commit myself to a daily one hour of inner listening to evaluate my life with the four values of Absolute Purity, Honesty, unselfishness and love
- After the conference I will mobilize young people to engage in building sustainable peace in my country and to avoid wars
- I commit to creating partnerships with persons who share same vision as me and help other persons realize their dream of a peaceful nation
- As an African, I commit to stop violence within myself and the others
- I commit to empower the youth in South Sudan to overcome violence and build peace
- I commit myself to engage in peace education and change making in my community and country at large
- I commit myself to telling the truth, keeping time and work hard to ensure that peace prevails in all aspects



Delegates pause for a group photo after the closing ceremony

Future of EAYC...

The vision bearers of EAYC are convinced that the forum will be held on a rotational basis in all the nine Eastern Africa countries. In line with this, under the leadership of Mbindyo Kimanthi who was re-elected to serve as the chair of the 3rd EAYC, the vision bearers were mandated to create and unveil a strategic plan for the forum. The next EAYC will be hosted in Rwanda on the week of 18th to 24th February 2013.

Financial Accounting.

INCOME	Amount (UGX)	EXPENDITURE	Amount (UGX)
EAYC 1 (Bal b/f)	2,958,984	Transport	2,774,550
Ashwin Patel	1,261,000	Accommodation & Meals	29,288,400
IofC Sweden	7,346,916	Administration	2,219,750
IofC Australia	4,393,848	Communication	1,780,000
Friends of Africa	1,140,426	Miscellaneous	920,943
Friend From Holland	930,000	Core Team Planning Meeting	1,458,000
David & Jane Mills	989,550	Printing of Report (EAYC2)	135,000
Sylvia Zuber Fund	21,867,150		
IofC Uganda	1,000,000		
EAYC Participants	4,257,900	BALANCE	7,569,131
TOTAL	46,145,774		

EAYC



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For more information, use the contacts below to reach the planning team.

Eastern Africa Youth Forum (EAYF)
PO Box 14208-00800,
Matundu Lane, Westlands
Nairobi, KENYA.
eayc@iofc.org

Mbindyo Kimanthy, Chairman +254 (0) 723887559

or

Louis Ngarambe, Conference Coordinator +250 788302148

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