

# TEN POINT ACTION PLAN

UPEACE has conducted extensive consultations across Africa to define the needs, aspirations, and obstacles to developing the Africa programme for Education for Peace.

The broadly-based consultations produced a unique body of knowledge concerning the ambitions, needs, and obstacles in regard to education, training, and research on peace-related issues.

The plan below defines priorities for the first stage of the Africa five-year programme, as endorsed by an Advisory Meeting on the Africa Programme, held in Mozambique in October, 2002.

## 1. ACADEMIC TEACHING

To include three curriculum development workshops, a short course for professionals, a seminar on development of master's degrees in peace and conflict studies and the joint faculty supervision of graduate students; development and dissemination of inexpensive basic course materials; scholarships for African students to study peace and conflict research at UPEACE in Costa Rica and in other institutions; and completion of the architecture of the full five-year academic component.

## 2. TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Initially developed for officials of sub-regional and regional organizations in response to explicit requests, and then for military organizations, the private business sector and other civil society groups. Such training will emphasize skills and techniques in conciliation, mediation, and negotiation and the use of early warning indicators and early response mechanisms in conflict prevention.

## 3. RESEARCH: STRENGTHENING AFRICAN RESEARCH, ITS DISSEMINATION AND USE

Without sound and up-to-date analysis and data, policies will be inadequate and teaching becomes stale; therefore, underpinning all aspects of this programme will be carefully calibrated research to shape academic excellence and refresh teaching so that a new generation of leaders

is fully aware of present and future approaches and issues. This collaborative research will also influence policy and improve international understanding of Africa.

## 4. PEACE EDUCATION: MOBILIZING SOCIETY FOR PEACE

Peace Education creates the capability to introduce peace-related concepts and knowledge into curricula at every stage of the education process. Raising awareness and changing beliefs and behaviour is essential to build the foundations of peace. Peace education is therefore a major component of the overall UPEACE programme. Community-based peace education, including civic education, through diverse channels, engages all sectors of a society and encourages normative shifts towards values of respect for universal human rights, mutual understanding, acceptance of differences, gender equity, and the use of non-violent strategies for social and political change.

## 5. THE INFORMATION DIMENSIONS: INVENTORIES, DATABASES, AND NETWORKS FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

An interactive Internet network will be developed to provide access to various data from partner institutions and to facilitate online connexions between network members. Diversification of sources of knowledge and accelerating information exchange require educational, information and communication technologies (ICT); inventories of print and electronic resources, archives, and collections; and databases. The UPEACE programme will emphasize adding value to existing initiatives. Efforts will also be designed to strengthen library facilities and preserve and document historical records. The UPEACE Center on Education and Information Technologies will play a key role in supporting this component.

## 6. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS: THE NEWS MEDIA AND CONFLICT

The role of the media and communications in peace and conflict is of great consequence in Africa, as the media have been implicated in fomenting violence. Development of media training in responsible journalism in conflict situations, research on the media and conflict, and mobilization of the media to avert conflict and promote tolerance and non-violence are thus pivotal to the overall

programme strategy. This component of the programme will be linked to the UPEACE Institute for Media, Peace and Security.

## 7. THE LINKAGE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH

An urgent need exists to improve the knowledge and capacity of policy makers and legislators on complex issues of peace and development in Africa. Results of research must be coupled with short training courses to link research to policy. In this respect, the UN affiliation of UPEACE provides significant advantages. Deriving policy implications from research requires the development of innovative course and training programmes to strengthen analysis and aid policy implementation. A top priority is to develop a critical mass of researchers whose objective is to nourish the formation of policy.

## 8. STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICA PROGRAMME

The Africa programme will be implemented through the collaboration of many institutions and will generate funds through co-financing from many sources. As the programme develops as a coherent framework for action, additional funding can be generated as required, particularly on a country basis, to strengthen the capacity of specific universities and institutions.

## 9. ORGANIZATION, EXTENSION AND STRUCTURE FOR AFRICAN LEADERSHIP

Reflecting the African leadership of the programme, it is planned in 2003 that the centre of gravity of UPEACE activities for Education for Peace in Africa should move to Addis Ababa; an Advisory Committee will be established to guide the programme, engaging a broad spectrum of African expertise, interests and aspirations. Formal agreements on cooperation will also be established with approximately twenty-five partner institutions, who shall be key implementers of the programme.

## 10. INDICATORS OF RESULTS

The further definition of the programme will include the careful definition of targets for implementation, evaluation and the measurement of results.

## OBJECTIVES:

Under the leadership of Dr. Graça Machel, Chancellor of UPEACE, and Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General, with strong interest expressed by the Secretary-General of the UN, the objectives of the Africa programme are to:

- ⇒ Stimulate and support the strengthening of capacities in Africa for education, training and research on peace-related issues;
- ⇒ Support collaborative research and sound scholarship on issues of peace and security in Africa so as to improve our understanding of the causes and dynamics of conflict in order to improve the prospects for successful prevention;
- ⇒ Enhance the participation and contribution of African experts, scholars and policy makers in the international analysis of, and response to, issues of peace and security, in order to promote a better appreciation in the rest of the world of African attitudes and approaches to the mediation of disputes, conflict prevention and consensus building, rooted in African values and traditions.

*'The Challenges that Africans face often have to do with survival and questions about tomorrow'*

*Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun  
Special Advisor to UN Secretary General  
and Africa Programme Adviser*

**Peace** is not a static concept particularly when the status quo entrenches continuing inequities, injustices and tyranny. Peace is much more than the absence of war. We live in a world in which gross inequities and imbalances continue to deprive major portions of the world's population of the benefits which our technological civilization makes possible. The fact that we have at the same time greater concentrations of wealth than ever and more poor and deprived is an unsustainable paradox which challenges the moral basis of our civilization. Redressing the gross imbalances and inequities to which this gives rise is an indispensable pre-requisite to sustained and sustainable peace and the primary challenge for the 21st Century.»

Martin Lees, Rector  
University for Peace

The mission of the University for Peace is to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace with the aim of promoting among all human beings a spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples, and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.



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## STRENGTHENING EDUCATION FOR PEACE IN AFRICA

«Education is, quite simply,  
peace-building by another name.»

*Kofi Annan  
Secretary-General of the UN  
Honorary President of UPEACE*

**AFRICA PROGRAMME  
COORDINATING OFFICE**



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**AFRICA PROGRAMME**