



University for Peace  
Université pour la Paix



**UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE AFRICA PROGRAMME**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE UPEACE SHORT COURSE ON CONFLICT  
PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION**

**PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA  
3 – 7 APRIL 2006**



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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The University for Peace Africa Programme's Short Course on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution was held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 3-7 April 2006. The programme is attached (Appendix A). The course is the second of a series of envisaged UPEACE Africa Programme short courses intended to build capacity in the field of peace and conflict studies in the short term, and to sustain and update such capacity in the long term.

The 26 course participants, from as many institutions, in 16 different African countries, were mostly lecturers based at UPEACE partner institutions in Africa who teach in undergraduate or graduate programmes which either already deal generally with issues of conflict and peace in Africa, and specifically with issues of conflict prevention, management and resolution, or have the potential to do so. In some cases, practitioners, and policy makers in the field were admitted. The list of participants is attached (Appendix B). With the broad aim of 'training the trainers', UPEACE invited a diverse group of primarily academics to come together representing a range of disciplines and backgrounds. It is expected that those who attended the course will be able to go back to their universities or institutions and include a component on conflict prevention, management and resolution in some of their courses.

UPEACE is in the process of developing teaching packages for its Africa Programme on a number of issues relating to peace and conflict in Africa, including conflict prevention, management and resolution. Course participants were provided with the *Draft Reader on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa* as teaching material for the course, as well as the *Compendium of Key Documents Relating to Peace and Security in Africa*. Thus, a further objective of the course was to elicit feedback on the suitability of the material for the course they attended and for incorporation into the courses they teach respectively. Based on the feedback received, the reader and the compendium are currently being finalised. Similarly, a draft model curriculum was provided to the participants for comments.

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE SHORT COURSE**

- To develop the capacity of a core group of lecturers who are already teaching in areas of relevance to conflict and peace in Africa to include a component on conflict prevention, management and resolution in their courses, and to do research on this topic;
- To elicit feedback on the draft reader and curriculum for the short course on conflict prevention, management and resolution;

- To create a sustainable network of academics and practitioners in the field of conflict prevention, management and resolution. The network will not only link the course participants with each other, but with UPEACE. UPEACE will be able to utilise the network for other initiatives such as the conflict resolution simulation and the journal among others;
- To create awareness of the existence of UPEACE as well as the quality of its programmes among the Africa Union, sub-regional organizations, Government officials and the donor community among others.
- To have a deeper and far better understanding of the concept of Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and its application particularly within the African context.
- To generate proactive and practical approaches to peace and security issues which confront the African continent.
- To expand the understanding of peace and security through the exploration of the broad categories of explanatory factors and the inherent inter-linkages which create and sustain pervasive insecurity and conflicts.
- To excite critical assessment of African efforts towards the prevention, containment and resolution of conflicts, examining their strengths, weaknesses and potential for dealing with emerging threats.
- To encourage reflection on the scope and efficiency of past and current peacemaking initiatives, and explore strategies for more targeted, timely, inclusive and sustainable peace-building efforts that involve women.

### **III. ASSIGNMENT**

Participants were asked to complete an assignment and submit it to the academic coordinator of UPEACE prior the commencement of the course. The assignment was utilized to assess the knowledge base of participants in order to prepare the lectures accordingly and as an academic platform from which to start the training (Appendix C).

### **IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Focused on Africa, this course explores issues relating to Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR). The main aim of the course is to facilitate exchange of information and experience among practitioners undertaking research, teaching and practical work in the general area associated with peace building and peace education.

A further aim is to encourage participants to understand and appreciate that CPMR requires an appreciation of the underlying assumptions and practices behind conflicts, including the root/structural factors that cause conflict, in the first instance. In this sense the researcher, trainer and/or practitioner on CPMR must, in their work, be

prepared to simultaneously undergo a critical questioning of the choice, rationale and appropriateness of the models and frameworks they adopt that may contribute to conflicts or their prevention, management and resolution.

## V. METHODOLOGY

The course was delivered by two tutors, Dr. Monica Juma and Dr. Shedrack Best. It also involved a trip to the Pan-African Parliament. The participation and sharing of experiences among trainees is considered a crucial aspect of UPEACE trainings and every participant was encouraged to take advantage of a wide range of experiences to enrich their knowledge of CPMR on the African continent. To enhance structured interaction, two sessions of the programme were provided for group discussion on a simulated conflict situation and a third scenario was set up for a report-back session from group members. The CPMR short course was also evaluated by two external experts.



## VI. ORGANISATION OF THE COURSE

The course was initiated with an opening ceremony in the Graduate Centre at the University of Pretoria. The keynote speaker was General Mujahid Alam, Head of the United Nations Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) Office in South Africa. General Alam congratulated participants for their involvement in the course and their future contributions in peace-related endeavours throughout the continent. He stressed the growing need for more training opportunities such as the ones offered by UPEACE and carried on to elucidate on the operational difficulties that peace initiatives in the continent face.



The strategic allocation of time was crucial in the preparation and implementation of the course. The extensive nature of CPMR as a discipline required that a number of sacrifices be made in order to fit the schedule in 5 working days. The programme will be discussed in detail in the next paragraphs, but in order to understand how the course was comprehensively organised in a week, the course schedule is attached (Appendix A). Throughout the week, the course was organised in the following 16 sessions:

**Session 1:****Definition, theories and the underlying causes of conflict**

The session focused on two issues. First, it introduced the theoretical approaches to conflict, violence and conflict resolution. Second, it underscored the underlying causes of conflicts in Africa, such as colonial legacy; bad governance and mismanagement; violations of human rights and external factors.

**Session 2:****Enabling factors and the consequences of conflict**

Session two explored some of the most crucial enabling factors of conflict in Africa (Small arms and light weapons proliferation, forced migration, under-development), as well as the consequences of conflicts, and summarized the general characteristics, trends and dynamics of conflicts in Africa today.

**Session 3 and 4:****Approaches to conflict prevention, management and resolution**

These sessions were devoted to the approaches, actors and mechanisms that have been/and are employed to address conflicts globally, with an emphasis on Africa. Focus was given to the historical evolution of these methods and the extent to which they have succeeded in peacebuilding endeavours. The sessions critically assessed the impact of a range of approaches including preventive diplomacy, track I diplomacy, track II diplomacy, track III diplomacy, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, peacebuilding, humanitarian action and multidimensional approaches. In doing so, the advantages and shortcoming of these approaches as well as the challenges and dilemmas that confront actors as they pursue peace and stability were explored.

**Session 5:****The African mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution**

This session elaborated on the historical development of African mechanism and institutions for CPMR. Beginning with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the session examined the performance of the OAU Mediation and Liberation Committees; the OAU mechanism for CPMR and the emerging peace and security architecture under the African Union (AU).

**Session 6:****African initiatives on CPMR:**

This session examined African Union-led peace initiatives on the continent including the cases of Burundi and Eritrea and the lessons emerging from these scenarios.

**Session 7:****Regional initiatives on CPMR**

This session shifted the focus of attention to regional mechanisms that deal with conflict prevention, management and resolution drawing on the experiences of the ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC interventions.

**Session 8:****Non-formal mechanisms for CPMR**

From official processes, this session looked at non-formal processes and how these transform into formal processes, using the case-study of Arusha Peace process for Rwanda. The session also considered the national and local levels – focusing on

community based initiatives to build peace. Examples were drawn from East and West Africa.

### **Session 9:**

#### **The relationship between the UN, AU, RECs in CPMR**

Cognizant of the importance and interdependence of sub-regional, regional, continental and global peace-related initiatives, this session explored the ongoing dynamics at this level as well as the relevant governing legal regime on the subject of peacekeeping operations.

### **Session 10, 11:**

#### **Discussion group**

Participants were divided in two groups and provided with a simulated conflict scenario. Each group, then, was subdivided into different groups of interest (government, opposition, the business sector, environmental groups, NGOs and community and traditional leadership among others) and were requested to propose a common response to an eminent threat. The exercise required putting into practice communication and negotiation skills, as well as other conflict management and conflict transformation techniques.

### **Session 12 and 13:**

#### **Emerging issues in CPMR**

This session explored the emerging campaign for the nexus between peace, security and development (human security, the pursuit of the MDGs), and the idea that CPMR should focus attention on dealing with root causes of conflicts.

The second part of these sessions focused on attempts to improve governance in Africa as a means of dealing with instability and conflict. Specifically it explored the value of the APRM and other democratic good governance structures being conceived at the continental level. In doing so it addressed the extent to which the peace building arena is expanding to involve non-state actors and other special groups.

### **Session 14:**

#### **Emerging comprehensive approaches to CPMR**

Session 14 looked at CPMR at three levels of analysis. At the national level the efforts towards improving security and governance were considered (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration initiatives, small arms and light weapons issues, among others); as well as civilian control of security issues; and the use of transitional mechanisms such as invoking indigenous approaches to consolidate peace. At the regional level, the efforts to enhance regional approaches to CPMR were studied as a way of leveraging solidarity and support for the stabilisation of countries or regions affected by conflict. Finally, efforts at the continental level to operationalise the AU peace and security organs (continental) including Early Warning Systems (EWS), the Panel of the Wise; and the African Stand-by Force (ASF) were considered in relation to the aforementioned levels.

**Session 15:****Report Back session**

During this session participants were asked to report back on the outcome of their negotiations for the simulated conflict scenario. A section of questions and answers followed the presentations permitting each group to engage the other critically.

**Session 16:****Concluding remarks, presentation of curriculum**

During this session both lecturers brought together the main themes of the course, summarized the role of the reading material and presented participants with an overview of the course curricula and its potential application.

The lectures were balanced by activities to reinforce the practice of the subject matter. For example, participants spent an afternoon at the Pan-Africa Parliament (PAP). Participants were welcomed by the Chief of Protocol, Rogene Tau-Chiweshe, who took participants to the plenary room, through a tour of the premises, and answered questions. Following the tour, participants were addressed by the Speaker of the Assembly, Mr. Murumba Werung and the Deputy Clerk, Dr. Samuel Efoua Mbozo'O on the subject of the role of PAP in Africa's peace and security. As participants departed they were provided with information packages and the latest PAP report on Sudan and Mauritania.

The schedule also included social and cultural activities throughout the week. Participants were officially welcomed with a dinner at the Blue Crane Restaurant on the first evening of the course. There was also a South African Cultural Evening at the Lesedi African Lodge. During their stay in Lesedi, participants experienced the traditional traits of the Basotho, Ndebele, Pedi, Xhosa and Zulu people.



## **VII. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DRAFT READER AND COMPENDIUM**

Participants were requested to provide feedback on the UPEACE Reader on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa, and the UPEACE Compendium of Key Documents Relating to Peace and Security, as well as the course syllabus and its implementation.

The Compendium and the Reader were commended for their thorough comprehensiveness. Participants agreed on the complementary nature of both texts and concurred with the need to distribute both books together as part of a teaching package. All participants requested the final version of both the Compendium and the Reader to incorporate the subject into their classes.

The UPEACE Compendium of Key Documents Relating to Peace and Security in Africa introduces and reproduces some of the main international documents dealing with this topic.

The following recommendations were made for the Compendium:

- When introducing the Compendium to a class it is important to contextualize it with the course programme. Whereas, the reader progresses thematically along with the CPMR course, the legal documents and reports of the Compendium may be discussed at different stages of the course. Instructors should review the Compendium before the class and link the relevant documentation with the subjects to be discussed;
- Enough time allocation must be provided when assigning readings from the Compendium;
- Include the UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's report "An Agenda for Peace";
- Consider the inclusion CEMAC's legal instruments in the subject of peace and security in future editions; and
- Participants and future students of CPMR would greatly benefit from presenting all of the information in the Compendium in an electronic library on the Internet.

The UPEACE Reader on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution contains reprints extracts of seminal works on the subject of CPMR, and as such complements the previous text.

The following recommendations were made for the Reader:

- Include more material on traditional conflict resolution mechanisms;
- Expand the section relating to Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation, the expertise from SaferAfrica on this matter where recommended;
- Both, the positive and negative roles that media plays in relation to conflict should be discussed. The infamous case of Radio Mille Collines in Rwanda has been thoroughly discussed but the less notorious positive work of Radio Okapi (MONUC's radio station in the DRC) should be considered;
- There is a need to address the subject of Gender-based Violence (GBV) separately in the Reader;
- Include more material on early warning mechanism (the IGAD scenario was recommended); and
- Continue to encourage the writing of academic material on the subject of CPMR theory from African academics so that their work may be included in future editions of the reader.

## **VIII. CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD**

Direct quotes from participants and evaluators are attached (Appendix D). Comments and recommendations to the organising committee are divided in the following areas for improvement.

**Accommodations:**

- The organising committee was surprised to find out that minor incidents related to noise had gone unreported throughout the course. The flow of communication between participants and the logistical team could be improved by appointing a focal point or class representative or by having a debriefing reunion with participants during the first two days of the course.
- It has been suggested that money reimbursements for transportation costs and other unforeseen expenses for participants be made in US dollars or other internationally accepted currency.

**Audio/Visual:**

- There are a number of technical difficulties that could easily disrupt the flow of the course. Although no major incidents took place it is suggested that microphones and recording material be tested 24 hours before the beginning of the course to avoid unforeseen inconveniences.
- The objectives, specification and desired outcome of the video material should be handed out to the camera-person and editor before the beginning of the course (in written form).

**Lecturers:**

- Instructional material and the course schedule could be handed-out to participants as they checked in to their hotel room. This would require that lecturers jointly prepare and finalize the draft reader and course schedule at least a week ahead of the course. The material to be covered was considerable and some participants were of the view that this would have given them greater time to peruse the readings and assignments.
- The use of participatory methods in the classroom was praised. However, it was suggested that rigorous planning during classroom preparations be allocated to its implementation.
- The time allocated to reviewing the class assignments could be increased to permit participants to enrich from each others experience beyond that of the instructors.
- Lecturers should allocate a time slot to participants willing to discuss the projects and research they are currently involved with.

**Other:**

- The English proficiency of a couple of participants highlighted the need to reconsider the Africa Programme's strategic plan to reach out for Francophone and Portuguese-speaking Africa.
- It should be considered having the final report of any future course prepared after external evaluators finished their respective report. This will guarantee access to an array of information that would normally go unnoticed.

**The Way Forward:**

Participants were of the view that the course deserves to be continued annually, the presenters portrayed a high level of experience and that logistical arrangements facilitated the success of the course.

The University for Peace Africa Programme's Short Course on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution was considered as a timely opportunity to raise awareness, generate informed debate and hone advocacy, lobbying and research skills to promote peace education initiatives throughout the continent.

There is a need to sustain the network that was established during the week. Rafael Velasquez, research assistant of the UPEACE Africa Programme, was appointed as networking liaison. He will act as a central contact point for information exchange and will follow-up with participants concerning the incorporation of the teaching materials and curriculum topics into their classes. Based on the follow-up he will facilitate the exchange of best practices.

## APPENDIX A:

UPEACE – Africa Programme: Short Course on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution  
3 – 7 April, 2006 - Schedule

APRIL					
	MONDAY 3rd	TUESDAY 4th	WEDNESDAY 5th	THURSDAY 6th	FRIDAY 7th
08:00 a.m.	Arrival, registration and group photo				
08:30 a.m.					
09:00 a.m.	Opening ceremony	Session 5: The African Mechanism for CPMR	Session 9: The relationship between UN, AU, RECs	Session 12: Emerging Issues in CPMR	Session 14: Emerging comprehensive approaches to CPMR
09:30 a.m.					
10:00 a.m.	Tea	Tea break 15min	Tea break 15min	Tea break 15min	Tea break 15min
10:30 a.m.					
11:00 a.m.	Session 1: Definitions, theories and the underlying causes of conflict	Session 6: African initiatives on CPMR	Session 10: Discussion group	Session 13: cont. on emergin issues in CPMR	Session 15: Discussion group Report back session
11:30 a.m.					
12:00 p.m.	Session 2: Enabling factors and consequences of conflict				
12:30 p.m.					
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
02:00 p.m.	Session 3: Approaches to Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution	Session 7: Regional initiatives on CPMR	Session 11: Discussion group	Pan-African Parliament fieldtrip	Feedback from participants on reader and compendium
02:30 p.m.					
03:00 p.m.	Tea break 15min	Tea break 15min			Session 16: Concluding remarks and presentation of curriculum
03:30 p.m.					
04:00 p.m.	Session 4: cont. Approaches to Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution	Session 8: Local, non-formal and national mechanism for CPMR	Lesedi Cultural Village		Tea break
04:30 p.m.					
05:00 p.m.	Evaluators remarks				External Evaluation
05:30 p.m.					Closing ceremony
06:00 p.m.					
06:30 p.m.					
07:00 p.m.					
07:00 p.m.	Blue Crane Restaurant				
09:30 p.m.					

## APPENDIX B: List of Participants

	Name	Capacity	Contact Details
1.	Mokhawa Ms. Gladys Mokhawa	Participant	Lecturer Department of Political and Administrative Studies University of Botswana Private Bag UB 00705 Gaborone Phone: [267] 355 4164 Fax: [267] 397 4538 Email: <a href="mailto:MAIPOSE@mopipi.ub.bw">MAIPOSE@mopipi.ub.bw</a> <a href="mailto:mokhawa@mopipi.ub.bw">mokhawa@mopipi.ub.bw</a>  <b>Botswana</b>
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## APPENDIX C: ASSIGNMENT FOR THE UPEACE SHORT COURSE ON CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION

Answer two questions, selected from two of the three sections below. Your response should be no more than 5 typed, double-spaced pages. Please submit the assignment by Wednesday, 29 March to Rafael Velasquez at [rafael.velasquez@up.ac.za](mailto:rafael.velasquez@up.ac.za)

### TOPICS:

#### A – Theory and Methodology

1. What is the difference between Positive and Negative Peace? What is conflict? What are some of the positive roles that conflict may play in society?
2. Discuss a method of conflict prevention, management and resolution using a level of analysis framework. How do the interests, needs and values of the conflict differ at each stage of the analysis?

#### B – Causes and dynamics of Conflict

1. Broadly, outline the causes of conflicts in Africa and propose a framework for transforming violence to peace.
2. Small Arms and Light Weapons have been equated to the weapons of mass destruction in Africa. How does the proliferation of small arms and light weapons contribute to the potential for mass violence? What are the arguments for and against arming opposition groups in conflict situations? What are the dimensions of the contradiction between the demand and supply of arms debate?

#### C – CPMR in Africa

1. In your view, what constitutes the main structure of the African peace and security architecture? What are the prospects for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to contribute to sustainable peace? What are its strengths and fundamental weakness?
2. Since its creation, the African Union has promoted the development of common African position as a means to enhance peace, security and sustainable development in Africa. To what extent have such positions contributed to peace and security on the continent. (Use a particular case scenario to illustrate your argument)

**You may wish to refer to the following websites for information:**

- ACCORD The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes  
<http://www.accord.org.za/web/home.htm>
- African Union  
[www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)
- Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict  
<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/subsites/ccpdc/>
- Centre for Human Rights  
[www.chr.up.ac.za](http://www.chr.up.ac.za)
- INCORE International Conflict Research  
<http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/>
- Institute for Security Studies  
[www.iss.co.za](http://www.iss.co.za)
- Safer Africa  
[www.saferfrica.org](http://www.saferfrica.org)
- Search for Common Ground  
<http://www.sfcg.org/>
- The Centre for Conflict Resolution  
<http://ccrweb.ccr.uct.ac.za/>
- The Conflict Resolution Information Source  
<http://www.crinfo.org/index.jsp>
- TRANSCEND Peace and Development Network for Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means  
<http://www.transcend.org>
- United Nations-affiliated University for Peace (UPEACE) Resource Centre  
<http://www.upeace.org/resources/index.cfm>

## APPENDIX D: Comments from the participants

“Due to my involvement in the training aspects of Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, my participation in the UPEACE Short course on Conflict Management has enabled me to learn methods of delivering relevant course content, and to further sharpen my knowledge of African-centered peacekeeping and peacebuilding material. I have already been able to incorporate both the learnings and the reference materials into my daily work, and into specific courses we deliver. The information reader and compendium of Peace and Security documents are most valuable as resource tools.”

Karishma Rajoo (Mrs)

ACCORD

South Africa

“...[the course] was inspiring, informative, well organised, motivating and encouraging ... I sincerely hope that we will stay in contact via UPEACE and I am looking forward to network in terms issues around women and peace but also youth, community development and conflict transformation...”

Prof. Marion Keim Lees

University of the Western Cape

South Africa

“... the course though short had accorded participants (from different parts of Africa and indeed the world), the opportunity to interact, mediate and reconcile our thoughts as effort to better understanding of African conflicts and resolutions. It was indeed a great experience and enriching to building networks of peace and peace education...”

Rukayya Gurin

National Universities Commission

Nigeria

“...The course was short, but I found the training essential in our time, region and continent. The facilitators brought up a peaceful environment which enabled participants to engage in meaningful discussions and reflections. From the discussions it was realised that peace needs to be maintained by conscious efforts and the whole of Africa needs a multiple dose of peace. There should have been more discussions on issues of gender and positive African indigenous methods of Conflict Resolution, Reconciliation and Peace...”

Tasila Mbewe

Dag Hammarskjöld Centre for Peace and Good Governance

Zambia

“The UPEACE short Course on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR), held at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) – 3rd to 7th April, was clearly an improvement on the other such courses that had been held the previous year in terms of content, time management, duration and to a large extent, in methodology.”

Ms Joan Mbagwu, M.A & Phoebe Nyawalo, Ph.D.

External evaluators

Nigeria and Kenya respectively.

“...I found the course enriching because of the frank discussions on a wide range of issues regarding CPMR. Particularly interesting was its interactive nature, allowing

participants and resource persons to exchange ideas and experiences. I was also impressed by the very rich and up-to-date documentation made available to every participant. This compensated the short nature of the course. However, a problem which the organisers may have to address in future is how to deal with participants of purely French expression. In all, I think the course was a major contribution towards the construction of peace on our continent...”

Walters Tohji Tikum  
University of Yaounde  
Cameroon

“...I was happy that it was less academic and enough participative, especially when we got to resolve that fictive case on intra and inter states conflicts; we got the opportunity to deeply analyze different elements of a given conflict and then reflect on possible solutions taking into account that there should be priorities in addressing those elements. I would just have liked that the course develop more internal mechanisms of CPMR on the basis of 2 or 3 countries insisting on best practices observed but I agree that it was impossible in such a short time and taking into account that most of the conflicts have specific characteristics each, and strategies applied to resolve them are or have to be inspired of those characteristics.”

Consolate Bigirimana  
Centre for Conflict Management (CCM)  
Rwanda