



University for Peace  
Université pour la Paix



**PEACE RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008

**FINAL REPORT**



**Prepared by:**

Laura Barber

&

Christine MacAulay



**UPEACE Africa Programme**

P.O.Box 2794 Code 1250

Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: (251) 11 6180991

Fax: (251) 11 6180993

Cell: (251) 91 1837022 (Office)

E-mail:

[africaprogramme@upeace.org](mailto:africaprogramme@upeace.org)

Web: <http://www.africa.upeace.org>

**Geneva Office**

5 chemin du Rivage, 1292

Chambésy/Geneva, Switzerland

Tel : (41-22) 737-3080

Fax (41-22) 737-3090

E-mail : [info@upeace.ch](mailto:info@upeace.ch)

Web: <http://www.africa.upeace.org>

**Main Campus & Headquarters**

P.O. Box 138-6100,

San José, Costa Rica

Tel: (506) 205-9000

Fax: (506) 249-1929

E-mail: [info@upeace.org](mailto:info@upeace.org)

Web: <http://www.upeace.org>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS .....   | - 1 -  |
| 1. Background .....   | - 2 -  |
| 2. Objectives .....   | - 2 -  |
| 3. Methodology .....  | - 3 -  |
| 4. Meeting Process .....  | - 3 -  |
| 4.1. Opening ceremony .....   | - 3 -  |
| 4.2. Building Research Capacity in Eastern Africa: An Overview of UPEACE-<br>IDRC Project .....                               | - 4 -  |
| 4.2.1. Discussion .....   | - 5 -  |
| 4.3. Peace Research Workshop Presentation .....   | - 5 -  |
| 4.3.1. Discussion of the Presentation .....   | - 7 -  |
| 4.4. Challenges to Building Peace Research Capacity in Africa and<br>Recommendations .....                                    | - 7 -  |
| 4.5. Discussion of the <i>Africa Peace and Conflict Journal</i> .....   | - 9 -  |
| 4.5.1. Recommendations for the <i>Africa Peace and Conflict Journal</i> .....   | - 11 - |
| 4.6. Overview of selection process of UPEACE-IDRC Peace Research<br>Workshops, Fellowship and Research Awards Programme ..... | - 12 - |
| 4.6.1. Outcomes .....   | - 12 - |
| 4.6.2. Challenges .....   | - 13 - |
| 4.6.3. Recommendations .....  | - 13 - |
| 5. Next Steps .....   | - 14 - |
| Appendices .....  | - 15 - |

## 1. Background

The University for Peace Africa Programme (UPAP) has been concerned with the development of analytic research capacity within its partner pool in Africa since 2002.

The work of the Africa Programme in the area of peace research, however, started in Dakar in 2005 when the programme organized the first Peace Research Capacity Building Workshop for Academics in the Field of Peace and Security in Africa. In March 2007, the Africa Programme held a consultative meeting with its partners from across the continent. The consultative process was designed to enable the Africa Programme to understand the specific research issues, capacities and constraints that characterize the formation of research capacity in Africa. The meeting was a useful forum for identifying deficiencies in teaching and research, for suggesting ways of using research to improve the quality of teaching, and for exploring possibilities for collaboration among academic and research institutions and departments as well as civil society organizations.

UPAP has since developed a proposal for a programme on “Developing Peace and Security Research Capacity in Eastern Africa” which is being supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The general aim of the project is to build capacity and develop a network of expert researchers from academic and research institutions who will contribute to efforts toward building peaceful and secure communities, inform policy, mediate political conflicts and prevent the initiation and escalation of violent conflicts. UPAP will seek to work with existing institutions for purposes of providing them with critical knowledge and skills in the areas of peace and conflict, as well as according them the opportunity to develop their young cadres in professional development. This is an innovative approach that empowers institutions and provides them with much needed capacity to conduct peace research, publish research findings and sustain human resources in the area of peace and conflict studies. UPAP has constituted a Peace Research Advisory Board (PRESAB) composed of specialists in the area who will guide the project. The Advisory Board was drawn from the International Editorial Board of the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*.

In order to enhance further research capacity in Africa, the project will also serve as a link to the UPEACE-IDRC Initiative for PhD research and studies Awards Programme in Peace, Conflict and Development in Africa. This initiative intends to award each year, for three years, ten PhD research grants to African PhD candidates who are advanced in their research and who are based in African Universities. In addition to this, the UPEACE-IDRC Awards Programme will also provide, in the first year, fellowships for two full time PhD students based at African Universities. Both initiatives will be opened up to various regions of Africa.

## 2. Objectives

On 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008, UPAP held a two-day Peace Research Advisory Board Consultative Meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objectives of the PRESAB consultative meeting were to:

- Identify and select candidates to participate in the peace and security research capacity building exercise;

- Design and develop a draft content outline for the workshops;
- Develop strategic preliminary plans for the conduct of the exercise;
- Develop an appropriate process for the exercise;
- Design a general direction for the sustainability of the project; and,
- Select laureates for the doctoral research awards, fellowship awards, and a Peace Research Training Workshop in collaboration with IDRC.

### **3. Methodology**

The meeting constituted of an opening ceremony, a workshop presentation, the review of applicants for the UPEACE-IDRC Peace Research Workshop and Peace Research Awards, group discussions, information sharing with Partners, brainstorming on sustainability of Peace Research capacity building, and a closing reception.

### **4. Meeting Process**

The consultation brought together a total of fifteen participants including some members of the Advisory Board of the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal* and representatives of IDRC (See Appendix 1 for the list of participants). On the first day, these representatives discussed the challenges that such a peace research capacity building initiative may face. They also discussed the content development of the Peace Research workshops and worked collaboratively to select the candidates who would participate in the first exercise. On the second day, the committee examined the possibilities in the development of the *Africa Peace and Conflict Research Journal* and identified potential recipients of the UPEACE-IDRC Awards Programme. Also attending was a representative of the African Union's (AU) education capacity building department. The purpose of involving such policy makers early on in the process is to try and ensure that the findings from conducted research will have credible entry points into such policy circles (See Appendix 2 for the meeting agenda).

#### **4.1. Opening ceremony**

The meeting was opened by Dr. Jean-Bosco Butera, Director of UPEACE Africa Programme (UPAP). In his welcome note, Dr. Butera thanked the participants for joining the Advisory Board meeting on Peace Research and expressed the programme's gratitude that they were able to attend.

After this welcome note, Dr. Jean-Bosco Butera officially opened the activities of the Advisory Board Meeting. Participants to the meeting introduced themselves and shared a little about what they have been doing in their different institutions.

Dr. Gerd Schonwalder, IDRC Peace, Conflict and Development Program Leader made opening remarks beginning with a brief overview of the work of IDRC. He then explained why the organization chose to support UPEACE's research capacity building project. He highlighted that most of the key debates which originate in Northern based institutions do not necessarily connect with what is happening on the ground in the South. In this

context, IDRC has conducted internal studies on what capacity building means and its potential influence upon policy. Subsequently, the organization has been trying to bring Northern and Southern debates together through fostering partnerships with Southern institutions. Therefore, UPEACE's peace research initiative is in line with the objectives of IDRC's programme of capacity building funding for individual research and certain research centers.

Prof. Amr Abdalla, UPEACE Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, then gave his opening remarks. He gave a brief overview of the three pillars that make up the main objectives of UPEACE: 1) the provision of high quality graduate programmes 2) the development of research in peace and conflict; and 3) the dissemination of knowledge regarding peace and conflict studies. Prof. Abdalla concluded by reiterating that it is the intention of UPEACE to forge partnerships with organizations such as IDRC in the effort to build peace and conflict research capacity in Africa.

#### **4.2. Building Research Capacity in Eastern Africa: An Overview of UPEACE-IDRC Project**

Representatives of both IDRC and UPEACE presented an overview of the project and its general objectives. Dr. Butera, Director of UPEACE, highlighted that the UPEACE-IDRC project generally aims to build peace research capacity in Eastern Africa which broadly includes Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and Sudan. He stated that the project has three major outputs:

1. Developing a pool of researchers concerned with the agenda of building peace in the region.
2. Creating networks with partner universities in order to build capacity as a way of sustaining the endeavor, rather than establishing one UPEACE Africa campus.
3. Creating an outlet for researchers to disseminate knowledge through developing the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*.

The programme will also offer 10 PhD Peace Research Awards and 2 PhD fellowship awards to citizens of African countries registered with Universities across Africa, aiming to further expand such a capacity building initiative across the continent.

Ms Njeri Karuru, Senior Program Officer, IDRC, stressed the importance of strengthening peace research capacity at the doctoral level in view of the realization that many African students do not continue their studies after completing MA degrees. This initiative significantly aims to encourage African students to continue writing about their own issues at a higher academic level. It was noted that, in contrast with Southern Africa, there is a lack of think tanks in Eastern Africa which specialize in peace and conflict research. Thus, a long-term goal of this project should be to establish UPEACE Africa Programme (UPAP) as a predominant Eastern African think tank on issues of peace and conflict.

Dr Tony Karbo, UPEACE Programme Officer, reasserted that the purpose of the meeting was to help the participants to discuss how to go about achieving the goals of the project, identify the gaps in its proposal and to assist in building a stronger project cycle. This should involve looking at the sustainability of the project. Moreover, there should be

additional structures in place to ensure that the project is implemented as efficiently as possible. The development of a peace network advisory board and a mentor pool should facilitate the implementation of these objectives so that recipients are not just trained in developing peace research skills but also nurtured in those skills over time.

#### **4.2.1. Discussion**

The committee discussed some of the main challenges that such a project faces and what measures need to be taken to confront them. It was generally agreed that in the first instance there is a need to develop a breadth of African research coming out of conflict situations to ensure that empirical studies enter wider debates. However, a major challenge to achieving this aim is that training for data collection is not enough on its own. There is the need for writers workshops so that appropriate writing skills can be developed to ensure that such knowledge acquired in the field can be clearly recorded, communicated and analyzed. Thus, it was agreed by the participants that the projects goal of developing a mentoring pool to assist researchers in fine tuning their writing abilities would fill such a gap. Moreover, that the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal* would provide an arena for such writings to eventually be published and information disseminated.

It was suggested to expand the PRESAB with the intention of incorporating a pool of mentors. The central challenge that was identified attempting to develop a pool of African mentors is that many African academics migrate to study at Northern institutions where they remain. One method suggested was that the board should trace African academics who may wish to contribute to building peace research capacity in Africa as a source of mentors. It was also proposed that if the Advisory Board were to expand in such a way that there would be the need to document its members' specific roles so that the programme would benefit full from the individual skills. Moreover, maintaining relationships with such interested individuals, beyond the mentoring roles, would strengthen longer term capacity building.

#### **4.3. Peace Research Workshop Presentation**

A presentation was then delivered by Dr Pamela Machakanja, Associate Director of the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. The presentation covered the workshops specific peace research content with a view to developing that of the upcoming UPEACE workshop.

First of all, Dr. Machakanja gave an overview of the workshop's main objectives which were to:

- ✓ Develop a critical mass of peace conflict researchers through capacity building
- ✓ Strengthen participants understanding and practice in social science research methodologies and peace research
- ✓ Provide a firm theoretical understanding
- ✓ Explore perspectives, underlying claims, applications and limitations of both qualitative and quantitative peace research designs

- ✓ Develop data collection and analytical skills using both manual and computer aided packages relevant for peace research
- ✓ Explore issues of ethics, access, accountability and gender in peace research

The expected outcomes of the workshop included:

- ✓ An insight into new cutting edge developments in peace and conflict research
- ✓ Exposure to different epistemological and ontological approaches
- ✓ An appreciation of gender sensitivities

Dr. Machakanja stated that the workshop's methodology was highly interactive, and its participants were predominantly young to mid-range researchers drawn from NGOs, policy related institutions and universities from all regions in Africa.

The content of the workshop was as follows:

- An introduction to social science research including its foundations and paradigms
- A comprehensive overview of the history of peace conflict research, from that of World War II global politics of peace and security to the evolution of academic thinking and contemporary debates
- African perspectives of peace and conflict research
- Afro-centric concepts within peace research including the Ubuntu concept, traditional healing processes, traditional dispute resolution, and leadership and governance
- Mapping theory in peace and conflict research, and in particular the relationship between theory and research
- Peace and conflict research designs including those adopting policy, action, historical, evaluation, ethnological, correlational or comparative orientated designs
- Core elements in peace and conflict research including:
  - Choosing a research topic
  - Influences, motivations and background of individuals
  - Formulating the statement of a problem
- Research objectives and questions:
  - Types of research objectives, i.e. basic research or applied research
  - Types of questions and how to turn objectives round into questions
  - Purpose of questions
- Hypothesis/assumptions and how to test hypotheses in peace and conflict research
- Literature research skills and literature review:
  - Types of literature review, its purpose and scope
  - Relationships between the literature review, concepts, conceptual framework, research objectives and research questions
- Data collection and analysis methodologies:
  - Qualitative and quantitative methods
  - Relationship between research objectivism, research questions and data collection methods
  - Population and sampling frameworks
- Data collection techniques
- Social context of peace and conflict research and ethics issues in particular

- Gender sensitivities in peace and conflict research:
  - Patriarchal cultures – how does the absence of women’s voices influence data collection?
  - Human rights violations – Is the representation and description of the case of a female victim the same as that of a male victim?
  - Gender based or related violence
  - Social inequalities and exclusions – Does the researcher have any biases that may influence the way that data is collected and represented?

Dr. Machakanja’s address was concluded with reflections upon content development for future workshops, and the following questions were asked:

- What issues do we need to think about?
- Should such workshops cover thematic issues?
- How are participants continuing to use their skills developed in the workshop and how does this impact upon capacity building of peace and conflict research across Africa?
- To what extent does the short time frame and intensive nature of such workshops (five days in this case) allow for participants to effectively reflect on what they have learnt?

#### **4.3.1. Discussion of the Presentation**

The presentation was followed by a discussion session during which participants initially offered their comments on its content and scope. It was observed that this workshop was commendable due to the deficiency of quantitative peace and conflict research in Africa. Moreover, training in the approaches of peace research is important due its specificities in relation to social science research with its purpose of advancing peaceful means of resolving conflict. Such training workshops are therefore significant in their scope as they incorporate analysis of the constructs of the notion of peace itself, how it can be measured and the changing dynamics of conflict.

Participants also made specific suggestions towards the content development of such research training workshops. With regards to data collection training, for example, it was suggested that trainers could encourage its participants to think creatively about who exactly could assist in culturally sensitive conflict situations. It was proposed that, considering the varied mix of participant’s backgrounds, there could be different sessions catering for differing interests. However it was also argued that such workshops can in fact utilize such diversity to incorporate many perspectives.

#### **4.4. Challenges to Building Peace Research Capacity in Africa and Recommendations**

The committee agreed that whilst the presentation content usefully overviewed the methodology of peace research training in workshops, there was a need to discuss some wider issues. For example, the presentation did not address preliminary concerns such as writing technique and style, the long term aim of such workshops and the link between the

specifics of research training and the larger picture of this project. The major challenges to building peace research capacity in Africa which were identified are outlined below with the participants' subsequent recommendations for how to tackle such issues:

- **Developing writing skills of researchers** – The general standard of writing ability and technique of potential African peace and conflict researchers was agreed to be a preliminary challenge to developing such academics to their full capacity. Addressing this issue seems to be fundamental before discussing the content of research and data collection skills training.
  - **Writing pre-workshops** were discussed as a means to develop writing skills before participants attend workshops;
  - **Writing assistance throughout the process** was agreed to be an effective way of following this initiative through. For example, mentors could incorporate such skills development with their researchers, or UPEACE could employ writing specialists throughout the process to work with them specifically on this issue;
  - **Peer based process** in which participants come together to critique each others work with regards to writing skill. This technique would also prove cost effective.
  
- **Sustainability of the projects achievements** – Participants were of the same opinion that there is a need to focus not just on how to develop knowledge and skill in peace and conflict research, but also on what the intended product of this research is to be and how we should go about achieving this. As facilitating long term capacity building is the end goal of this project, encouraging researchers to continue to write after they complete the workshop or their research award is paramount.
  - Potential workshop attendees should be requested to **send in a concept note** for a research proposal. This would be in order to encourage participants to continue writing and to remain affiliated with UPEACE activities in the future through submitting their work to the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*;
  - Dedicating a **section of the workshop to dissemination approaches** would also help in this endeavor;
  - Establishing stronger **links with peace and conflict related university departments and NGOs** where participants may return to;
  - **Attracting media interest** in the project was identified as crucial to publicizing the projects achievements and ensuring its sustainability. For example, through distributing promotional information on UPEACE activities for appropriate online media resources.
  
- **Impact on policy making** – Related to this issue of research product was that of to whom such research should be targeted. The participants were in agreement that the project's impact upon policy is crucial in achieving its goal of advancing peaceful means of resolving conflict. However, unless there is strategy in place to bridge the gap between research and policy there is the risk that knowledge and analysis could remain discussed only within academic circles.
  - **Attracting the interest of regional peace and security institutions** such as IGAD and furthering partnerships with the AU was identified as an

- important strategy. The use of newsletters and email updates would help to keep them informed;
- **Maintaining links with participants from policy backgrounds** and encouraging them to disseminate their knowledge within policy making circles. They should also be encouraged to return to future workshops;
  - **Workshops with a policy writing focus** would assist researchers intending to overlap their research and policy interests in their writing which would also result in them producing documents which policy makers are more likely to buy into;
  - **Utilizing online advocacy focused research resources** such as Peace Media, an online database for free knowledge on peace resolution.

#### **4.5. Discussion of the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal***

The *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal* came about following consultations with universities from across Africa that showed strong need and interest for a dedicated journal. The first edition of the journal is presently nearing completion and will contain six peer reviewed articles and two briefings. UPEACE is in the process of identifying potential publishers for the journal.

Tony Karbo, Managing Editor of the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*, led a discussion on the ongoing needs and challenges the journal faces. These include:

**Determining a Niche for the Journal.** Due to the proliferation in recent years of journals focusing on peace, conflict, and security issues, participants discussed the need to find the unique niche of the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*. Participant sentiment varied as to the necessity in carving out a niche for the journal from its initial issue. While one participant suggested that perhaps the publication of the first edition be delayed until this niche is clearly defined, UPEACE noted that, institutionally, there is a sense of urgency to get the journal out. UPEACE also noted that while the journal may presently lack a well-defined niche, it does reflect the multidisciplinary-nature of the field and the need to look at conflict and peace through different lenses, which characterizes the UPEACE academic mission. For future editions of the journal, as the niche becomes better defined, UPEACE may consider having an ongoing mission statement in the journal.

**Establishing the Reputation of the Journal.** Participants widely concurred that building the capacity of young researchers and scholars in the area of peace and security is a key mission of the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*. It was pointed out, however, that it would be detrimental for the journal to establish a reputation as being a source where only new, relatively unestablished scholars go to publish. Thus, the journal faces the challenge of establishing its notoriety and credibility in the field while also staying true to its mission.

There were a number of ways suggested to address this challenge. In order to establish the credible reputation of the journal, it was suggested that early-on the journal recruit individuals with prestige to publish articles. It was pointed out that even if well-recognized academics are brought in to build credibility, this does not necessarily mean that it will be to the exclusion of younger researchers, particularly at later stages. Some additional suggestions on how to establish the journal's reputation while maintaining its mission

include dedicating some publication space in each edition to the articles of less-established researchers and encouraging well-known scholars to publish with young co-authors.

**Reassessing Journal Content Focus.** As originally conceived, the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal* was to have two editions each year: one general edition covering a broad range of peace and conflict-related issues and the other on a pertinent and compelling thematic issue in the field. In November, a second call for articles went out for the journal's first thematic edition: Endogenous Methods of Conflict Resolution. However, despite two calls for articles, UPEACE has yet to receive an article that would be appropriate for publication. This raises the question as to whether UPEACE should continue to pursue the thematic edition and look for additional outlets to call for papers or whether it should return to broad conflict topics.

Based on the discussion of challenges, participants largely felt that it would be unrealistic to proceed with the thematic edition at this time. Given that UPEACE has a strong interest in publishing at least two thematic editions during the program period, participants suggested that UPEACE pursue another general edition at this time but look ahead to publish a thematic edition in 2009. Participants also offered suggestions for future thematic editions. These include:

- Regional Integration (already in the UPEACE pipeline)
- Peace and Media OR Peace Media
- Peace Education in Africa (focusing on the status of current programs, their activities and quality, and how to improve peace education offerings)
- Women Waging Peace
- Research in Violent Conflict Situation

**Effective Marketing and Distribution of the Journal.** Currently, the UPEACE website serves as the primary source of marketing for the journal. There is need to increase advertising so as to effectively recruit qualified individuals to write for the journal. Participants also discussed how to effectively distribute the journal. In addition to distributing the journal through UPEACE and its website and partner institutions, members of PRESAB could request their respective university libraries to subscribe. They could also commit to each strategically distributing 5-10 copies of the journal. The idea of an "open access" journal, or journal which is distributed solely online, was briefly discussed. However, due to issues of recognition and the problems with connectivity that affect much of Africa, it was felt that it would be unfeasible to take such an approach at this time.

**Building the Capacity of Young Researchers to Publish.** Participants also discussed the need to determine how to encourage young scholars to publish. The upcoming UPEACE-IDRC Peace Research training presents an opportunity to foster new contributors to the journal. Of the 30 participants at the training seminar, 12 will be mentored to publish in the journal. Although the initial thought was to encourage the research trainees to write in the thematic areas of the journal, some participants felt that it may be unrealistic, and decrease the overall quality of articles, if the trainees were expected to publish in areas outside of their research focus. It is also likely that the more advanced ones have already a strong idea about the topics on which they are interested to write. Although UPEACE would like to publish a thematic journal, it may be necessary to make

the initial journal editions more general so as to attract more contributors. From the IDRC vantage point, the primary concern is that training participants publish quality work; whether or not this work is on certain pre-defined themes is secondary.

**Supporting New Researchers through Mentors.** The discussion also touched on the role of mentors in fostering student capacity to publish as well as if mentors should be compensated for their services. As mentors are identified, it is expected that mentors, based on their areas of expertise and interests, will have a sense of which students they can best help. With regard to paying mentors, some participants felt that it is in bad principle to pay for mentorship. Others felt that, given the realities of academia, mentors should be compensated for their time. To reconcile these two views, one suggestion that emerged was to offer mentors a nominal fee to cover communications and similar expenses but to not pay them for their actual time. Given that many mentors will already have students with whom they are working, it may be important to emphasize to potential mentors that it is not students they will be mentoring but individuals who are in the writing process. UPEACE is anticipating having four mentors, with each mentor taking three students, or to have six mentors, with each mentor taking two students.

**Identifying Sustainable Sources of Funding.** In order to ensure the continuity of the journal, there is pressing need to identify sustainable sources of funding. According to UPEACE, support is needed for the next 3-4 years. However, the goal is to achieve self-sustainability of the journal. Task groups were formed during the initial Journal Advisory Board meeting on issues such as this but progress to-date has been slow.

#### 4.5.1. Recommendations for the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*

Based on participant discussion, major recommendations for the *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal* include:

- **Identify and recruit theme editors with expertise in a particular issue in advance.** Thematic issues should be planned several years ahead to allow for appropriate preparatory time to recruit editors and article contributors.
- **Designate an individual at the UPEACE Africa Programme that can serve as a liaison between the UPEACE and the journal editors.** This will allow editors to have a dedicated contact to which they can call for articles.
- **Actively identify and recruit young researchers to be journal contributors, including by engaging the UPEACE community.** For journal submissions, potentially recruit UPEACE students and alumni, or other PhD students at African universities, to contribute articles. For thematic issues, identify African students or researchers conducting research in the area.
- **Pursue more aggressive advertising strategies.** Actively identify new markets. Potential venues to advertise include:
  - African Studies Association
  - Pambazuka news
  - Peace and Justice Studies Association
  - In other journals on a reciprocal networks
  - Through both web- and non-web-based networks of individuals with an interest in Africa
  - Through the websites of partner organizations

- **Use UPEACE and UPEACE events as a forum with which to attract future contributors to the journal.** Part of the uniqueness of UPEACE is its ability to convene individuals from across the continent. Such events provide an opportunity to both identify and encourage potential contributors.
- **Revisit the commitments of task groups from the previous meeting of the Journal Advisory Board.** Particularly in areas such as identifying sources of sustainable funding, connect with the designated task groups to assess their progress to date and how best to proceed into the future.

#### 4.6. Overview of selection process of UPEACE-IDRC Peace Research Workshops, Fellowship and Research Awards Programme

A call for applications for the UPEACE-IDRC Peace Research Workshop and Fellowship and Research Awards was posted from December 21-January 31. The notice was posted on the University for Peace Africa Programme website as well as included in the UPEACE newsletter (see Appendix 3 for the complete adverts and eligibility criteria). Following the receipt of applications, the methodology for selecting awardees involved short-listing candidates based on relevant areas of specialization and based on required supporting documentation such as thesis proposals (for Research Award applicants) and letters of support.

##### 4.6.1. Outcomes

Following lengthy discussion of each applicant's eligibility, decisions were made as to whether to accept, reject, or request more information from the applicant.<sup>1</sup> Table One provides an overview of applications received and the decisions reached by the committee.

**Table One. Overview of Applications Reviewed and Selection Status**

| UPEACE-IDRC Program             | Total Applications Received   | Countries Represented  | Applicant Selection Status  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Peace Research Workshops</b> | <b>22 total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 men</li> <li>• 7 women</li> </ul>                         | <b>6 countries represented:</b><br>Ethiopia (1)<br>Kenya (9)<br>Rwanda (1)<br>Sudan (2)<br>Tanzania (3)<br>Uganda (6)              | Of applicants, 3 were deemed to not meet eligibility criteria. The remaining 19 applicants were selected to participate in the training.      |
| <b>Fellowship Programme</b>     | <b>19 total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 men</li> <li>• 7 women</li> <li>• 2 not stated</li> </ul> | <b>8 countries represented:</b><br>Cameroon (2)<br>Kenya (2)<br>Nigeria (5)<br>Sudan (2)<br>Tanzania (1)<br>Togo (1)<br>Uganda (2) | All applicants deemed to have relevant areas of study (10 applicants in total) were sent a follow-up email to request additional information. |

<sup>1</sup> More detailed information on the decision made for each application, and the basis for this decision, is available through the UPEACE Africa Programme office.

|                                  |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
|                                  |   | Zimbabwe (1)<br>Not stated (2)  |   |
| <b>Research Awards Programme</b> | <b>24 total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 men</li> <li>• 6 women</li> </ul> | <b>8 countries represented:</b><br>Cameroon (1)<br>DR Congo (1)<br>Ethiopia (1)<br>Kenya (1)<br>Nigeria (10)<br>Sudan (1)<br>Uganda (3)<br>Zimbabwe (1)<br>Not stated (3) | Of applicants, 14 applicants were deemed to not meet eligibility requirements. The remaining 10 applicants were requested to submit additional information. |

#### 4.6.2. Challenges

There were several problems identified with the application process and resulting applicant pool. These include:

- Overall small applicant pool with limited applicants from each country
- No representation of applicants from numerous conflict-affected countries (e.g. Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Burundi) as well as lack of regional representation
- Under-representation of women in the applicant pool
- A significant percentage of applicants either 1) Did not meet eligibility requirements (e.g. applicants were studying a field unrelated to peace and conflict studies) or 2) Did not submit complete applications
- Even among applicants that submitted complete applications, the overall quality of applications was low (e.g. thesis proposals lacked coherency and well-defined methodological approaches)

#### 4.6.3. Recommendations

In order to address the challenges identified, a number of recommendations were suggested for the future. These include:

- **Disseminate the call for applications more broadly across Africa.** In addition to advertising through websites and electronic mediums, build relationships with academic institutions working in the area of peace and conflict and distribute the application notice within their departments. Further, consider posting the notice in regional newspapers and other regional news outlets.
- **Clarify the Advert.** The advert must explicitly state what is required from applicants and stress the fact that they will not be considered for the award if they do not meet eligibility requirements and/or their application is considered to be incomplete. The advert must clearly state what supporting documents are required from applicants (e.g. BA and MA grade reports, letter of support, verification of proof of enrollment, etc). Further, applicants should be given more guidance as to what the committee is looking for in the application letter and the thesis proposal.

For the application letter, applicants must be aware that they should clearly state their academic interests, where they currently are in their studies and research, show the relevance of their study to the field of peace and security, and discuss how the award will help them meet their academic and professional goals. The advert should also identify criteria for thesis proposals, including page length and necessary sections (e.g. background, methodology, hypotheses, etc.).

- **Lengthen the Application Period.** In order to provide applicants with sufficient time to complete their applications and acquire necessary supporting documentation, the application submission period should be expanded to at least 2 months. If the application period coincides with a holiday, it may be desirable to even further lengthen the application timeframe.
- **Reach out to applicants underrepresented in the applicant pool.** In order to ensure a diverse representation of applicants, it is important to make concerted efforts to attract and recruit applicants from groups that tend to be underrepresented in applicant pool (e.g. women, individuals from particular countries and regions, etc.). It is important to develop creative strategies to attract and engage such groups and identify strategies to increase both the quantity and quality of their applications.

## 5. Next Steps

Additional information will be requested from applicants deemed to be eligible for the Fellowship and Research Awards. Applicants deemed eligible for the Fellowship awards will be requested to submit, by February 20, 2008, a 2-page concept note that clearly states the nature of their current or proposed research, its relevance to the field of peace and conflict studies, and an indication of their methodology. Applicants deemed eligible for the Research awards will be requested to submit, by February 20, 2008, a full account of their PhD proposal. A committee of six individuals was selected to review the concept notes and proposals and make the final decision on which applicants will be selected for awards.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: List of Participants

**PEACE RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Title</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>Organization</b>                   |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1          | Dr.          | Christopher       | Mitchell         | George Mason University, USA          |
| 2          | Dr.          | Craig             | Zelizer          | Georgetown University, USA            |
| 3          | Dr.          | Johannes          | Botes            | University of Baltimore, USA          |
| 4          | Dr.          | Pamela            | Machakanja       | Africa University, Zimbabwe           |
| 5          | Ms.          | Bertha            | K. Amisi         | Syracuse University                   |
| 6          | Prof.        | Amr               | Abdalla          | University For Peace, Costa Rica      |
| 7          | Dr.          | Gerd              | Schönwälder      | IDRC                                  |
| 8          | Ms.          | Njeri             | Karuru           | IDRC                                  |
| 9          | Dr.          | Jean Bosco        | Butera           | University for Peace-Africa Programme |
| 10         | Dr.          | Tony              | Karbo            | University for Peace-Africa Programme |
| 11         | Mrs.         | Tsion             | Tadesse          | University for Peace-Africa Programme |
| 12         | Mrs.         | Rahel             | Getachew         | University for Peace-Africa Programme |
| 13         | Ms.          | Christine         | Macaulay         | University for Peace-Africa Programme |
| 14         | Ms.          | Laura             | Barber           | University for Peace-Africa Programme |

## Appendix 2: Meeting Agenda

### PEACE RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (PRESAB) CONSULTATIVE MEETING ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

| DATE     | TIME        | ACTIVITY  | PRESENTER   |
|----------|-------------|---|---|
| 7.2.2008 | 9:00-9:10   | Welcome Remarks   | Dr Jean-Bosco Butera, UPEACE Africa Programme Director  |
|          | 9:10-9:25   | Introductory remarks  | All participants  |
|          | 9:25-9:35   | Opening remarks   | Dr Gerd Schönwälder,<br>Program Leader<br>Peace, Conflict, and Development,<br>IDRC, OTTAWA           |
|          | 9:35-9:45   | Opening Remarks   | Prof. Amr Abdalla, UPEACE Vice Rector for Academic Affairs  |
|          | 9:45-10:30  | Building Research Capacity in Eastern Africa: an overview of UPEACE-IDRC Project  | JB Butera, Tony Karbo (UPEACE)<br><br>Njeri Karuru (IDRC)   |
|          | 10:30-11:00 | Coffee Break  |   |
|          | 11:00-12:30 | Peace Research workshop. Content development  | Dr Pamela Machakanja, IPLG/<br>Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe                                    |
|          | 12:30-14:00 | LUNCH   |   |
|          | 14:00-15:30 | Review of Applications to Peace Research Workshop:  | Participants, Tsion Abebe to present applications   |
|          | 15:30-16:00 | Coffee Break  |   |
|          | 16:00-17:00 | Review of Applications to UPEACE-IDRC Awards  | Participants<br><br>Tsion Abebe to present applications   |
|          | 19:00-21:00 | Welcome Diner   | Participants and Invitees   |
|          |             |   |   |
| 8.2.2008 |             |   |   |
|          | 9:00-10:30  | Developing “Africa Peace and Conflict Journal”: Key themes and topics; Quality assurance; Mentoring of researchers                              | Participants<br><br>Tony Karbo to Introduce the subject and brief participants on what has been done. |
|          | 10:30-11:00 | Coffee Break  |   |
|          | 11:00-12:30 |   | Review of Applications  |
|          | 12:30-14:00 | LUNCH   |   |
|          | 14:00-15:30 | Sharing with Partners on approaches to developing Peace Research Skills (OSSREA, Addis Ababa University, African Union, University of Victoria) |   |
|          | 15:30-16:00 | Coffee break  |   |
|          | 16:00-17:00 | Brainstorming on sustainability of Peace Research capacity building endeavor  | Amr Abdalla and Gerd Schönwälder to co-facilitate and close the meeting                               |

### **Appendix 3: Adverts for the UPEACE-IDRC Peace Research Training and PhD Fellowship and Research Awards**

#### **Call for Applications: Peace Research Training**

21 December 2007 – 31 January 2008

**Location:** Eastern Africa

The UPEACE Africa Programme has secured funding from the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to build peace research capacity in Eastern Africa. The programme is seeking applications from qualified candidates, who will participate in a series of peace research trainings. Successful candidates will be placed with mentors who will guide them through various writing and analytical processes in addition to attending the training sessions. The UPEACE Africa Programme will cover all travel, hotel and accommodation costs for selected participants. The first training will be held from March 10-14, 2008 in Addis Ababa. Subsequent trainings will be announced to the participants during the first training.

#### **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PEACE RESEARCH CANDIDATES**

To qualify for participation in the capacity building activities, candidates must:

- Have at least a Masters Degree in a related field;
- Be a citizen of an East African country;
- Demonstrate interest in Peace, Conflict and Development issues in Africa;
- Be affiliated with a recognized organization working in the fields of peace, conflict and development;
- Be committed to research and writing and willing to work on commissioned papers for publication in the Africa Peace and Conflict Journal;

All applications must reach the office of the Africa Programme **no later than January 31, 2008.**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Call for Applications: UPEACE-IDRC PhD Fellowships**

21 December 2007 – 31 January 2008

**Location:** Africa.

The UPEACE Africa Programme has secured funding from The Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to offer a limited number of scholarships to African students in a PhD programme in peace, conflict, human rights, development or a related field at an African university. The scholarship will cover tuition and living expenses for the student up to US\$15,000 per year. The programme is seeking applications from candidates who are currently enrolled in a PhD programme or who can offer proof of

acceptance into a PhD programme at an African university for the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PhD STUDENTS**

To qualify, a candidate must meet the following criteria:

- Be currently enrolled/accepted in a PhD programme in the fields of peace, conflict, human rights, development and other related fields;
- Be a full time PhD student;
- Submit a letter of support from the Lead Supervisor;
- Be a citizen of an African country;
- Have a Masters Degree in a related discipline;
- Award tenure should begin within six months after the announcement of the results of the competition.

All applications must reach the office of the Africa Programme **no later than January 31, 2008.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

### **Call for Applications: UPEACE-IDRC Doctoral Research Award**

21 December 2007 – 31 January 2008

**Location:** Africa.

The UPEACE Africa Programme has secured funding from The Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to offer ten fellowships to African students who are currently engaged in data collection and dissertation writing for the award of a PhD in peace, conflict, human rights, development or a related field. The fellowship is designed to offer assistance to students in meeting travel costs for field research and printing and publication costs for the dissertation. The total award is US \$10,000 per student.

It is anticipated that this grant will facilitate the completion of their thesis and will enable them to strengthen further their research skills by offering them the means to access better and updated resource materials and, in some instances, with opportunities to participate in short term research internships/attachments in University or research centre environments that would provide better resource availability and international exposure.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR DISSERTATION STUDENTS:**

To qualify, a candidate must meet the following criteria:

- Be currently enrolled in a PhD programme in the fields of peace, conflict, human rights, development and other related fields;
- Must have completed all course related work and have successfully defended a dissertation proposal;

- Completed all other University requirements for proceeding to the dissertation phase of their studies;
- Be enrolled at an African University;
- Be a citizen of an African country;
- Have a Masters Degree in a related discipline;
- Award tenure should begin within six months after the announcement of the results of the competition.

All applications must reach the office of the Africa Programme **no later than January 31, 2008.**