The Role of Civil Society in Peacebuilding in the Great Lakes Region

Rapporteurs: Arthur Bainomugisha and Mashood Issaka

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Acknowledgements

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government of Finland, and the family of Ruth Forbes Young, founder of IPA, for the Civil Society Program.

About IPA's Africa Program

The 2004 Civil Society Dialogue, the second of its kind by the Africa Program, is part of IPA's Ruth Forbes Young Civil Society Fellowship Program, an initiative which seeks to build the capacity of civil society in Africa to engage more actively in conflict prevention and peacebuilding on the continent. Focusing on the Great Lakes region, IPA organized a half-day Civil Society Dialogue on 26 March 2004, which featured seven civil society actors from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. Drawing participants from the United Nations community and academics from institutions within the New York area, the meeting was a follow-up to the IPA seminar, "Peace, Security, and Governance in the Great Lakes Region," which took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 15 –17 December 2003.

The Africa Program of IPA works with partner institutions:

• To serve as a useful guide to Africa's regional organizations and actors in assessing their strengths and weaknesses in the area of conflict prevention, management, and resolution;

• To identify the key factors required to maximize the potential of Africa's fledgling security mechanisms and to provide tangible support for the efforts of regional organizations at strengthening their political and military institutions;

• To share comparative experiences between, and learn policy lessons from, the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and sub-regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the East African Community, and the Economic Community of Central African States;

• To encourage the involvement of civil society actors in developing and shaping Africa's regional security mechanisms and to facilitate the development of civil society networking within Africa;

• To serve as a valuable resource for external actors and donors involved in assisting the development of Africa's security mechanisms;

• To create networks of knowledgeable and interested Africans to influence developments on their continent through interaction among themselves; and

• To provide a resource for scholars and students of conflict management in Africa, particularly since there exists a paucity of knowledge on the continent's institutions and actors engaged in the field of conflict management.

About the Rapporteurs

Mr. Mashood Issaka is a Program Officer at IPA and Mr. Arthur Bainomugisha is the head of the Peace and Conflicts Programme at the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, Uganda, and was the 2003-2004 IPA Civil Society Fellow.
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Executive Summary

The International Peace Academy (IPA) organized a half-day Civil Society Dialogue for civil society activists from the Great Lakes region of Africa in New York on 26 March 2004. It featured seven civil society actors from the region and drew participants from the United Nations community and academics from institutions within the New York area.

The aims of the 2004 meeting were to:

a. Assess the role of civil society in conflict prevention, management, and peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region;
b. Evaluate the relationship among civil society groups with regional and sub-regional organizations;
c. Enable the civil society activists and participants to share experiences and expertise; establish networks; and take stock of their capacities, challenges, and opportunities for peacemaking, peacebuilding, and democratization in the region;
d. Provide an opportunity for the UN community to gauge the interest and readiness of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Great Lakes region to effectively engage in processes such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR); and
e. Offer recommendations for improving capacity in conflict management and good governance efforts.

The positive record of CSOs to date in various regional and international initiatives underscores their relevance and growing importance to on-going peacebuilding efforts in the region. The complex, interlocking, and regional nature of the Great Lakes conflicts, the spillover across national boundaries of small arms, the large refugee movements, inadequate physical space for the populations and environmental destruction from the exploitation and plundering of the region’s natural resources clearly require an integrated regional response.

Nonetheless, severe political, financial, and institutional constraints remain obstacles to CSOs. Many governments in the region view the work of CSOs with suspicion and sometimes subject civil society leaders to severe harassment and intimidation. States often create barriers by constructing laws to insulate their actions from scrutiny or to curtail CSO activities. In some cases, civil society leaders are labeled agents of foreign interests or proxies of political opposition in order to justify hostile action from the government. Operationally, CSOs are constrained by inadequate resources and over-reliance on external donor support.

Policy Recommendations

The key recommendations from the Dialogue were:

1. **Securing Long-Term Funding**

Development partners interested in security and democracy in the region need to commit long-term resources to CSOs to engender institutional stability and a more robust organizational capacity.
2. **Building Strong Civil Society Networks**
   Stronger national, regional, and international networks are required to create additional synergies capable of providing pragmatic alternatives to autocratic government policies.

3. **Supporting Democratic Transitions**
   An enhanced supportive role from the international community to civil society groups that promote good-governance could facilitate broader democratization in the sub-region.

4. **Increasing the Role of Women and Youth in Peacemaking**
   Greater support to a wider CSO constituency that includes gender-based organizations that advance and protect the interests of women and children, would ensure more productive peacebuilding processes.

5. **Undertaking Natural Resource Management, Land Reform and Democratization**
   Increased international support for land reform initiatives and better management of natural resources is essential to bridging the gaps and reducing tensions among ethnic communities and helping resolve major causes of conflicts in the region.

6. **Establishing Strategic Alliances with Governments**
   To impact public policy and decision-making, CSOs – without sacrificing their independence – need to develop strategic partnerships with governments in promoting good governance, protecting human rights, and advancing economic reform.
1. Introduction

The International Peace Academy (IPA) organized a half-day Civil Society Dialogue (2004 Dialogue) for civil society activists from the Great Lakes region of Africa in New York on 26 March 2004. It featured seven civil society actors from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda and drew participants from the United Nations community and academics from institutions within the New York area. The meeting was a follow-up to the IPA seminar, “Peace, Security, and Governance in the Great Lakes Region,” which took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 15–17 December 2003.1

The 2004 Dialogue is part of IPA's Ruth Forbes Young Civil Society Fellowship Program, an initiative that seeks to build the capacity of civil society leaders in Africa to engage more actively in conflict prevention and peacebuilding on the continent.

The aims of the 2004 meeting were to:

a. Assess the role of civil society in conflict prevention, management, and peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region;
b. Evaluate the relationship among civil society groups with regional and sub-regional organizations;
c. Enable the civil society activists and participants to share experiences and expertise; establish networks; and take stock of their capacities, challenges, and opportunities for peacemaking, peacebuilding, and democratization in the region;
d. Provide an opportunity for the UN community to gauge the interest and readiness of the CSOs in the Great Lakes region to effectively engage in processes such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR); and
e. Offer recommendations for improving capacity in conflict management and good governance efforts.

While many challenges persist, progress has been made in a number of countries. In Rwanda and Burundi, women’s organizations were at the forefront of the reconciliation and integration efforts. In Kenya, CSOs had been instrumental in fostering the democratic transition and are still exerting considerable influence in the debates on public issues. The concerted efforts of Ugandan CSOs as both pressure and opposition groups, were instrumental in government’s agreement to return to a multiparty political system by 2006. In the DRC, CSOs were part of the negotiations that led to the establishment of the Transitional Government in 2002.

Background to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes region, comprised of Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the DRC, Kenya, and Tanzania, has since 1996 been the scene of violent and protracted conflicts. In August 1998, many of these countries became even more embroiled in a war in the DRC in which Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi sought to remove the late President Laurent Kabila from power, and Zimbabwe, Angola, and Namibia intervened on Kabila’s behalf. Chad and Sudan, which are non-regional members, also entered the conflict on the side of the DRC government, but withdrew their forces in the early stages of the war. The nature, scope, and complexity of this war led to its description by regional observers as “Africa’s First World War.”

The ultimate effects of these conflicts have been the destruction of the socio-political order in the region, widespread looting of economic resources, the erosion of the states’ legitimacy, the weakening of international borders, empowerment of militia and private

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1 See, International Peace Academy (IPA), Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (Kenya), African Dialogue Centre for Conflict Management and Development (Tanzania), Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (Tanzania), UN Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (Cameroon), and Centre for Conflict Resolution (South Africa), Peace, Security, and Governance in the Great Lakes Region, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, December 2003.

2 There is debate on the defining boundaries of the “Great Lakes region,” see IPA, Peace, Security, and Governance in the Great Lakes Region, p.13.

The role of civil society in peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region

Introduction

armies, and the massive displacement of refugees across borders. In the DRC, the epicenter of the conflict, an estimated 3.5 million people have reportedly died due to war and war-related causes. In addition, the war has spawned more than 600,000 refugees and two million internally displaced persons.4

The nature, scope, and complexity of the DRC war led to its description by regional observers as “Africa’s First World War.”

Despite numerous efforts, peace has been elusive in many of the conflict-ridden areas. The South African-led African Union (AU) peacekeeping and mediation effort in Burundi has sought to implement the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi and The Pretoria Protocol on Political, Defense and Security Power Sharing in Burundi of August 2000 and November 2003, respectively. However, as evidenced by continued fighting between the Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu – Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU-FNL) and the Tutsi-dominated army, these peace agreements do not enjoy the consent of all parties. Instability and war in northern Uganda have persisted for 18 years even as the government conducts a military campaign inside Sudan in pursuit of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels. Finally, Rwanda’s democratic transition remains fragile after the 1994 genocide in which almost one million people, mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were killed.5

The protracted and regionalized conflict in the Great Lakes region has underscored the importance of the IC/GLR, spearheaded by the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for the region, Mr. Ibrahima Fall. The main objective of the IC/GLR is to create a Stability, Security and Development Pact, which will address four key areas: peace and security, democracy and governance, economic development and regional integration, and humanitarian and social issues.6 To prepare for the international conference, the Office of the SRSG consulted with several of the region’s CSOs to ensure their representation in the conference. The consultations were also to collate contributions from CSOs to develop policy responses and programs toward resolving the region’s conflicts. Participants at the New York meeting were encouraged by the inclusion of CSOs in the preparatory process of the conference; they echoed the sentiments of CSOs in the region that viewed it as a hopeful sign that the conference had brought its deliberations closer to the populations in an effort to end the stalemates in the region.7

The role of civil society in peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region

2. Civil Society Organizations, Democratization, and Conflict Prevention

States in the Great Lakes region are at various stages of democratic transitions. Despite the significant role that CSOs have played in ensuring the resolution of conflict and consolidation of democratic practice, many governments in the region continue to hold the notion that governance and institution-building fall within their exclusive preserve. As participants noted, the democratic achievements in countries such as Kenya and Uganda have been largely due to pressures from civil society.

2.1 Uganda

In 2006, Uganda’s no-party political system is to be replaced by a multi-party system. If this actually happens, it will be a turning point in the county’s political history, which has been characterized by the abrogation of constitutions, civilian and military dictatorships, military coups, and a protracted civil war. Between 1985 and 1995, civil society actively engaged government in demanding democratic reforms, which eventually led to the freeing of political space. The emphasis on accountability and transparency in national life has facilitated steps towards the reform process and the introduction of political pluralism. Civic and human rights education programs by CSOs, especially in the constitution-making process, helped create higher levels of awareness among Ugandans about their civic and political rights.

Action for Development (ACFODE), a women’s non-governmental organization, and the National Organization for Civic Education and Election Monitoring (NOCEM) conducted public education campaigns countrywide to assess and enlist people’s views for inclusion in the constitution. ACFODE published a newsletter, The Link Bulletin, which synthesized views from the public and regularly distributed them to the Constituent Assembly.


9 The Group of Friends, established by Canada, is made up of representatives of the UN and its specialized agencies, the African Union, international financial institutions, and 28 countries. Its objective is to provide and coordinate the political, diplomatic, and technical support the member countries of the conference will require (available at http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/0/496ff33b1e64cbe9c1256df20052e91f?OpenDocument, 14 December 2004).


delegates. It also organized television programs on the constitutional debates. The work of developmental NGOs also engendered new grassroots advocacy initiatives and fostered political, civic, and economic empowerment.

Currently, however, the expectation for a credible democratic transition is threatened by President Yoweri Museveni’s declared intention to amend the constitution in order to allow him to contest elections for another term. The participants at the 2004 Dialogue noted that the prospects for peace and sustainable development in the entire country hinge on a change of attitude by the government to the democratization process.

2.2 Kenya

Kenya, which gained political independence from Britain in 1963, became a one-party state in 1969 when the sole opposition party, the Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) was banned, leaving the Kenya Africa National Union (KANU) as the sole political party. Following the death of former President Jomo Kenyatta in 1978, civil society began agitating for democratic transformation. CSOs such as the Green Belt Movement, the Law Society of Kenya, and National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), resisted KANU’s one party dictatorship by mobilizing the citizens both in the rural and urban areas to demand political reforms.

In a bid to muzzle and control civil society organizations, the KANU government, in 1990, enacted a Non-Governmental Coordination Act, which in effect sought to limit CSO operations. Opposition to the act led to the formation of strong political pressure groups, such as the Forum for Restoration of Democracy (FORD). FORD, together with the Green Belt Movement, the Law Society, and the NCCK, began to organize protests and mass demonstrations for democratic pluralism. The protests ultimately made a major headway in favor of political pluralism. In 1990 and 1991 the government appointed a review committee, which recommended the introduction of multiparty democracy.

Multiparty elections were held in 1992 and 1997; KANU won both of these elections but elections monitors and the opposition described them as largely fraudulent. Despite these setbacks, CSOs continued to put pressure on the government for increased accountability, and also exposed cases of corruption and human rights abuses. This ultimately weakened KANU’s grip on power, and in 2002, civil society groups helped in the formation of a political coalition of opposition alliances, the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), which defeated KANU.

While CSOs have significantly impacted the democratization process in Kenya as evidenced, democracy and civil activism cannot be described as fully entrenched. The challenge for Kenya, one panelist emphasized, has been that most of the leaders of CSOs who were instrumental in fostering democracy left their civil society groups to join the government. CSO ranks since then started to weaken. Nevertheless, a large number of Kenya’s development NGOs are still playing increasingly significant roles in advocacy at the grassroots level and in sustaining democratization and peacebuilding efforts.

3. Civil Society Organizations in Mediation and Peacebuilding

CSOs have also been actively involved in negotiating for peace and constructing a viable post-conflict environment in the region. Principally, faith-based institutions and women’s groups have reached across national borders to mediate conflicts and engage in reconciliation, humanitarian action, and advocacy within their countries.

3.1 Rwanda

In Rwanda, the churches have sought to construct a viable and hospitable post-conflict environment through humanitarian intervention during and after the genocide. They were also centrally involved in promoting integration and assuaging the distressed population. Muslim groups, an often-obscure...
constituency in a largely Christian country\textsuperscript{13}, also played crucial roles in saving lives by maintaining peace in their areas and providing humanitarian assistance for escapees.

3.2 Burundi

Women’s groups have mostly been in the forefront of demobilization and reintegrating former combatants in Burundi.\textsuperscript{15} An All-Party Burundi Women’s Conference in 2000 confronted issues such as gender-based violence and focused on peacemaking actors in their responsibilities to protect women and children. The conference discussed women’s rights in the constitution, sex discrimination, and women’s participation in political life. The Burundi Women Refugee Network, which was granted observer status during the Arusha negotiations, met with political representatives during the negotiations and urged them to integrate gender issues into the discussions and the official peace plans. The Coalition of Women’s Organizations and NGOs (CAFOB) also agitated positively to be represented in the male-dominated negotiations at Arusha.\textsuperscript{16}

3.3 Uganda

In Uganda, CSOs were at the forefront of exposing human rights violations and advocating for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the north. Through their lobbying, government offered amnesty to the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) leaders in 1998 and 1999 – although the amnesty law was amended in 2003 to exclude the LRA leader, Joseph Kony, which subsequently led to considerable reversals in the mediation process.\textsuperscript{17} The Church of Uganda and the Uganda Joint Christian Council were particularly instrumental in the peacemaking efforts. While the Church has provided humanitarian assistance to the victims of the LRA rebellion and the general population in northern Uganda, the Council was in the forefront of advocating for reconciliation.\textsuperscript{18}

\textsuperscript{13} Muslims in Rwanda constitute only 4.6 percent of the population [see, US Department of State, “Rwanda: Inter-religious Freedom Report” (available at http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2004/35377.htm, 6 December 2004)].

\textsuperscript{14} Apophia Twiine, “Civil Society, the State, and Post-Genocide Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Rwanda,” presentation at the IPA Civil Society Dialogue, 26 March 2004, New York.


\textsuperscript{18} Bainomugisha, “Civil Society, Conflict Prevention, and the Democratic Transition in Uganda.”
3.4 Cross-Border Initiatives

An equally important feature of CSOs in the Great Lakes region is the propensity to reach outside national borders to engage in conflict mediation. The Africa Peace Forum (APFO) of Kenya has been deeply involved in the conflict management initiatives in Somalia and Sudan, while the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, a Tanzania-based organization, has been active in mediation efforts in Burundi and Rwanda. In the DRC, civil society groups were engaged in the peace negotiations, including those in Arusha (Tanzania), Lusaka (Zambia), and Pretoria (South Africa) that ended with the signing of the Global and Inclusive Agreement on Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 2002. These collaborations testified to the positive outcomes of state/civil society cooperation in participatory peacebuilding initiatives.

4. Civil Society Organizations, Natural Resources Management, and Conflict Prevention

The mismanagement and plundering of the region’s natural resources underpin much of its conflicts and tensions. The defining feature of the resource-fueled conflicts in the region is the myriad interests tied to the DRC’s vast mineral and forest resources.

Participants acknowledged that even though conflict may arise for reasons other than the economic agendas of combatants, the available evidence suggests that economic interests of states and foreign companies often significantly prolong civil and regional wars – as in the Great Lakes. Less well known, but also important, are hardships engendered by expropriatory land tenure systems. Tanzania is a case in point where conflicts have arisen between the government and peasant populations over the state’s arbitrary transfer of rural lands for use in the Ujaama socialist projects after the country’s independence in 1960.

4.1 The Plunder of Minerals in the DRC

The DRC has large deposits of diamonds, gold, silver, iron, zinc, copper, cobalt, columbite-tantalite (coltan), manganese, bauxite, uranium, and radium. Private external companies and regional states have competed for access to these resources, often through the financing of the country’s rebel groups or other proxy armies. These hostile interests have actively looted the DRC’s minerals resources to finance their involvement in the conflicts, including the purchase of weapons and recruitment of troops. Between 1997 and 2000, the global sales of coltan reached $90 million, a significant percentage of which was reported to have been retained by regional armies and their foreign intermediaries. A UN expert panel report on the illegal exploitation of the DRC’s natural resources found that Rwanda and Uganda, neither diamond nor copper producers, plundered enough of the minerals from the DRC to become leading

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exporters themselves. According to the UN report, the principal countries that were pillaging these resources – Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda - used methods such as forced labor of captured prisoners and even murder to acquire the resources.

The UN expert panel report on illegal exploitation of natural resources in the DRC found that Rwanda and Uganda, neither diamond nor copper producers, plundered enough of the minerals from the DRC to become leading exporters themselves.

4.2 Land Management and Democratization in Tanzania

The introduction in 1960 of the Ujaama policy in Tanzania – a program in which rural villages and their economies were reorganized along socialist lines – illustrates the detrimental results of unpopular public land management and resource governance policies. Under Tanzania’s first president, Julius Nyerere, the country resettled large rural populations in reserves, against pressure and resistance from the peasant peoples. The government’s land management policies also created large national conservation parks and game reserves that took away 240,000 square kilometers, or 26 percent of the land area of Tanzania, from rural farming. This resulted in severe hardship as many of the peasants lost their homes, pastures, and hunting grounds.

In the last decades, as the government has begun to moderate its land-use policies, some members of Tanzanian civil society have sought to spur the development of democracy through responsible management of environmental resources. In particular, Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) has been working to reduce stringent land management regulations in order to promote the prevention of environmentally induced conflicts in Tanzania. In addition, as part of efforts to ensure that citizens are able to participate in public affairs, the country’s CSOs, especially LEAT and Pact, a local wing of an international NGO of the same name, were supported by the United States Agency for International Development to develop guidelines on the public policymaking processes in Tanzania. The project enhanced CSOs understanding of existing government structures and influenced public policy and decision-making. The Good Governance Coordination Unit in the President’s office was receptive to this project, as with similar ones that have facilitated the democratization process.

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22 Ibid.
5. Policy Recommendations and the Way Forward

Despite many impediments, the CSOs of the Great Lakes region are an increasingly strong constituency of stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions for peace and good governance. With the complex, interlocking and regional nature of the Great Lakes conflicts, the spillover across national boundaries of small arms, the large refugee movements, inadequate physical space for the populations, and environmental destruction from the exploitation and plundering of the region’s natural resources, the positive record of CSOs in various regional and international initiatives has underscored their relevance in on-going peacebuilding efforts. Therefore, participants urged greater involvement of CSOs in the broader national, regional, and international efforts at finding resolutions to conflicts and the promotion of good governance. A number of key policy recommendations were advanced:

5.1 Securing Long-Term Funding

Development partners interested in promoting peace, security, and democracy, need to commit long term and substantive resources to CSOs to engender institutional stability and strengthen organizational capacity, including personnel training and technology transfers. Lack of committed, long-term funding is a major handicap that inhibits the effectiveness of CSOs involved in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region.

5.2 Building Strong Civil Society Networks

CSOs in the region will benefit from networking with international partners. Their collaborations help amplify CSO voices in advocacy of human rights and democracy. Stronger national, regional, and international networks would create additional synergies capable of providing pragmatic alternatives to autocratic government policies. Such networks could more successfully place pressure on governments for policy changes. In addition, collaborations could also facilitate the sharing of information and resources, which would enhance capacity and efficiency of individual CSOs.

5.3 Supporting Democratic Transitions

An enhanced supportive role from the international community to civil society groups that promote good-governance could facilitate broader democratization in the sub-region. The Kenyan and Ugandan experiences demonstrate the potential of CSOs to foster democratic transitions. Despite the harassment and intimidation of civil society groups by the former Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, and the frustration they faced under Museveni’s government in Uganda, the support of external actors has helped pressure the governments into introducing political reforms that opened the space for multi-party activism, or efforts towards it, in the two countries.

5.4 Increasing the Role of Women and Youth in Peacemaking

Lasting peace in the Great Lakes region could be advanced through more inclusive roles for women and youth in conflict prevention, management, and peacebuilding activities. Women and children are often the main victims of civil wars but are generally sidelined during peacemaking processes. Participants identified encouraging examples in Burundi, Rwanda,
and Kenya of women’s effective involvement in peacebuilding efforts. Greater support for these groups to participate in peace processes would therefore contribute to productive peacebuilding.

5.5 Undertaking Natural Resource Management, Land Reform, and Democratization

Transparency in the public management of natural resources, especially minerals, forests, and farmland would be a major step to reducing ethnic and political tensions in the Great Lakes region. Unrest and political agitation in most of the countries would decrease if governments and privileged groups accepted the critical need for fair and judicious use of national resources. Thus, attention to land reform and better management of natural resources would help bridge the gap and reduce the tensions among ethnic communities and between CSOs and governments in the region.

5.6 Establishing Strategic Alliances with Governments

CSOs – without sacrificing their independence – should endeavor to develop strategic alliances and partnerships with governments to impact public policy and decision-making. Relations between the state and CSOs in the region have historically been antagonistic, with civil society groups pressing government for political reforms and demanding new leadership. The confrontational nature of these relationships often hampers the ability to influence policy decisions nationally and regionally. APFO in Kenya and Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) in Uganda, are examples of organizations that have established productive relations with their respective governments, but yet have been careful to not compromise their institutional independence.

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Policy Recommendations and the Way Forward
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<th>Acronym</th>
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<td>ACFODE</td>
<td>Action for Development (Uganda)</td>
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<td>ACODE</td>
<td>Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (Uganda)</td>
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<td>APFO</td>
<td>Africa Peace Forum (Kenya)</td>
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<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<td>CAFOB</td>
<td>Coalition of Women’s Organizations (Burundi)</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>DRC</td>
<td>The Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
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<td>FORD</td>
<td>Forum for Restoration of Democracy (Kenya)</td>
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<td>IC/GLR</td>
<td>(United Nations) International Conference on the Great Lakes Region</td>
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<td>IPA</td>
<td>International Peace Academy</td>
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<td>KADU</td>
<td>Kenya Africa Democratic Union</td>
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<td>KANU</td>
<td>Kenya Africa National Union</td>
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<td>LEAT</td>
<td>Lawyers Environmental Action Team (Tanzania)</td>
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<td>LRA</td>
<td>Lord’s Resistance Army (Uganda)</td>
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<td>NARC</td>
<td>National Rainbow Coalition (Kenya)</td>
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<td>NCCK</td>
<td>National Council of Churches in Kenya</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>PALIPEHUTU-FNL</td>
<td>Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu – Forces nationales de libération (Burundi)</td>
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<td>SRSG</td>
<td>Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General</td>
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ANNEX II: Agenda

26 March 2004

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  Welcome Remarks
Ambassador David M. Malone, President, International Peace Academy
Opening Address
H.E. Mr. Jarno Sareva, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

Session I: Civil Society, Democratization, and Conflict Prevention
Chair: Dr. Ruth Iyob, Director, Africa Program, International Peace Academy

Mr. Arthur Bainomugisha, Ruth Forbes Young Civil Society Fellow,
International Peace Academy, “Civil Society, Conflict Prevention, and
Democratic Transition in Uganda”

Ms. Betty Muragori, Director, Sienna Associates Research and Consultancy, Kenya,
“Civil Society, Democratic Transition, and Consolidation in Kenya:
Comparative Lessons”

Mr. Tundu Lissu, Lawyers Environmental Action Team, Tanzania,
“Government Management of Natural Resources and Conflict Prevention
in the Great Lakes Region”

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm  Session II: Civil Society and Conflict Mediation
Chair: Dr. Ruth Iyob, Director, Africa Program, International Peace Academy

Ms. Catherine Mabobori, Member of Parliament, Burundi, “The Role of
Women’s Organizations in the Peace Processes in Burundi”

Ms. Caroline Lamwaka, New Vision, Uganda, and Center for Conflict Prevention
and Peace Studies, Gulu University, Uganda, “Building Peace From Below:
The Role of Civil Society in Peacemaking in Northern Uganda”

4:15 pm -5:00 pm  Session III: Civil Society and Peacebuilding
Chair: Dr. Ruth Engo, Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations, New York

Mr. Batabiha Bushoki Josiah, Africa Initiative Program, Kenya,
“The Role of Civil Society in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding in the
Democratic Republic of the Congo”
Ms. Apophia Twiine, Center for Conflict Management, National University of Rwanda, Rwanda, “Civil Society, the State, and Post-Genocide Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Rwanda”

5:00 pm – 5:45 pm  Session IV: Civil Society and Regionalized Conflicts

Chair: Dr. Gilbert Khadiagala, Director, African Studies Program, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.


Dr. Yasser Sabra, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations, New York, “Briefing on the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, with an Emphasis on the Role of Civil Society.”

5:45 pm – 6:30 pm  The Way Forward
ANNEX III: Panelists

1. Mr. Arthur Bainomugisha
   Civil Society Fellow, International Peace Academy

2. Mr. Batabiha Bushoki Josiah
   Africa Initiative Program, Nairobi, Kenya (representing the Democratic Republic of the Congo)

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