



A CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE INITIATIVE

Strategic Leadership and Peace Agenda for 2012, and Beyond: Strengthening Coordination and Leadership Towards Peaceful Elections and Successful Political Transition in Kenya, 2012/2013



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Dedication

To all Kenyans and Friends of Kenya

Foreword

Nothing so far in human history has preoccupied the minds of both men and women than the pursuit of peace. According to Dalai Lama the 14th, "Human Beings, indeed all sentient beings, have the right to pursue happiness and live in peace and freedom." In a related supposition, Daisaku Ikeda, a Buddhist leader, prolific writer, educator and more notably a peace builder, concurs with this assessment stating that, "Nothing is more precious than peace. Peace is the most basic starting point for the advancement of humankind."

The world over, Governments, States, Nations and their Peoples are in constant search for peace. In an ever competitive world, it is evident that the world is turning more and more towards non-confrontational means of conflict resolution. Kenya is no exception.

Despite the myriads of conflicts that Kenya faces as a result of various factors including security, politics, economics, socio-culture, environment, law, technology among others; there is need for peace and stability. This is in the realization that there is a strong security-peace-development nexus. As Kenya proceeds on the path of the Reform Agenda that will see the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya whose promulgation was done in August 2010, there is consensus within the general public and international community that Kenya needs peace.

Over the years, electoral and political processes in Kenya have been riddled with tensions, conflicts and acts of violence. The main challenge facing most Kenyans today is that associated with the 2012/2013 elections. There is recognition, among key stakeholders, of the fact that some of the factors that contributed to the 2007/2008 electoral violence have not been adequately addressed. There is, therefore, need for stakeholders to adequately analyze these issues and plan for possible scenarios with the objective of preventing violent conflicts. Additionally, reconciling divided communities and promoting peace, integration and cohesion by way of creating spaces for dialogue and empowering citizens through civic education and civic engagement in critical national and local processes on cohesion and integration, governance, conflict prevention and peaceful-co-existence

remains our critical undertaking.

The UWIANO Platform for Peace acknowledges the enormity of this challenge and is keen to mobilize actors towards conflict prevention with a view to deliver a peaceful election and political transition.

This UWIANO Leadership and Peace Agenda on Strengthening Co-ordination and Leadership Towards Peaceful Elections and Successful Political Transition in Kenya, 2012/2013” presents opportunities for strengthened leadership, coordination, collaboration and partnership in moving taking a leap into Kenya’s future in line with the Constitution of Kenya and Vision 2030 among other National Strategies and Blue Prints. It is our conviction that like-minded individuals, institutions and organizations will join us to deliver on this Agenda.

<i>Signed by Members of the UWIANO Principals’ Committee:</i>			
			
Mr. S.K. Maina, EBS., National Co-ordinator National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding & Conflict Management	Ms. Alice Nderitu, Commissioner National Cohesion and Integration Commission.	Mr. Steve Kirimi, Chief Executive Officer, PeaceNet Kenya	Mr. Roba Sharamo, Team Leader and Chief, Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Unit, UNDP Kenya.

1.0: Introduction

Although generally regarded as a relatively stable and peaceful country in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa, Kenya has in the past and in recent times experienced violent conflicts, some of which are regarded as low level and intermittent while others can be classified as high intensity. The low level and often incessant conflicts are mainly driven by competition for scarce natural resources like pasture and water for livestock, arable land, livestock and generally diminishing territories amongst the local communities mainly based in rural areas. Conflicts within the urban settlements and populations are majorly driven by factors such as the proliferation of informal settlements due to rapid rural-urban migration, bulging unemployed population without a stable source of income, extortionist rings, armed gangs and militia and scarcity of housing and basic social amenities.

On the other hand, high intensity violent conflicts are related to ethnic-based political competition for state control and public resources. These types of conflicts largely follow the 5 years electoral cycles and have been previously witnessed in 1991/1992, 1997/1998 and 2007/2008. In some instances, these conflicts have also tended to be exacerbated by additional factors, such as: poor leadership based on ethnicity and polarization; the erosion of existing mechanisms for local conflict management; long-standing land and identity disputes having acquired ethnic or clan dimensions; administrative and boundary units’ related resources; and the ineffective mechanisms for political and social dialogue among various interest groups and communities, especially with regard to perceptions of exclusion or marginalization. Often times, violent conflicts generally assume inter-communal dimensions with armed gangs and militia from different communities and identities emerging. This latter phenomenon is mainly associated with electoral and political processes, and is bound to raise its ugly head during the general elections to be held in Kenya 2012/2013.

The main effects of the conflicts in Kenya include: a divided and polarized society along ethnic and regional identities as opposed to shared national identities, common values and aspirations; exclusion and marginalisation of certain sections of society from state governance and economic development

especially ethnic minorities, women and the youth; slow economic growth and opportunities for meaningful employment of large sections of the population especially the youth; proliferation of armed gangs and militia comprising mainly of the unemployed and disenfranchised segments of the population who have contributed significantly to armed violence and crime; the conflicts along Kenya's highly porous and inadequately policed borders with neighbouring countries like Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Uganda have also contributed largely to the internal conflicts and crime within Kenya due to availability of illicit SALW; and in 2007/8, in the aftermath of the hotly disputed presidential elections, Kenya was plunged into violent conflict and anarchy which again manifested in the form of inter-ethnic struggle for state control and power. However, over the years, there have been various attempts to address some of the conflicts in Kenya. The establishment of the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (NSC), a multi-agency Committee housed within the Office of the President, Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security for purposes of coordinating peacebuilding and conflict management programmes countrywide. The NSC also doubles up as Kenya's Conflict Early Warning and Response Unit (CEWERU) that implements the IGAD-CEWARN Mechanism as provided for in the Protocol on the Establishment of Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism signed in Khartoum in January 2002. NSC has facilitated the establishment of Local Peace Committees that have continued to conduct peacebuilding and conflict management initiatives across the country. Collaborative efforts have also been undertaken by both state and non-state actors, including Commissions such as NCIC, TJRC, IEBC, CSOs, FBOs, CBOs, NGOs, private sector, regional organizations, and development partners, among others. In the recent past and in the aftermath of post elections violence in 2008, the electoral / political dispute was mediated with the participation of international community and local actors. The Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation (KNDR) process provided an opportunity to Kenya not only for immediate short term conflict resolution but has also set the stage for the reform agenda in the long-term, that would ensure a stable, peaceful and prosperous nation. In addition, the UWIANO Platform for Peace provided an opportunity and platform for both state and non-state actors to coalesce with the aim of preventing violent conflict around the National Referendum on Kenya's proposed Constitution.

The efforts of this partnership succeeded in ensuring a peaceful referendum processes and outcome.

2.0: Strategic Leadership and Peace Agenda for 2012, and Beyond: Strengthening Coordination and Leadership Towards Peaceful Elections and Successful Political Transition in Kenya, 2012/2013

The conflict scenario and interventions briefly described above present Kenya with challenges and opportunities for consolidating the peace processes and ensuring a peaceful and democratic political transition pre and post the next general election.

This Agenda seeks to address the following specific challenges among others:

1. The challenges of preventing electoral and political related violence with focus on prevention of recurrence of the electoral violence in the forthcoming electoral cycle, 2012/2013. There is recognition, among key stakeholders, of the fact that some of the factors that contributed to the 2007/8 electoral violence have not been adequately addressed. There is therefore need for stakeholders to adequately analyze these issues and plan for possible scenarios with the objective of preventing violent conflicts.
2. Reconciling divided communities and promoting integration and cohesion by way of creating spaces for dialogue and empowering citizens through civic education and civic engagement in critical national and local processes on cohesion and integration, governance, conflict prevention and peaceful-co-existence.

3.0: Opportunities for Engagement

There are many opportunities in Kenya for managing conflicts and consolidating the peace processes that would, if successful, ensure peace prevails in Kenya particularly in the run-up to the forthcoming general elections. This proposal will take cognizance of the various initiatives geared towards a peaceful election. It will be anchored on the existing initiatives and take advantage of the following opportunities:

3.1: The on-going Reform Agenda

The 2008 Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation Agreement recognizes and captures the structural issues facing Kenya. It therefore establishes the key challenges the country needs to address to prevent future violence and to lay the foundations for effective democracy, and economic opportunities in the country. As a consequent, there are a series of reforms that are on-going including the implementation of the Constitution; establishing a raft of institutions such as the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), Commission on Implementation of the Constitution (CIC), Judicial Service Commission (JSC) among others. These institutions are currently discharging their mandates and have instilled some level of confidence among Kenyans in line with the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation (KNDR) process. UWIANO Platform shall continue to support this important process.

3.2: The National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response System (NCEWERS)

The NSC through the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security is currently implementing the NCEWERS in domestication of the IGAD-CEWARN Mechanism as provided for in the CEWARN Protocol. All DPCs have been trained on the application of the system and are feeding in information on a daily basis, 24/7. The NSC has also partnered with Safaricom Limited and the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) through the SMS short code 108. Through this system, information on early warning is collected, collated, analysed, interpreted and disseminated for timely response. Consultations with other service providers, YU, Airtel, Orange and Telkom will also be finalised to complement this system.

3.3: Emerging Initiatives for Peaceful Elections

There are several peace campaigns and initiatives geared towards peaceful general elections.. Such initiatives include: My Kenya (by KEPSA); Kenya Kwanza (by NCIC); Amani Lazima (by Sarakasi Trust); Secure and Peaceful elections in Kenya, towards 2012 and beyond, (an initiative of PeaceNet,

Saferworld et al); Uchaguzi, Brand Kenya campaign, among others. In addition, there are a series of initiatives related to coordination of conflict early warning and response under the auspices of the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response System. Most of these initiatives have adopted a campaigns nature mostly through media and other community level activities. Some have an element of conflict monitoring and reporting but without a mechanism for mobilizing early response especially at the national level. There is need to establish linkages among these initiatives, strengthen coordination with regard to information sharing with a view to ensure response. UWIANO will serve to provide this linkage.

The Uwiano Platform for Peace integrates Early Warning Mechanisms with Early Response modalities to diverse kinds of threats or conflict situations based on the strengths that each of the UWIANO partners bring on board. Through the PeaceNet structures, community level mediators will be deployed in complementing DPC interventions to mediate to address tensions within the local communities. The National Steering Community on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management is also able to mobilize a quick security response through their link with the Office of the President and the Peace Committees at the community level. This ensures that timely and adequate security response is provided as and when it is needed to avoid the escalation of conflicts into violence. The National Cohesion and Integration Commission, through its legislative mandate, is able to monitor hate-speech and incitement acts perpetuated, especially by the politicians; as well as provide the linkage to the political leadership. UNDP provides the link to a number of development partners together with the attendant technical and logistical support and facilitation. This enables the Uwiano Platform to provide all the adequate and necessary response to the early warning received.

3.4: Preparations for Conferences on Peaceful Elections

The Government, through the Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs; and the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security is making preparations for a National Conference on Peaceful Elections in mid 2012. This will be preceded by stakeholder forums

all the other lower level units ranging from the Sub-Locations, Locations, Divisions, Districts and Counties. The centrality of these communities, County and National Conversations cannot be overemphasized for several reasons. Election related conflicts have contributed to great losses that have fractured Kenya's socio-cultural fabric and economic value systems. For example, the PEV of 2008 resulted in about 1500 people losing their lives. Property worth an approximate of Ksh.90 billion was destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people were internally displaced (IDPs) most of whom have not yet been resettled and continue to suffer physical and psychological trauma. The violence further fractured the trust that these communities had; the loss of many years of toil and investment appeared to eclipse hope for peaceful co-existence. Considering how sharp inequalities have made Kenyans susceptible to violence and prevented sustainable human development, all effort is needed to prevent conflicts in the 2012 elections. By advocating for peaceful elections, the conferences will forestall conflicts; and contribute towards building reconciliation and reconstruction and restore social and cultural relations necessary for peaceful co-existence.

3.5: The on-going Truth Justice and Reconciliation Process

In line with her mandate, the TJRC has collected statements from members of the public; and conducted public hearings in various parts of the country. The Commission is now moving into developing the National Reconciliation Agenda that will be included in its final report to be submitted to the Principals in May 2012. Currently, plans are underway to hold consultations that will inform the development of this Agenda. Most of the work that the Commission has done requires other critical actors to take it forward and ensure reconciliation and healing. UWIANO takes cognizance of this process and is keen to support its successful conclusion. UWIANO Platform for Peace will actively engage with the TJRC in preparing the populace for the receipt of the Report; and acceptance of the TJRC findings.

3.6: Capacity building and training of stakeholders

Since 2008, many stakeholders have conducted training for a wide range of actors ranging from Peace Committees, Task Forces on Small Arms and

Light Weapons, Security officers, political parties, Women, Youth, media among others. Most of the training has been targeted on specialized areas including conflict prevention, management and resolution; mediation and negotiation; conflict sensitive approaches to development; Do No Harm approaches; among others. It is anticipated that most of the actors therefore, are equipped with knowledge on conflict prevention and are able to serve as Kenya's voluntary "Peace Brigades" in reaching out to the entire public.

3.7: Kenya National Integrated Civic Education (K-NICE) Programme

An enlightened population has the capacity for resilience and making of informed choices. In this regard, the Government has embarked on a National Integrated Civic Education Programme for both public servants and the general population. K-NICE seeks to roll out a nationwide campaign to sensitize Kenyans on the provisions of the Constitution. Civic education is essential in creating the necessary civic awareness, reorienting the nationwide psyche for the new dispensation and engendering robust public engagement in the implementation process. It is also critical in facilitating fundamental national transformation and implementation of reforms.

4.0: The Uwiano Platform for Peace

In the lead-up to the 2010 national Referendum on Kenya's Proposed Constitution, NSC, NCIC; PeaceNet Kenya; and UNDP came together to establish a Platform for Peace, dubbed UWIANO. UWIANO, a Swahili word that connotes "cohesion", aptly championed a clarion call for Kenyans to "choose Kenya and to choose peace", a cry that many Kenyans embraced and owned. The interventions by Uwiano Platform for peace contributed significantly to the peaceful manner in which the referendum processes was conducted and its outcome.

The Platform was not only concerned with contributing towards delivery of a Peaceful National Referendum Process, but was keen to see to it that Peacebuilding and Conflict management initiatives were scaled up towards the next general elections and beyond. UWIANO therefore, is a conflict prevention and response strategy that provides space for a wide range of

partners, actors and stakeholders to build synergy and leverage their efforts for the prevention of violence and conflict in general, but with specific focus on that which relates to political activation in the short term.

The platform further recognizes the premiums placed on the forthcoming 2012/2013 general elections. It acknowledges the stakes placed on these elections based on the fact that Kenya will be ushering in a new system of governance. It also takes cognizance of the fact that these elections present Kenyans with the opportunity for a political transition. As a conflict prevention initiative therefore, UWIANO seeks to “reload” her strategy and provide a platform for strengthening coordination and leadership towards a peaceful election and successful political transition.

5.0: Justification for “Uwiano Reloaded”

UWIANO Platforms’ experience during the 2010 referendum demonstrated that through joint action, conflict and violence can be anticipated and successfully prevented. This focus, coupled with effective action by state institutions and civil society to ensure the organization of successful elections, the protection and promotion of human rights, the full utilization of the rights of the citizen to choose their leadership, will contribute to a transformative moment for Kenya. With the new Constitution, successful elections later in 2012 or early 2013 and political transition thereof will mark an important watershed for Kenya. It is therefore imperative that all stakeholders, including both state and non-state actors, come together to plan and work towards successful elections. Uwiano Platform commits to providing the spaces necessary for the stakeholders to develop harmonized and coordinated action plans to ensure that these aspirations become a reality.

The success of the Uwiano initiative in 2010 evidently inspired other initiatives locally, regionally and internationally. It therefore was a critical result that the partners scored and whose gains need to be safeguarded and promoted to the fullest extent possible. The emergence of initiatives reminiscent of Uwiano, put in place by various actors all geared towards ensuring peaceful elections in 2012/2013 is a good pointer at the need for coordinated action.

It suffices to mention that the Uwiano Platform has been tried and tested in mobilizing and coordinating peace building initiatives and providing conflict Early Warning Early Response mechanisms. It is therefore, imperative that the Platform be re-engineered to take the lead in ensuring that Kenyans engage in a Peaceful process during the forthcoming general elections.

6.0: Strategies for Delivering The Uwiano Agenda

- 6.1: Strengthen a partnership mechanism for promoting peace, national cohesion and integration;
- 6.2: Provide Kenyans with platforms for assessment and framing national peace, conflict, cohesion and integration issues in their neighborhoods;
- 6.3: Monitor and report on the contemporary peace, conflict, cohesion and integration issues;
- 6.4: Undertake Rapid Response to mitigate conflict;
- 6.5: Upgrade the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response System by setting up satellite County-based Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Systems;
- 6.6: Monitoring and Evaluation.

7.0: Objectives

The main objective of the UWIANO Platform is to provide a platform for coordination of peacebuilding, conflict management and cohesion initiatives for a peaceful Kenya. The specific objectives of the Platform are:

- 7.1: To promote solidarity for peace and strengthen early warning and early response mechanisms at all levels as a means for effective conflict prevention and intervention;
- 7.2: To strengthen partnerships at the National, County and community levels for peace, security and cohesion actors so as to bolster their role in peacebuilding, conflict and violence prevention;
- 7.3: To provide a platform for harmonizing existing interventions, initiatives and activities on conflict prevention and mitigation so as to maximize on synergetic relationships;

- 7.4: Upgrade the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response System by setting up satellite County-based Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Systems.

8.0: Priority Areas and Activities

To be able to realize these objectives, the Platform will undertake the following activities as captured in the UWIANO Work Plan for April 2012-March 2013. However, these activities will work towards complementing the work in progress by numerous other stakeholders across the country.

- i. Strengthen coordination and collaboration at the National, County, and Community levels;
- ii. Upgrade the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response System;
- iii. Establish county-based conflict early warning and early response systems in select Counties;
- iv. Support the facilitation of both County and Community assessments and mapping of conflict hotspots, issues and actors;
- v. Training and deployment of focal Persons/Monitors in hotspots and/or County level to monitor peace, conflict and hate speech;
- vi. Facilitate rapid/emergency response to conflict across the Country;
- vii. Engagement with the Political Parties Collaborative Leadership platform;
- viii. Media engagement;
- ix. Document, publish and disseminate information on the UWIANO Leadership and Peace Agenda;

9.0: Expected Outputs

- i. Timely collection, collation and dissemination of conflict early warning information;
- ii. Timely formulation and dissemination of conflict response

- options and strategies;
- iii. National, County and community level peace and security initiatives strengthened;
- iv. DPCs and CSOs supported in a timely and efficient manner to conduct inter-community peace dialogues.

10.0: Co-ordination and Collaboration

UWIANO shall enlist participation of the various other actors and stakeholders to promote the achievement of the objectives thereof both operationally and collaboratively; and strengthen coordination at the local level as well. To be able to do so, the Platform will engage with the partners as follows:

10.1: UWIANO Operational Team

Participation at the Operational level will target actors with leverage in a number of fields including response. These include the National Police Service (Kenya Police and Administration Police); National Intelligence Service (NIS); Independent Boundaries and Electoral Commission (IEBC); Saferworld;

10.2: UWIANO Collaborative Forum

This will provide space for the “UWIANO Expanded”. The Forum shall be convened on regular basis at the national level with a view to address pertinent issues of mutual interest and facilitate information dissemination. Participation will be drawn from among the following: Government Ministries and Departments; Semi-Autonomous Agencies; Commissions; Donor Working Group on Conflict Prevention; Humanitarian agencies; human rights organizations; Media Owners’ Association (MOA); Editors’ Guild; Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA); a wide range of CSOs; NGOs; FBOs; Development Partners; Regional Organizations; Research based Organizations; Academia; Political Parties Leadership Collaborative Forum; Secretariats of Political Parties; Registrar of Political Parties; UN Agencies; International organizations; Embassies, Counsels and High Commissions; Amkeni Wakenya, Women organizations, youth organizations; partners

steering initiatives on My Kenya, Uchaguzi, Kenya Kwanza Campaign, Brand Kenya, Mobile phone service providers including Safaricom, Airtel, Yu, Orange, Telkom; and other essential service providers.

10.3: Local Level Coordination

At the Local Level, coordination and linkage will be made with the respective security and intelligence teams at the Provincial, Regional, County, District and other lower levels; Local Peace Committees; CSOs; FBOs; CBOs; local NGOs; and the general public.

11.0: Resource Mobilization and Management

The Platform will seek to mobilize adequate resources for its activities. The management of the funds will be pooled through a common Facility to be administered by one of the Partners in line with acceptable financial and procurement regulations and guidelines.