

A PROGRAM OF THE
GLOBAL PEACE INITIATIVE OF WOMEN'S
YOUNG LEADERS PEACE COUNCIL

SUDAN YOUTH DIALOGUE REPORT

Laikipia Nature Conservancy & Spiritual Center Kenya

March 1-7, 2007

THE SUDAN YOUTH DIALOGUE

SUMMARY

In the first week of March, 2007, forty young people from Sudan participated in a youth dialogue at the Laikipia Nature Conservancy in Kenya. It was the first time young people between the ages of 20 and 35 from throughout Sudan were able to meet to discuss the situation in their country as major stakeholders.

The Sudan Youth Dialogue was the first program of the Young Leaders Peace Council (YLPC), an international network of young leaders committed to peacebuilding and promoting the role of youth in development issues. The Council was launched in October 2006 at the YLPC Retreat organized by GPIW prior to the UN Global Youth Leadership Summit in New York. The Council arose from GPIW's work with the United Nations on a series of youth leadership summits dedicated to mobilizing young people around the Millenium Development Goals and peace.

Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Great Rift Valley, the meeting was filled with vibrant discussions utilizing the MDG's as the basis. Sudanese youth from all regions met to exchange experiences and challenges, form partnerships, and build a network that would facilitate a positive role for youth to play in a way forward for their communities. They shared their concern in addressing issues of HIV/AIDS, gender, poverty and environment. The outcome of the meeting was the creation of the Sudan Youth Network for Development, where active members of society would work together to connect youth and development organizations for the common good and development of their nation. They appointed focal points for each region and agreed upon a mission statement and a set of priorities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the Sudan Youth Dialogue (SYD) was to form a network of youth to promote the MDG's and empower youth to make positive contributions towards community development. The meeting offered a platform for them to share their voices. The Sudan Youth Dialogue framework was built around the

Millennium Development Goals based on the premise that progress in development can support and enable an environment for peace.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL PRIORITIES

FOR YOUTH DELEGATES

MDG 1 – Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

MDG 3 – Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment

MDG 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS

MDG 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Delegates identified the need for capacity building and development training. Considerations included:

- Results oriented, implementation of training should be immediate
- Networking skills also valuable
- Self-sustainability – not to rely on external funding from international community
- Development of action plans and maintaining communication
- Sustainability of projects – leadership training and shared responsibility
- Teambuilding – how to inspire and mobilize others to action

Problem Solving Skills

Step 1: Define the problem - Will my problem be solved if X, Y, Z is done, will problem arise again?

Step 2: Analyze the problem - Levels, Actors/Stakeholders, Root Causes, Underlying factors, Factors, Scope, Stages – stage of problem in current situation, Fears, Who has power, Resources, Relationships, History of previous efforts and Spoilers – who can change efforts last minute

Step 3: Set Goals and Objectives - SMART Goals: Specific/Measurable/Achievable/Realistic/Time-bound

Step 4: Brainstorm options for objectives - Should be fast and participatory and creative

Step 5: Decide on a plan or course of action

Step 6: Develop an Action Plan - Who, what, where, when, how, and evaluation with an opportunity to incorporate feedback into plan

Members of the Young Leaders Peace Council

Delegates from Lebanon, Uganda, Japan and Nigeria joined the conference to share their experiences in dealing with the community building process through long-term development initiatives.

The main outcome of the Sudan Youth Dialogue was the creation of a “Sudanese Youth Network for Development”. The delegates agreed to the following Mission Statement:

“The youth of the Sudanese Youth Network for Development commit to making the Millennium Development Goals one of their objectives for developing the Sudanese community, and believes that dialogue is the base for understanding.”

The objectives of the Sudanese Youth Network for Development are to:

- Advocate for the Millennium Development Goals
- Use dialogue as a means to achieve the goals
- Use dialogue as a tool for peace building

- Raise the awareness of the MDG's
- To support the development of a youth forum in Sudan, which would respond to the need of youth.

The structure of the Network will include:

- A focal point for each region
- Three coordinators to communicate with the focal points and the Young Leaders Peace Council.