

Inspire

Ending Poverty, Enriching Children: Inspire. Act. Change.



GNRC Fourth Forum Newsletter

Issue No. 5

April 2012

Interfaith Cooperation for a Better World for Children

Leading Lights and Child Rights Defenders Expected at the GNRC Fourth Forum

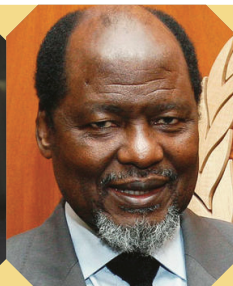
By GNRC Fourth Forum Newsletter Team



Dr. Marta Santos Pais



Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba



H.E. Joachim Chissano



Prof. Dr. Anna Tibaijuka



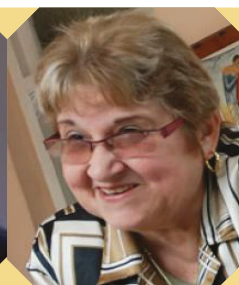
H.E. Amb. Stephen Lewis



Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad



Rev. Keishi Miyamoto



H.E. Ofelia Ortega



H.E. Dr. Sam Kobia



His Grace Bishop Dr.
Method Kilaini



Dr. Graca Machel



H.E. Dr. Salim Ahmed
Salim

Dr. Graca Machel, Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, H.E. Ofelia Ortega, H.E. Dr. Sam Kobia, His Grace Bishop Dr. Method Kilaini, H.E. Amb. Stephen Lewis, H.E. Joachim Chissano, Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba, Dr. Marta Pais Dos Santo, Prof. Anis Ahmad, Prof. Anna Tibaijuka and Father Leonidas Ortis will join a group of distinguished presenters and participants from around the world at the GNRC Fourth Forum in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania next month. The Forum, billed as an interfaith meeting of its kind in the World—and of course Africa—will be attended by participants from 65 countries.

Co-patrons Dr. Salim A. Salim and Bishop Dr. Method Kilaini are eagerly awaiting the chance to welcome the visitors in Dar es Salaam, where together, they will work out a common strategy to eradicate extreme forms of child poverty.

The GNRC Fourth Forum comes in the backdrop of mixed progress made in the MDG process, with a significant number of countries remaining off-track in their quest to achieve some of the targets by 2015. The Forum comes at a time when economic and financial crises in the West, transformations in the Arab World, and modest economic development in parts of Africa and Asia have negatively affected or will still not lead us to the full achievement of the MDGs by the 2015 target year.

The Forum's organizing committee has identified three key areas to focus on, which keep children in poverty: unequal distribution of resources, war and violence, and poor governance. The Forum will critically focus on the unjust socio-economic structures which have, in turn given rise to systemic structures of injustice, impeding the fight against poverty.

At the Forum, new partnerships that specifically address child poverty will be discussed and existing ones will be looked at with the intention of scaling them up. The partnerships to be reviewed and discussed in Dar es Salaam will go beyond the MDG's 2015 target year, and they will also attempt to go beyond the conventional economic approaches to addressing poverty.

Young Peace Club Members Discuss Measures to Promote Peace in Garissa, Kenya

By GNRC Fourth Forum Newsletter Team

Children and Youth from six schools in Kenya's Garissa county last week converged at the Garissa Children's home for a peace building workshop with the theme: *"Analyzing the relationship between conflict and poverty."*

Mr. Akoko Jonah, the Provincial Youth Director officially opened the workshop whose participants were mostly students and members of various peace clubs in Garissa. They shared knowledge on poverty, conflict and violence based on their experiences as inhabitants of the conflict prone region.

Storytelling, group work and role plays are some of the methods applied in the workshop to express clan-based conflicts and other types of conflicts whereas mitigation strategies such as collaboration, competition, compromise, accommodation and avoidance were also discussed. Interesting to note were the diverse opinions on poverty expressed, in which some saw poverty as the absence of basic material things such as food, water, clothing and employment opportunities while others saw it as the deprivation/decadence of spiritual life. Participants therefore agreed to take the following measures for the good of their society:

- To plant seeds of collaboration among children and young people from diverse regions of Somalia/Somaliland and Kenya in order to promote peaceful co-existence.
- To raise the profile of children and youth as active peace part-

ners in Somalia/Somaliland and Kenya.

- To establish avenues in which children and youth from different backgrounds can meet and interact to build a culture of peace in Somalia/Somaliland and Kenya.
- To build a culture of peace and understanding among the children and youth by seeking guidance from their elders, thus co-opting them as partners.
- To understand issues affecting children and youth and reject those that can lead to the breach of peace.
- To sustain peace education as a poverty reduction strategy at grassroots level.
- To enhance the capacity of children and young people in Somalia/Somaliland and to effectively communicate through the mass media – especially radio.

Garissa is the capital of North Eastern Province (NEP) and is home to the Daadab refugee camp which holds over 300, 000 refugees mostly from Somalia.

Mr. Abdi Noor Adan, the District Youth Officer, also addressed the workshop and urged the youth to take advantage of the government's Youth Enterprises Development Fund in order to benefit from vocational training opportunities.



Photo: ACRL—RfP

Challenges Faced by Urban Children

By Hawa Noor

The recently released “State of the World’s Children - *Children in an Urban World*,” 2012 report by UNICEF informs us that over a half of the World’s people including more than a billion children now live in cities and towns and whose population continues to increase every year, especially in the Asian and African continents.

Most people move to urban areas in search of better education, medical and recreational facilities, employment and other social amenities that they do not have access to in their rural environments. However, the reality is that, due to economic pressure, most people living in urban areas lack basic facilities such as access to good housing and clean water, food, electricity and health care even though they live close to those services.

According to the report, many children living in urban areas are forced into exploitative work instead of attending school, with hundreds of millions of them in impoverished urban settings confronting violations of their rights which are often concealed. In 2010 alone, nearly 8 million children died before reaching the age of 5—mostly from pneumonia, diarrhea or birth complications — factors that are driven by

high concentrations of poverty. Other challenges include: migration, economic crises, urban violence, disaster risks among others.

For many reasons, whether evading poverty, violent conflict or disaster, children just like adults escape to search for better livelihoods although other reasons such as the loss of a parent or a difficult situation at home play significant roles.

“Many children living in urban areas are forced into exploitative work instead of attending school, with hundreds of millions of them in impoverished urban settings confronting violations of their rights which are often concealed.”

Both ways, some of those who move unaccompanied face greater risk of exploitation and abuse and may end up working as opposed to attending school, which they find unachievable after migration to urban areas. In extreme circumstances, some may be lured into joining armed gangs and engaging in crime or drug abuse without full knowledge of the consequences.

The adverse effects of urban violence on children is not to be un-

derestimated as it affects their growth and confidence whether as target, witnesses or participants of such violence, which translates to poor performance in schools, aggression and lack of self control. As listed in the report, the following are some of the measures that policymakers and other stakeholders can take to promote the development of urban children and secure their rights:

- Improve the understanding of the scale and nature of urban poverty and exclusion affecting children.
- Use the improved understanding of exclusion to identify and remove the barriers to inclusion that prevent marginalized children and their families from using services and enjoying such core elements of citizenship, legal protection and security of housing tenure.
- Maintain a sharp focus on the particular needs and priorities of children in urban planning, infrastructure development, service delivery and broader efforts to reduce poverty and disparity.
- Promote partnership between the urban poor and government at all its levels.



Ending Poverty, Enriching Children: Inspire. Act. Change.

Photo: ACRL—RfP

Guatemala holds a Girls Consultation Meeting on Poverty to Better Understand the Fourth Forum Theme

In the Latin American region, a group of twenty seven indigenous girls aged between twelve and twenty from the Ecclesiastical Leadership School, in Cienaga Grande, Guatemala held a one day consultation meeting on poverty and how it affects them. This is a contribution to the upcoming GNRC Fourth Forum to be held in Tanzania.

They all came from the minority ethnic groups of Q'eqchi, Quiche and Q'anjobal.

Reflections on "A path to knowing oneself" and "My position and the concept of poverty?" dominated the agenda including personal testimonies and dialogue where the girls also had the opportunity to express their wishes.

Interestingly, they all mentioned three things that they wished to have i.e. clean drinking water and better accommodation with fixed showers so that they and their siblings can have a more comfortable atmosphere to live. They also wished for education in order to tackle poverty that they said deprives them of many available opportunities.



A point that also came out clearly was the fact that economic factors are not the only characteristics of poverty but rather a series of social and emotional circumstances that affect self-improvement such as morality and spirituality.

In Guatemala, many families live in poverty. Unfortunately, the government does not see it as a priority to empower the youth even though 28% of the population (4.2 million) are young people of ages between 15 to 19 years.



Story and Photos: GNRC Fourth Forum Newsletter Team

About Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the GNRC Fourth Forum Co-Patron

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim is the co-patron of the GNRC Fourth Forum and the former Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity prior to which he served for 27

years in public office in the United Republic of Tanzania.

He has served as the Chief Mediator for the Inter-Sudanese Political Talks on Darfur after which he was



appointed the African Union Special Envoy with the mandate to re-energise the Political Process in Darfur. Dr. Salim also served for many years in the Tanzanian diplomatic service, which he steered

as Minister for Foreign Affairs for four years from 1980.

At the international level, he has served as a Member of the Commonwealth Expert Group on Democracy and Development, as the Chairman of the Commonwealth Observer Group for the National Assembly and Presidential Elections in Nigeria and as a Member of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change appointed by the United Nations Secretary General.

During his service at the United Nations, Dr. Salim was elected President of the United Nations Security Council in January 1976 and went on to serve as President of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 1979. During his one year tenure of office, he also presided over the Sixth and Seventh Emergency Special Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in January and July 1980 respectively. In September 1980, he equally presided over the Eleventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Currently, he is the chairman of the Board of Trust-

ees of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and is the Chancellor of the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University and Chairperson of the Board of the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy.

Today, he continues to serve as:

- Member, African Union Panel of the Wise.
- President, Advisory Council, Institute of Security Studies (ISS) based in Pretoria, South Africa.
- Chairperson of the International Board of Trustees, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Chairperson of the International Board of Trustees of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Member of the Board of Directors and Member of the Prize Committee of Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

Dr. Salim undertook studies at the University of Delhi, India (1965-1968) and proceeded to obtain a Masters Degree in International Affairs in January 1975 at Columbia University in New York. He holds seven Doctorates and a number of decorations/honours including some of the highest national honours.

*Ending Poverty, Enriching
Children: Inspire. Act.
Change.*

GNRC FOURTH FORUM SECRETARIAT

P. O. Box 1221, Dar-es-Salaam

Tel: +255 (22) 2664449, **Fax:** +255 (22) 2850447

Email: gnrcfourthforumsecretariat@gnrc.net
mailfourthforumsecreariat@gnrc.net

Website: www.gnrc.net

This Newsletter is produced by the GNRC Fourth Forum Newsletter Team
Design, Editing and Layout: Hawa Noor
GNRC Fourth Forum © 2012



Arigatou International
G N R C

