



Kenya' Ministry of Education

Representative: Mary Kangethe

UPDATES ON THE INTER-COUNTRY QUALITY NODE ON PEACE EDUCATION

Background

Kenya is the lead country for the Association for Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) Inter Country Quality Node (ICQN) on Peace Education. ICQNs are inter-country technical mechanisms established under ADEA to achieve strategic goals towards improvement of education in Africa. The ICQNs are coordinated by specific African Ministries of Education to:

- Facilitate sharing of knowledge and collaborative action on key areas related to education.
- Forging strategic partnerships for the roll out of identified strategies/programmes in the specific areas.

Through these instruments, countries form a network for deliberation and sharing of information including challenges and possible solutions on given themes.

The ICQN on Peace Education was the first one established and was conceived at a side meeting of African Ministers of Education held at the INEE Global Consultation in April 2009 in Istanbul. The ICQN was then formally launched at a workshop held in Mombasa, Kenya from 14-16 September 2009 at which time Kenya was nominated as the lead country. The major output of the meeting was the signing of the 2009 Mombasa communiqué by the Ministers of Education present. The vision of the ICQN on Peace Education is for education systems to act as central agencies for the cultivation of the values, attitudes, knowledge and skills for sustainable peace and development in Africa. The ICQN's mission is to therefore facilitate countries to articulate policies and strategies for promoting peace within and through education systems. This is mainly through needs based innovative, responsive and strategic partnerships with stakeholders. At present, specific countries from all over Africa especially post conflict states have been participating in the ICQN activities. Countries that have not been in conflict are also brought on board to champion proactive approaches to conflict management. These participating countries are hereafter referred to as 'member

countries’.

The following are the objectives of the ICQN:

- Advocate for the building of peace for sustainable development through the education sector
- Enable formulation, strengthening and implementation of Peace Education Policies and Strategies
- Ensure implementation, monitoring and evaluation of peace education programmes and other peace-oriented initiatives in the education sector
- Build capacities for peace education at all levels
- Foster strategic inter-disciplinary, inter-regional and multi-sectoral partnerships and collaboration with various stakeholders
- Inform policy development and strategic interventions based on knowledge generation and development through effective research.
- Promote peace initiatives within the education sector through an effective communication and dissemination strategy

The ICQN on Peace Education workshop in Naivasha

Since its establishment in April 2009, the ICQN on Peace Education has had a number of key achievements which include; organising international workshops, policy dialogue forums, participating in ADEA meetings and conducting studies on peace initiatives within the education sector.

A major international workshop of the ICQN on Peace Education was held in Naivasha, Kenya, from 4th -6th December 2012, organised and supported by partners such as ADEA, the Ministry of Education of Kenya, the German BACKUP Initiative—Education in Africa, INEE through the INEE-GIZ Pan-African Knowledge Hub, and UNESCO. The meeting was attended by senior ministry officials including Ministers of education and technical officers from twelve African countries – including Angola, Botswana, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Over and above the representatives of the organisations that supported the meeting, other Strategic partners in attendance included ANCEFA, GPE, UNICEF and UNHCR.



Participants of the Naivasha ICQN on Peace Education Meeting

The aim of the workshop whose theme was ***“Fostering a community of practice in Africa to promote peace through education”*** was to reinvigorate the ICQN as a mechanism for knowledge exchange and collaboration among the member countries in support of the delivery of quality Peace initiatives through the education sector. Specific objectives for the meeting were;

- To share information about countries’ activities in promoting peace through education and engage with strategically relevant regional and global initiatives;
- To participate in a learning forum on issues relates to promoting peace through the education sector
- To develop an Action Plan for the ICQN that is owned by the ICQN’s participants and support on-going collaboration, dialogue and knowledge exchange;
- To provide an avenue for high-level commitment to promoting peace through the education sector via a call to action (later re-titled “Communiqué) signed onto by participating Ministers of Education.

The outputs of the Workshop included the following:

- Produced an understanding of countries’ relevant programmes including gaps, challenges and lessons;
- Participants developed an Action Plan of regional and national-level activities for the ICQN for 2013 and beyond mainly focusing on collaboration, dialogue, and knowledge exchange;
- Enacted a Communiqué signed onto by the participating Ministers of Education signalling their commitment to promoting peace through education and to support implementation of the 2013 Action

Way forward from the meeting

By the end of the meeting it was agreed that;

- Ministries of Education would identify Focal Persons for the ICQN on Peace Education. These will serve as the contact persons and will also undertake specific tasks for the ICQN.
- Ministry of Education, Kenya would develop a proposal/concept note for the setting up of a secretariat for the ICQN on peace Education.
- Ministry of Education Kenya to follow up on the signing of the Communiqué by the countries who had not signed.
- The interim secretariat for the ICQN to oversee the next steps based on the Action plan developed.
- Ministry of education Kenya would support the process of setting up of the secretariat for the ICQN
- The interim secretariat would follow up on countries that had not sent the information on status of peace education in their country

Follow-up activities to date;

To date the interim secretariat comprising MoE Kenya, KNATCOM Kenya INEE Knowledge Hub Followed up on the signing of the communiqué; so far two more countries have signed

- Developed a comprehensive report on the workshop and circulated
- Received data on status of peace education from all countries
- Circulated to all stakeholders for comments
- Updated the Concept note for the ICQN to align in to the Naivasha Communiqué
- The interim Secretariat is in consultation with UNICEF regarding support for a consultant for the ICQN

Challenges and gaps

- Translation- All communication and materials require to be translated into French and Portuguese. There is need for support for this endeavour
- While the Ministry of Education has committed to providing support for setting up of an office for the secretariat the operational cost have not been catered for
- Support for ICQN activities e.g. high level and technical meetings and participation in the Global Consultation meeting in May next year

The concept note on establishment of a secretariat for the ICQN provides details on costing.