

Summary Report on SPECIAL SEMINAR: The **International Peace Bureau Day**: Climate Change and Common Security on the African continent and the world at large

Background

At the conference “From Conflict to Beloved Communities: Series of International gatherings on Peace, Justice and Nonviolence in Juba, South Sudan.

The seminar was intended as a valuable platform for relevant partners and participants to present their perspectives facilitate learning and exchange, and foster conversation among all participants on challenges and opportunities for sustaining peace in practice from the effect of Climate Change and common security. It forms part of IPRA/IPB roadmap for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, which encompasses priorities that will guide IPB work leading up to the meeting: (i) outreach to the relevant stakeholders; (ii) supporting the work of the UN; (iii) focusing on experiences and best practices; and (v) strengthening links to human rights and sustainable development. What follows is a thematic summary of the event, including opening remarks, and followed by two panels on “Challenges and solutions” on climate change and common security and how Partnerships Can Support Sustaining Peace.”

Opening Remarks

The opening remark was done by Matt Myers, the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), the international Fellowship and Reconciliation are complicated and interconnected to and there are other peace organizations and network that are affiliated with our organization. The most exciting thing is the partnership with the International Peace Bureau (IPB). The international Peace Bureau as they transaction Sean as it new Executive Director, and we are so happy to have IPB newly elected Council Member Tyson Smith Berry Jr, and Executive Director of 4Kids International who will be representing the International Peace Bureau (IPB) on the theme: Climate Change and Common Security:

Panel 1: Workshop Expectation

Participants were divided into a group of three (3) from different countries with diverse background came up with several points

1. We would like to know the situation of climate change in others countries
2. We could like to know the connection of climate change and common security?
3. Why climate change is still a crisis
4. What are the implication and impact of climate change and common security
5. We would like to know how the African countries are dealing with climate change issues
6. What are strategies on the response to climate change
7. How can we carry on awareness raising about climate change and common security

8. National and international strategies to address issues of common security from the grassroots level.
9. To have some declaration from the result of this discussion of climate change and common security

Discussion

The importance of national ownership and local involvement in peace processes was reiterated through examples from Liberia, where recent elections, as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, have proceeded peacefully. These accomplishments were attributed in part to the thoughtful involvement and inclusion of various civil society actors, especially women and youth. It was mentioned, for instance, that former victims of conflict and former child soldiers in Liberia have done significant work to help reintegrate and care for others who faced similar circumstances.

Delegates also touched upon the potential of partnerships for conflict prevention and climate change. Some significant partnership-driven achievements were cited, including an ongoing initiative to catalogue and map local peace-builders around Africa, and a largely successful effort to preserve evidence of war crimes, drought. Floods have lot of impact on communities, Global warming and drought that affects most African countries that violate human rights. Agriculture lands been destroy that's proved food insecurity for citizens.

Panel Two Recommendations

- Deforestation should be a priorities concern of governments and civil society organizations
- We need to create awareness on climate change and common security
- Policy on environmental protection
- Super power countries need to have political will to enable them protect environmental issues
- All government that has nuclear weapon should destroy such to have a fear free society.
- Enhancing cooperation and network to deal with complex issues of common security and climate change
- Ensuring joint analysis and programming in order to address complex root causes; such analysis and programming should include local civil society
- Recognizing and scaling up local, civil society-led approaches to sustaining peace

The panel closed by reemphasizing that the role of prevention in preventing climate change and resolving conflict is to highlight the need of all actors to address root causes – not just immediate causes of conflict.

Panel 2 analysis: How Partnerships Can Support Sustaining Peace

While the primary responsibility for identifying and implementing priorities for sustaining peace pertains to Governments, the participants acknowledged the role of a variety of stakeholders in assisting these national authorities fulfill their goals. The recommendations underlined that “the scale and nature of the challenges of sustaining peace can be met through close strategic and operational partnerships between national Governments, the United Nations, and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society organizations, women’s groups, youth organizations and, where relevant, the private sector.”

Across the first and second panels, partnerships with diverse stakeholders were recognized as essential. All acknowledged that local expertise and capacities paired with national, regional, and international resources and capabilities go a long way toward sustaining peace. Collaboration on contextualized analysis, strategizing, implementation, and monitoring of policies and actions for peace is indispensable, as is breaking down barriers and silos that impede cooperation within and between organizations. Further, participants agreed that the UN, NGOs, civil society, and the private sector can play a crucial role in strengthening the capacities of national governments in their initiatives to prevent climate change and build inclusive peaceful societies.

Another example with potentially wide-ranging implications was a relatively simple but the effect of the Ukraine and Russian war that is affecting the world at large.

Conclusion

There were a number of recurring ideas from this event relevant to the UN’s approach climate change and common security as well as the webinar from the African Network of the International Peace Bureau (IPB) on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

First, panelists on expectation stressed that proactively addressing the root causes of climate change and common security ranging from socio-economic inequalities, to mediation to transnational flows of non-state actors, to weak civil society and lack of access to justice is absolutely essential, yet drastically underfunded at the UN and elsewhere.

Second, the importance of nationally led, inclusive processes came up continually, across many different contexts. When states take ownership of local products should be used to reduce security issues.

Finally, it was emphasized that although the UN has done good work on the SDGs on climate change and common security, it is currently failing in prevention, which was the primary motive for its creation. participants advised that multilateralism and the principle of non-intervention are crucial instruments for peace, and that in countries and regions where these are weak; preventing conflict is made all the more difficult.

My Experience in Juba

On November 4, 2022, I took up the journey to Juba and transited in Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, the next day I arrived in Juba, South Sudan. Upon my arrival I had little problem at the airport concerning the visa that was sent to me via WhatsApp by Matt Myers but it was later settle by ECSS (the host) and IPRA (Matt Myers).

Upon my arrival on November 5, 2022, I started to network with fellow delegates from diverse background during dinner.

On November 6, 2022, we had no session in the morning but we went on a field trip at the Nile River to view the area. While at the Nile River, I decided to increase my network with other delegates who I haven't met upon my arrival. It was great at the Nile taking Pictures with colleagues, asking questions about the Nile River up to 12pm.

On November 8, 2022 during at 9am we took up another site visiting, we first visited a historical site of the revolutionary of South Sudanese who fought to liberate South Sudan from Sudan Dr. John Garang De Mabior who was the first Vice President of Sudan and later president of Sudan who served the presidency for three weeks. I was able to sign the book of condolence on behalf my country (Liberia) and IPB at large. We later visited the Seven Day Adventist High School with the establishment of Peace Club of the Nonviolence organization in South Sudan with great preference. Clubs members were able to give their success stories of their lives before and after of how the peace clubs have made tremendous impact in their lives and they are agent of change. At the last school Apostolic, the peace club had a cultural performance and a drama portraying peace. During the cultural performance, the head performer places a neckles on my neck and asks me to dance with her. Lastly, I was able to educate everybody about the drama performed by the peace club. During the drama, they had flight, fight and unite and I also educated them that there are many ways people response to conflict which are flight, fight and unit but unite is the best way to response to conflict. I was also able to ask participants some reflect, connect and apply questions connecting the drama to their daily life activities.

On November 10, 2022, we had an evening cultural performance by three separates cultural of South Sudanese at the ECSS compound which was amazing and unique.

My departure from south Sudan was on November 11, 2022 at 4:30pm and arrived in Liberia on November 12, 2022 at 5pm.