



THE KHARTOUM DECLARATION

Upon the initiative of the Sudanese National Commission for the UNESCO and with valuable support from the United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture, and under the auspices of HE. Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan and the participation of Professor FEDERICO MAYOR, Director General of UNESCO and HE. Ahmed EL SAYYAD, President of the General Conference of UNESCO, and in the presence of Dr. SALIM AHMED SALIM, Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity, the Regional Seminar on Culture of Peace convened in Khartoum, capital city of the Sudan, during the period 8-11 April, 1995. The Seminar examined the situation in the Sudan and in the Horn of Africa with a view to examine the concept of the culture of peace and its applications in the region. The participants note with satisfaction that the discussions took place in a frank, free and objective atmosphere.

The Seminar was attended by representatives from each of the following States of the Horn of Africa and Central Africa, namely, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Central Africa, Uganda, and Sudan as well as of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the African Group at UNESCO. The Seminar was also attended by a broad representation of the civil society from the Sudan..

In his opening address HE. Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan reaffirmed his commitment to the cause of peace, and his support to the implementation of a culture in the Sudan and in the region.

In his statement the Director General of UNESCO said the following, "This is the first time that a Seminar on Culture of Peace has been organised in the Horn of Africa. Unfortunately, none of the Countries belonging to this region is spared from conflict. We must recognise that most of the economic and social problems which hamper development in these countries are caused by the absence of a peaceful environment." The Director General welcomed the announcement of a cease-fire in Southern Sudan, commended IGADD for its mediation efforts and expressed the hope that all sides will use this opportunity to create the conditions for a lasting peace.

This Seminar strongly believes that all efforts should be made to transform the cease-fire prevailing today in Southern Sudan into a durable and stable peace accompanied by significant development projects to which all nations of goodwill as well as UN and other International Development Agencies should give their full contribution.

This information is provided by

UNESCO
Culture of Peace Programme
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 PARIS 07 SP
FRANCE
Tel (+33.1) 45.68.12.19
Fax (+33.1) 45.68.55.57

The Seminar reaffirms that the objectives will be achieved if they are made in the context of a culture of peace, and if they are accompanied by an intensive and sustained effort for the concretisation of spiritual, moral and aesthetic values. It requires the mobilisation of all energies for scientific, artistic and literary expression, as well as mass media and educational programs in order to reinforce the culture of peace in the minds of individuals, in application of the now famous phrase in the preamble of the UNESCO Charter: "To build the defenses of peace in minds of men."

The Seminar appeals to the governments and peoples of the continent and in particular the peoples and governments of the region, to undertake all possible efforts to design and implement culture of peace programmes and participate in building organs and institutions on the basis of democracy, respect of human rights, equity, justice, and the spirit of tolerance in order to attain the objectives of sustainable and equitable development.

The Seminar further reaffirms the necessity for the designing of local, and regional programs with, whenever possible, the participation of all parties to the conflict and the civil society, with a view to the initiation and reinforcement of a culture of peace at the local, and regional levels. Such programs should include the enhancement of the role of women and youth and preserve the rights of children in areas of armed conflict, and enrich cultural diversity and reinforce harmony in the way that will reinforce and further consolidate peace and national unity. Particular attention should also be given to the preservation of the environment and the linkage between environment, peace and development.

The Seminar further reaffirms that the abolition of all forms of violence is the primary responsibility of all sectors of the -society, as it is a process that involves the essence and core of human civilisation.

The Seminar appeals to the international community to give all possible assistance and support to the African peoples in their struggle against all forms of injustice and underdevelopment, as well as poverty, misery and illiteracy.

The International Community should help the African people to rid the continent from wars and conflicts as well as check the effect of the degradation of the environment such as drought and desertification.

The participants note with satisfaction the positive role played by UNESCO and its Director General in the organisation of this Seminar, and appeal to UNESCO to give its continued support to the follow-up and implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar.

They express their thanks and gratitude to HE. OMER HASSAN AHMED EL BASHIR, President of the Republic of the Sudan for his sponsorship of the Seminar and to the people and government of the Sudan for their hospitality.