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Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development
Association de Coopération et de Recherche pour le Développement
Agência para Cooperação e de Pesquisa para o Desenvolvimento

ACORD's PAN AFRICAN LEARNING FORUM

November 3rd – 4th 2010

A look at the Role of Civil Society Organizations and the Challenges of Peace and Security in Consolidating Peace in Africa

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACORD	Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development
ADB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCFD	French Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COPAGEN	Coalition for the Protection of Africa's Genetic Heritage
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GLR	Great Lakes Region
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IRRI	International Refugee Rights Initiative
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
MDG3	Millennium Development Goal (3) on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment
NGO	Non Government Organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PA	Peace Ambassadors
PAP	Pan Africa Programme
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
ICCO	Interchurch organization for Development Cooperation
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEP	United Nations International Comparison Program
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOREWORD

The 2010 Pan African Learning Forum has affirmed to me the wealth of knowledge, expertise and innovation in Africa (and for Africa) to build lasting solutions to end the conflicts on the continent and bring about lasting peace. It has also reflected the strength and potential that comes from working through an intricately woven web of partnerships consisting of passionate individuals, organizations and institutions mandated to lead – in their sphere of influence- initiatives that tackle aspects of peace building, conflict mitigation and resolution.

Following discussions, what emerged clearly is the need for Africa to value its innovative and most appropriate solutions for long term peaceful co-existence; increased engagement and coherence building among civil society organizations in Africa and beyond, for effectiveness; the need to attract more financing for conflict mitigation and resolution work; government commitment is critical; and most importantly, the need to address the cylindrical and regional aspects of each conflict.

The topic of discussion- *the role of civil society organizations and the challenges of peace and security in consolidating peace in Africa* - is timely, as regional and country conflicts over resources, power, religion, ethnicity and others, have become all too common on the continent. There is an evident need for civil society's continued analysis of global and continental issues in order to understand and formulate lasting solutions.

This forum is fundamental in ACORD's history – being the first of its kind, drawing the organization's constituents for internal reflection, situating the organization in the external context, re-energizing engagements with its development partners and defining clearer and more effective strategies for social action. Looking back at where we have come from, ACORD has made remarkable progress in its re-definition and legitimate claim to be a pan African organization facilitating communities formulate their own solutions to challenges in their contexts as captured in our Community Social Peace and Recovery Model and related work.

Ousainou Ngum

Executive Director-ACORD

INTRODUCTION

ACORD is a pan African organization working on social justice and development in Africa. The core of its work centers on four thematic engagements aimed at securing livelihoods and food sovereignty in Africa; facilitating conflict transformation and peace building; securing gender and women's rights; and those of people living with HIV and AIDS, in 17 countries of operation and Africa at large. The organization's peace building and conflict transformation agenda is founded on facilitating processes that enable communities and civil society serve as effective agents in conflict prevention, security, stability and development in spheres of their influence.

This is necessitated by the nature of conflicts in Africa which are very violent and regional in nature as is seen in West, Central and Horn of Africa. Though the conflicts typically originate in one country, they spiral into other nations and subsequently affect regional stability. A case in point is the war in Northern Uganda instigated by the LRA[1] who over time have moved into the DRC and South Sudan.

Armed conflicts on the continent are characterized by mass movement of displaced populations, ethnic cleansing, ethnicized power struggles, exploitation of natural resources, mass destruction of infrastructure, extreme poverty of affected communities exhibited in entire unschooled and illiterate generations; unable to engage in meaningful self and national economic development, even in post war periods. Most important is the loss of millions of Africa's human capital.

ACORD's 2010 pan African learning forum was a strategic choice aimed at initiating a process to escalate and advance collaborative initiatives towards effective peace building on the continent through dialogue, building an understanding of the conflicts and possible solutions, analysis of effective methodologies, building consensus on areas of partnership; among others. This process was achieved in collective discussion and solidarity building of stakeholders engaged in Africa's peace process. These comprised research, regional institutions of governance and security, UN agencies, representatives of indigenous community initiatives, NGOs, the donor community and ACORD – Members, Board and staff.

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[1] LRA- The Lord's Resistance Army; a rebel group originating from Northern Uganda

Learning Forum Process

The Learning Forum is an important part of the ACORD governance process, allowing a time for accountability to a range of stakeholders as well as facilitating learning for staff, board and other stakeholders.

The programme for the Learning Forum was developed by a group of ACORD staff drawn from across the organisation with input from the Programme and Funding Committee of the Board. The programme adopted a range of processes including:

- Presentations from academics and practitioners
- Case studies
- Witness statements
- Questions and answer sessions
- Group discussions
- Feedback in plenary sessions
- Expert summary of the main learnings

At the end of the first day the steering group met with the facilitator and other participants to determine the programme for the following day. The programme for the second day built on the themes in the first day and drew on the expertise amongst the participants.

The meeting was facilitated by one person throughout.

Chapter 1:

CONFLICTS IN AFRICA:
Their Salient Features

ACORD 2010 Learning Forum participants in discussion

A look at the history of armed conflict in Africa – particularly in West Africa - illustrates a variation of characteristics based on the era, causes and the parties to conflict. Wars of the Colonial era were centered on subjugation and control of African territories and its people by Northern nations. The liberation of African countries over a staggered period primarily between the 1950's and 1990's, led to self rule and new tensions and challenges relating to governance.   There are evidently two primary causes of armed conflict in Africa; control of natural resources (minerals, land and water) and those based on identities (ethnic groupings, religion, culture and religion). Often there are interlinkages which make mitigation responses difficult and complicated. These are mainly internal (civil war) and inter country in nature.

Boundary disputes linked to demarcation of territories (or the lack of it) has been a primary source of prolonged conflicts. Colonial boundaries have divided people and resources beneficial to differing communities who opt to engage in civil or inter State conflict to assume control of boundaries. Ethiopia, Somalia, Senegal and Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Mali have been examples of territorial based interstate conflicts.

The control of natural resources as seen in Liberia and Sierra Leone over diamonds and the DRC's minerals, is another motivation to engage in conflict. Ethnic groups in resource wealthy areas are frequently the power brokers – exchanging the resources for other commodities that increase their territorial control. This has been seen with the Ijaw in Nigeria and Niger Delta, Biafra Nigeria, Angola, Sudan and Chad.

The value of religion in instigating conflict, is witnessed in some of the most violent conflicts – as Nigeria - and formation of very dangerous religious groups with international support such as the Islamic Al Qaeda, Meghreb and Al Shabab which have caused insecurity in West, Central and East Africa and the international stage; of which the U.S. and Britain have been key targets.

Ethnic cleansing in Africa, based on tribal, language, cultural affiliations, has been a constant trigger to civil wars. This is often embedded in a history of social injustices, nepotism, abuse of power and resources, and marginalization of certain groups of people; as was seen in the genocide in Rwanda, Kenya's politic-ethnic instigated post election violence, Arab and Black African groups in the Sudan, Mauritania, Mali and Niger and Nigeria's Ibo and Hausa Muslims. Political processes- like elections – are used by politicians to divide communities on ethnic lines and into conflict.

Weak State structures, fragile democracies and governance systems lead to the rise in socioeconomic, ethnic, religious and political groups that threaten the stability of their nations. This is escalated by corruption and misrepresentation of the citizenry leading to a lack of legitimacy of key institutions as they are used to exclude the masses in an exercise of power. This oppressive state of affairs and abject poverty of the majority, leads to an eruption and overt conflict.

Women and girls have been the primary casualties of all armed conflicts in Africa –- being targets of gender based violence, to humiliate and defeat opposing warring groups. This has not fallen on deaf ears and the international community has taken the initiatives to formulate and institute protocols against all forms of violence and human rights abuses during conflict internationally; to be ratified and operationalized at national level. These include the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which entered into force in November 1982; UN Resolution 1325 of 2000, which emphasizes the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflict and peace building processes. More Africa based solutions have been sought to protect women and girls against human rights violations in conflict and provide for justice of survivors. These include the Protocol to the African Charter on Human Peoples Rights signed by African heads of States in July 2003; ICGLR protocols on Preventing Curbing Crime of Genocide, crimes of War, Crimes Against Humanity; Protection and assistance to Internally Displaced

- Inequalities and social injustice trigger conflict
- Civil wars/internal conflicts are primarily for territorial control and sustained through unlawful collaborations with neighboring countries or international affiliates
- Ethnicity and religion are key causes of conflicts in Africa
- Struggle for power and control over resources lead to prolonged conflict
- Human rights violations predominant in conflict in the absence or inability to maintain the rule of law.
- Sexual Gender Based Violence is a primary strategy in armed conflict
- The mass mobility of displaced persons, places a heavy financial and social burden to host countries
- Displacement of populations during conflict, leads to disintegration of social fabric and dysfunctional

Persons; and Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children and those of the AU.

The UN, AU and ICGLR and related protocols are currently the international and regional institutions providing international law and policy to curb crime during and in post conflict, ensuring justice and reparations for survivors of human rights abuses and providing instruments that when adopted and implemented at national level will enhance peace, security and regional stability. The signing of the protocols by African nations provides these international institutions the mandate and legitimacy to hold African Heads of State accountable along with their citizenry whom they serve. The gap in this process is the essence of civil society engagement on conflict mitigation, justice and due recourse and ultimately suitable peace building in Africa.

Chapter 2: INTER GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSES TO PEACE AND STABILTY IN AFRICA

Nathan Byamukama-Programme Officer ICGLR

Responses of African nations to these internal and interstate conflicts has since the 1960's been; establishment of inter governmental organizations and regionalizing peace interventions. Understanding the forces at play, approaches to contain and extinguish civil wars primarily in West, South and Central Africa, and the chronology of events leading to the current regional mechanisms on armed conflict, is essential to mapping out an effective layered yet interwoven civil society engagement plan to mitigate conflicts on the continent. The establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 and its Declaration on the Political and Socio-economic situation of Africa in 1990 is a monumental step in defining the approach to resolving conflict, as it emphasized the need for African solutions to conflicts on the continent. This was very well received by its membership of African nations which saw the OAU Council of Ministers –for the first time- approve an appropriation of funds from the general budget in 1991 and establish a Division of conflict Management for prevention and resolution of conflicts in 1992.

The Cairo Declaration in 1993 further instituted the OAU's Mechanism of Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution with its primary objectives being to anticipate conflict and prevention; peace building; and establishing observation missions. This led to the establishment of an OAU Peace Fund, cooperation arrangements with regional and international organizations and recourse mechanisms to the UN when peace keeping became necessary. The voluntary contributions forming the Peace Fund and formulation of systems and structures of the AU, has led to its notable presence and involvement is conflict mitigation and mediation.

The OAU has over time engaged in peace building initiatives including; in Rwanda (1991-1994) where it mobilized international action, deployed an observer group, and launched the peace initiative drawing on various countries in the region. Similar action was taken in Burundi after the 1993 coup d'etat. In Liberia, OAU supported ECOWAS to bring peace in Liberia and end a six year war in Zimbabwe. The AU was integral to the IGAD process in South Sudan that led to instituting the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and peace in country. Other initiatives have included South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, DRC, Gabon, Togo, Nigeria-Cameroon conflict mitigation and peace building initiatives, and continued election observations.

The OAU was disbanded by its Chairman-Thebo Mbeki- in July 2002 and replaced by the African Union (AU). Through its advisory organ- ECOSOCC (which comprises social and professional groups of its member States) - the AU attempts to engage with

a variety of stakeholders in development. It is however seen as not representative of African civil society and not providing a platform for transparency and meaningful input by the development sector. The AU is however more structured in its policy mechanisms for conflict mitigation and partnership building with CSOs on initiatives. Emerging issues in consequent years are likely to see the AU shaping key issues and strengthening the African identity; away from the ethnically confined African.

The dynamic shift seen in the early 90's- following the civil wars and instability in the Great lakes Region (GLR) – as in the DRC and genocide in Rwanda, prompted a consensus to the need for a regional specific conflict mitigation mechanism for sustainable peace and development in the GLR. The ICGLR was formed by the UN and AU and established in 2006 through implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR Pact). Its guiding framework was instituted in the Dar Es Salaam Declaration and subsequent protocols which address conflicts in the region through a process of regionalized conflict mapping; into ten zones.

Maggie Pankhurst - Lead Facilitator

The ICGLR works through its member States to enhance regional cohesion through governance, justice and security as enshrined in its 10 regional protocols on; non aggression and mutual defense; democracy and good governance; judicial cooperation; prevention and curbing the crime of genocide, crimes of war, crimes against humanity; prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources; reconstruction and development; protection and assistance to internally displaced persons; property rights of returning populations; management of information and communication. The ICGLR has also instituted a youth initiative designed to engage the youth for security and conflict resolution at national level and collectively in the GLR.

These intergovernmental institutions have well defined agenda's and elaborated legal instruments on peace and security for implementation by member States at national level; to ultimately yield regional and continental cohesion and stability. The ICGLR reports working with among others; UN bodies (UNIFEM, UNICEP, UNFPA and UNDP) and ACORD on gender and SGBV, IRRI on settlement of IDPs and GTZ

on illegal exploitation of natural resources. It is also set to establish a CSO Forum in the first quarter of 2011.

The engagement of international and regional institutions with civil society and development institutions is however notably low and disjointed. This has prompted key questions; how these formal institutions can effectively engage governments and communities in the GLR at national and local level? How well can their complex and legally formulated strategies and protocols be communicated to their targeted societies? What engagement opportunities exist for partnership between international and regional institutions (e.g. the AU, ICGLR and UN) and civil society organizations for more effective outreach?

The UN primarily facilitates this through funding of CSO programmes in areas of joint interest. The AU and ICGLR endorse collaboration with CSOs in areas of convergence, though little room exists for CSOs to inform their processes, regional and global agenda. This is a major gap in the conflict mitigation and peace building landscape in Africa. Without a tripartite partnership between national and regional institutions of peace and security, African governments and civil society organizations, the patch work initiatives on the continent will attain little beyond the status quo.

Chapter 3: CIVIL SOCIETY APPROACHES: A pathway to more effective engagement

Eric Chaurette-Inter Pares, Xavier Ricard, CCFD Head of International Partnerships and Ibrahim Ouedraogo-ACORD Chair

The position of civil society to engage on and effectively impact on conflict mitigation and peace building in Africa, cannot be sufficiently emphasized. Its legitimacy is derived from those they represent; communities and the society at its varied levels. Their capacity to do this is critical, and requires sound and often very detailed and layered analysis of contexts, stakeholders and formulation of strategies that are well accepted and resonate with aspirations and needs of their constituents. This capacity therefore requires the technical expertise, human capital, the logistic machinery and most critically- the funds to not deal with disparate portions of interventions but to reach the core, to complete the task and leave a noticeable mark.

CSOs working in and on African issues have been accused of representing a foreign agenda, designing initiatives that have little conceptualization of the targeted groups and thus set to fail. They are also viewed as a fragmented sector that could benefit greatly from increased synergic work.

Challenges to effective CSO engagement;

- Insufficient and unshared research and analysis information
- Need to value best practices and learning processes
- Government intimidation and restrictive laws governing CSO work
- Need strategic alliance building
- Access to funding remains a challenge

Discussions culminated in an agreement that there is need to enhance civil society engagement on African issues. This should begin with thorough research and information gathering regarding the tensions and conflicts; understanding root causes, targeted communities, and the inter community energies that fuel and prolong conflicts (ethnicity, natural resources such as land or minerals, religion are a few). Working increasingly with corporations and research institutions will create a different type of consciousness on African citizenship and enable venturing into areas not particularly the CSO domain.

Peace building and conflict mitigation remain very sensitive issues to African governments which opt to intimidate those who "pry" and institute legal frameworks that make meaningful work very difficult. Information sharing, networking and collaboration is therefore a critical element in CSO's effective engagement as what is often evident, is the duplicity in programming and advocacy efforts resulting in ineffective use of resources. There is immeasurable wealth in tapping into the varied

expertise for synergy building at national, regional and international levels; making confronting strong forces, much easier. An informed collaboration with stakeholders at all levels is therefore essential and creation of CSO platforms to discuss issues and develop increasing independent positions, strategies and social movements.

CSO work efficiency cannot be achieved without formulation and sharing of effective methodologies, tools, best practices through learning spaces. Drawing on the Dutch interfaith organization ICCO's experience, which works in 53 countries across the world -including Africa - their conflict transformation work in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) has necessitated them to broaden their stakeholder engagement which has comprised working with both indigenous and international organizations for information sharing enabling them to inform ICCO's processes. A collective and thorough analysis of conflicts in the region has resulted in formulation of a conflict transformation manual which now guides their conflict transformation programme; proving most useful and advancing their initiatives.

The civil society sector is however broad and varied in its abilities, scope and partnerships; necessitating capacity building for effective partnership. This broadly includes enhancing the abilities of indigenous CSOs, communities and governments, the media, private sector and other stakeholders whose contribution is critical to the process of conflict transformation and peace building. This requires an analysis of skills, needs and resources requirements to undertake the task. Skills enhancement and sensitization enhances ownership and participation of stakeholders; increasing accountability and sustainably effected initiatives. This was illustrated by Inter Pares' experience on door-to-door campaigning in Canada, to sensitize the public on the country's food system which is pro land grabbing, using GMOs, all of which dis-empower small scale farmers. The campaign is further established on strong alliances.

The CSO's primary role is that of enhancing governance through representation of the community or society to its government and duty bearer for services, security and safety provision to its citizenry. Civil society cannot facilitate effective state accountability and action without meaningful policy and advocacy engagement drawing on the needs and articulations of their constituents. The legitimacy of CSOs must therefore be in representative mediation. For example, ACORD like other international organizations is working to ensure a strong linkage between its northern advocacy agenda and work in African countries and related social movements. A case

in point was its successful STOP EPAs campaign which though ended, is still aggressively pursued by its collation of partners including the African Trade Network.

COPAGEN- a shared best practice on land grabbing in West Africa

COPAGEN is a coalition of groups across West Africa based in Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. It defends the sovereignty of West Africa's biodiversity through a primarily small scale farmer agenda. Through its strength in numbers and voice, it is strategically positioned to lobby and advocate West African governments on behalf of their communities; sensitize and educate small scale farmers; and engage in agriculture policy review, that benefits the farmers. A unique aspect of this coalition is its self generated agenda - West African's responding to their own crises.

Despite the richly endowed biodiversity in West Africa, GMOs are currently a threat to small scale farming. Though bio security laws exist, COPAGEN and like minded CSOs continue to push for policy improvements that protect small scale farmers and sensitize the farmers and CSOs on these issues. Subsequently, farmers are not only knowledgeable on bio diversity and related issues, they are also actively engaged in eliminating GMOs from the market. This has led to a change in multinational strategies – following realization of small scale farmers' stand on GMOs.

New laws now exist, encouraging multinational research institutional work and increased land purchases as seen in Senegal where over 10, 000 acres have been given to multinationals like Jatropha for export. In addition, Challenge Millennium is working towards modification of laws in the region to allow agro business while in Mali, 600,000 acres of land in the Niger valley, was donated to Saudi Arabian multinationals, creating compensation requirements for water and land owned by villagers – typically relocated with negligible reimbursement.

Further complicating the problem, are West African elites who collude with multinationals to sell large tracks of land at the expense of small scale farmers; a majority of who own less than 3 acres. Subsequently, though farmers produce good quality cotton and other cash crops, forces of the market frustrate their efforts leaving them limited access to markets and land for production.

COPAGEN's response is aggressive advocacy and creation of a West African social movement on issues including land grabbing and preservation of West Africa's biodiversity. In Benin the organization has been in discussion with the State and stakeholders to look for alternatives to improve small scale farming. They also work in alliance with international partners (including CIDA in Canada) whose policy and advocacy agenda they inform- influencing Northern based policies which greatly impact the agenda of African governments.

Chapter 4:

HOMEGROWN SOLUTIONS: Legitimacy and its Role in Sustainable Conflict Mitigation Processes.

Monica Rono, David Milgo, Stephen Ondiek and Evans Tinega. Peace Ambassadors from the Kipsigis and Kisii communities - reunited following Kenya's 2007 post election violence

The norm in settling national conflicts in Africa- may they be political, ethnic, religious or resource instigated- is bringing the political leaders consisting those with legitimate or imposed power, to settlements at national level as is the case with the negotiated democracy model, gaining popularity and used in Kenya, Zimbabwe and attempted in Ivory Coast. These *high level* approaches to peace building have proved ineffective due to the lack of sincerity of Pact parties, a genuine interest in lasting peace, State prioritization and resourcing of peace building initiatives and their inability to address the root causes of conflicts, and minimize their re-occurrence. So, who is the primary stakeholder and duty bearer in conflict mitigation? Are these one and the same party and if not, what collaboration must exist for lasting solutions?

Emerging predominately during forum discussions is the need for community involvement and generated solutions. The community encompasses a broad constituency of people with its primary members being those at the grassroots and most affected by the tensions and consequent actions. It also includes the leadership of the people – the traditional and religious leaders, opinion shapers, and formal institutions representing the community (e.g. CBOs and indigenous NGOs); and others – who are tasked by their communities to find solutions to the nightmare of living in situations that threaten their very co-existence.

Evidently clear is the need for peace building processes to take place at two fundamental levels; State and community. While the legal contracting, signing of peace pacts, disarming warring factions, establishing judicial and policy frameworks, processes and programmes at varied levels, is critical, this must be matched with probably less formal but more authoritative mechanisms of peaceful co-existence, established by and at the community level. Communities have an innate need to be their own change agents and greatly value processes that facilitate this. Learning's from two cases drawing on ACORD's work in Burundi and Kenya and Tiniguena in Guinea Bissau, provided interesting and essential lessons on this.

4.1. ACORD- Facilitating Social Contracts in Burundi and Kenya

The Social Contracts model is a community conflict resolution methodology originally used by ACORD Burundi in 2001, among the Rumonge, Kamenge, Buhiga and Rango communities, after the signing of the Arusha Peace Agreement (2000) which

ended the 13 year long civil war. The model was later replicated by ACORD Kenya in 2008- 2009, among the Kipsigis and Kisii communities living along the Sotik and Borabu border; following Kenya's 2007 post election violence. It seeks to actualise peace agreements negotiated at the top political level to the grassroots level. The model has been documented in a training manual for development practitioners titled "Community Social Peace and Recovery (CSPR) Model Handbook". During the Learning Forum, four community Peace Ambassadors who spearheaded peace building in their communities in Kenya and a documentary film capturing this experience - "Community Voices" - illustrated the emotional process of re-union.

The model is based on negotiation and dialogue of communities torn apart in violent conflict. The contents and features of the social contract are unique to each community and generated by them. Though the targeted communities previously enjoyed social agreements which for many generations enabled them intermarry, trade, and share resources and life experiences, the dynamics of politicised and ethnicised conflict had broken all trust, respect and affection among the societies, resulting in the massacre and death of many of their members. Re-establishing social contracts is the means by which these communities have articulated their need to end the hurt, damage and suffering by forging onwards; agreeing to live peacefully without violence and retribution.

The Social Contract methodology comprises eight stages consisting the preparatory phase comprising undertaking a context and stakeholder analysis. Secondly is the identification of target groups and local partners with whom to work. This will include communities selecting Peace Ambassadors (PA) who they perceive as interested in maintaining and advocating for peace. The next is, engaging the stakeholders and building the capacities of partners. In Kenya, ACORD trained the PAs on the Social Contract Model. The next is undertaking introductory meetings with stakeholders. Facilitating community dialogue meetings comprises the next stage. Notably, the process needs to be allowed sufficient time. The next and very critical stage is the development and signing of peace contracts which are signed and celebrated in large inclusive meetings. In the Kenya case, a large bull was slaughtered, meal cooked by women from both communities, local alcohol (which is important in cementing relationships in the African communities)shared between men from both communities, dancing for all and athletic games for the youth.

The final stage consists of establishing peace and recovery projects which are of mutual benefit to both communities e.g. joint construction of homes, learning facilities for children from each community, agriculture initiatives and others.

Confidence building among the two communities and ownership of the process are critical for successful arrival to the social contract stage and sustained peace building. This requires ample time and NGOs assuming a facilitators role.

4.2. Tiniguena – Community Natural Resource Management in Guinea Bissau

Guinea Bissau is a beautiful mountainous country with abundant water and aquatic life; resulting in constant resource exploitation and corruption. Though its inhabitants are exposed to modernity, there is much value given to protection of culture. Following an analysis of the context, Tiniguena, a CSO - sought to guide the society through a community development approach for conservation of the islands without putting a risk to its inhabitant's livelihoods. It therefore undertook mass sensitization and education of the islands populace through among others; social cultural events (songs, dances, cultural rites etc) which are central to the life fabric of the people and capture its history.

This was followed by dialogue for consensus building on the governance of the island and related resources and arrival at a joint vision; structured in a social contract drawing on the island's management plan. The social contract included the various stakeholders- including government structures – responsible for good management of the island. Committees in the various islands and an Assembly comprising representatives from all islands, was established and work plan developed and approved for day-to-day management of operations, governance and monitoring. Community ownership was central to the process. All community members were also tasked with the responsibility to care for the environment, empowered by a feeling of control over their resources, and appreciated their culture and identity.

The analysis of the two methodologies is a reflection of the numerous civil society initiatives taking place on the continent, to bring communities together to foster their peaceful co-existence and retract from conflict at any cost; as they are sadly the heaviest casualties during tensions and conflicts of any nature.

4.3. The Strengths and Weaknesses of Community Centered Conflict Mitigation Methodologies

Strengths	Challenges
ACORD's Community Social Peace and Recovery Model for Social Contracts	
-It enhances trust and confidence of communities -CSO partners play a facilitator's role -Contracts encompass fundament aspects of community lives -Recovery projects benefit all communities -Capacity building of communities empowers them for self development -Ownership brings about sustainability	-Time consuming as processes must take the time required by the communities to rebuild trust, forgiveness and commitment of both parties. -Unpredictable as controlled by the community and its persons. Processes can be derailed by personalities -Lack of a legal framework to support and legitimise community social contracts -Limited resources to undertake meaningful peace and recovery projects
Tiniguena – Community Natural Resource Management in Guinea Bissau	
-Centered on the culture of the People -The isolated nature of the islands enhances social cohesion -inclusive stakeholder participation (including the government) -Established governance system -Strong advocacy networking and collaboration	-Sustainability of governance of natural resources management initiatives in the context of a failed State -Undefined sea territories creates room for continued abuse of natural resources -Lack of state control over fishing zones -Lack of sufficient monitoring and tracking equipment
Similarities Community centered methodologies of peace building and conflict mitigation are; -Appropriate as they embed the culture and way of life of the people -Community owned and sustainable -Facilitate national cohesion and peace. -Empower communities to take charge of their situation -Replicable -Need to be contextualized	

Chapter 5:

COALITION BUILDING: Prepositions for more effective Engagement

Bruna Sironi-Manitese Italy, Linh Trinh-CIDA Canada, Kristin Seljeflot-ACORD Secretariat and Eric Chaurette-Inter Pares Canada

Rich discussions, sharing of best practices and ideas, have led to consensus building on how best to proceed with initiatives on conflict mitigation and peace building. A consolidation of outcomes reflects the need for a holistic approach as exhibited in agreed key strategies.

1. Intergovernmental institutions (the AU, ICGLR and UN) mandated to mitigate conflict and enhance peace building in Africa, need to engage in more meaningful partnerships with civil society in Africa, who provide a strategic platform to translate their agenda at particularly national and grassroots level. They also comprise a very resourceful human capital that would accelerate work for mutual benefit.

2. There is a need to build strong civil society coalitions and strategic alliances at national, regional level and with organizations in the South, to address the critical issues and increasingly pressure African governments to act in the best interest of their communities. A multi stakeholder approach is therefore central.

3. Civil society in Africa, can serve as the primary agent in facilitating the building of African citizenship as opposed to the territorial, ethnic and tribal identities consistently used to activate conflict. This is consistent with the current regionalization of economies consolidated in regional blocks, which provides the opportunity to progressively address territory boundary and economic marginalization issues through unrestricted mobility and mingling of populations for economic benefit- and ultimately building an African identity.

4. As noted, conflicts in Africa are primarily over use or exploitation of natural resources, whose access in the last two decades has been heavily impacted by natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts and earthquakes) which minimize natural resources particularly food, water, and vegetation. The inter-linkages or isolation of causes to conflict- including abuse of power, poor governance, corruption and abuse of state resources, ethnicity, religion, poverty, marginliasation and social injustice- need to be thoroughly analyzed and research undertaken by CSOs in partnership with other stakeholders, in order to generate appropriate and legitimate strategies. The analyses and research should then be integrated in programme planning and development initiatives.

5. There is need to build particularly indigenous CSO capacity to engage around conflict issues. This can be achieved through organizational development,

increasing their technical capacity in policy review, research and analysis, advocacy, documentation and knowledge sharing, monitoring, alliancing; among others.

6. A holistic approach must be sought in dealing with issues of conflict. For instance; land and food security issues are perceived as local in nature yet they are influenced by the international market. Biofuels, GMOs, land grabbing and others, all impact on the local farmer and household food security. Civil society therefore needs to facilitate societies join the dots between the global market, hunger, food insecurity, and conflict.

7. Conflict mitigation and peace building processes cannot be rushed. They must bear in mind the state of those concerned and value the essence of African perceptions and processes, which are by nature - never rushed. Communities need to be given the space to find their voice, rhythm and re-establish their existence in situations and times that often are characterized by grave losses but which bear hope in the future. This is the case in communities emerging from armed conflict and having lost valuable lives and resources or those displaced from their ancestral land following land grabbing or mining expeditions approved by their government.

8. Information sharing and cross learning at inter and cross country, regional and continental level, is fundamental. This knowledge exchange will not only motivate but also facilitate increased momentum; drawing on what has taken place elsewhere. The effectiveness of conflict mitigation and peace building programmes can be further enhanced through piloting of projects. This provides lesson learning for the civil society sector and improved practice.

9. Coalition building and mobilizing communities at grassroots and urban level, is an exceptional strategy to build social movements or issues. This ensures successful resistance against politicized agendas, ensuring peaceful coexistence and redress of conflicts and government accountability.

10. Resettlement of displaced populations on the continent must been done in collaboration with humanitarian agencies who primarily work with displaced communities, national civil society organizations and African governments to ensure that resettlement process are undertaken in limited time, ensure the security and observance of displaced persons human rights and provide them the resources for rehabilitation (land, finances, housing and social services).

11. CSO use and replication of strategies and methodologies to mitigate conflict and sustain peace building, needs to be contextualized in order to be effective. The use of the social contracting methodology differed in its use in Kenya, Burundi and Guinea Bissau.

12. The youth in Africa are central in peace building. Their vulnerability (often due to unemployment and economic hardship) enables politicians and instigators of conflict use them to terrorize the citizenry and commit atrocious crimes. Engaging them in conflict mitigation, peace building and reconstruction can yield great benefits for the society.

13. Use of new communication and social marketing technologies for advocacy, information sharing, learning and networking is a fundamental tool in CSO effectiveness. For example the MPESA mobile cash transfer and banking service has gathered massive popularity and outreach to even the most remote parts of Kenya; providing CSO access to communicate to a very large number of people.

The ACORD Learning Forum has been characterized by highly intellectual dialogue and brainstorming. This is a monumental step in redefining the agency's conflict mitigation and peace building agenda for Africa – which has rightfully begun with collective thinking, contemplation and building of a common view. The forum's timing is accurate as the dynamics and incidences of conflict on the continent are increasing by the day. Our response? Facilitating a process of re-defining the thinking and direction taken by a core number of organizations whose mandates involve work in the area of conflict and peace building, and forging an expansive partnership of support and joint work, in all of Africa.

ANNEX I: ACORD's DONOR ROUND TABLE IN BRIEF

ACORD on 5th November 2010 hosted a Donor Round Table; following the very engaging pan African learning forum. This was an internal reflection of ACORD's "way of working" and relationships with development partners who support its work; for enhanced partnership building and to ensure the organization remains a relevant pan African organization; positioned to provide remarkable contributions to Africa's development plan. The presence of ACORD members, Board (many of who have participated in ACORD's evolution in the last three decades) and development partners at Pan African, national and community levels, provided a comfortable space to discuss ACORD's work and suggest areas of improvement and convergence.

The meeting also served to launch the agency's new strategic plan - commencing in 2011 to 2015 - whose conclusion included input from a good number of organizations represented. Presentation of the strategy was done alongside a historic evaluation of ACORD's (over) three decade history from that of a humanitarian arm of northern organizations, to a northern organization working in Africa to its current era; of an African led pan African organization firmly rooted in Africa. This wealthy history

ACORD's Ousainou Ngum, Kristin Seljeflot and Annette Msabeni

provided by ACORD's Executive Director and Board, created an appreciation of the struggles that have been an integral part of the organization's success story.

ACORD further provided a forum for participants to understand better its thematic workings through rotational thematic group discussions on gender, HIV and AIDS, conflict, livelihoods and Organizational Development. These spaces facilitated learning on ACORD's processes, methodologies, publications and projects related to the thematic choices. Notably, new post donor forum programmatic discussions and publications have been exchanged and new partnership discussions, initiated.

Key issues raised during plenary discussions, included the need to ensure ACORD's internal reflections and processes were in sync with those of the external environment

to ensure its processes are informing the global agenda. The organization needs to increasingly value its grassroots presence in the most unreachable areas of Africa. This comes with a certain type of expertise and knowledge which ACORD should pride. Our social movements, grassroots presence and work should therefore be well documented to inform other civil society engagements with communities and linking grassroots processes to that of national, regional and international level - as ACORD so well does. Alliance and partnership building with similar organizations, will serve to strengthen the social movements ACORD initiates or is part off.

The role of ACORD's Northern programme and advocacy work needs to be tightly linked to its Africa arm of Area Programmes and Secretariat which provide the vital and critical link to ACORD U.K.'s advocacy agenda. Notably is the rapidly changing external context in Africa which calls for consistent analysis and research on issues central to the organizations work; of which climate change, conflict relating to natural resource management or access to food and water are key. Natural disasters like drought and floods have become common place in Africa; prompting the need for development of inter agency disaster preparedness and warning mechanisms.

Xavier Ricard and Philip Mayol of CCFD and ACORD's Emime Ndikokubwayo

New areas of partnership that ACORD is venturing into include working with co-operations whose Community Social Responsibility programming provides an interesting type of collaboration for Africa's development. Partnering with academic institutions will also provide access to knowledge and information necessary to ensuring ACORD's relevance and formulation of appropriate programming initiatives. It will also facilitate a broadening of networks and coalitions on issues of joint interest. Essential to ACORD's policy and advocacy engagement is working with the AU which has emerged as a very instrumental body in consolidating Africa's development in collaboration with other sectors and advancing the African citizenship agenda.

ACORD's role on the continental stage, is therefore one of key facilitator to social movement building and developing learning and practice for civil society on this; bringing to the policy and governance arena the community agenda through society

centered policy and advocacy engagements. ACORD is also strategically placed to inform (and be informed) the northern and regional platforms (including the AU, ICGLR and ADB) through well founded research, experience and partnerships.

The Donor Round Table was reported by participants to have been most useful to better understanding the work of the organization and identifying emerging opportunities for increased collaboration.

ANNEX II: 2010 ACORD LEARNING FORUM PROGRAMME

Theme: The role of civil society organizations and the challenges of peace and security and consolidating peace in Africa

Date: 3rd-4th November 2010

Venue: Lake Elementaita Country Lodge, Kenya

DAY 1: Wednesday 3rd November 2010		
TIMETABLE	**ACTIVITIES**	**RESOURCE PERSON**
09:00-09:15	Opening remarks by the Executive Director to situate the learning forum	Ousainou Ngum-ACORD Executive Director
09:15-09:45 09:15-10.45	-Presentation of the Forum Explanation of the forum (its different stages and modes of working) -Presentation from Goree Institute on "The geopolitics of African conflicts" sub theme. • Question/answers session • Debate	Maggie Pankhurst -Lead Facilitator Doudou DIA
10.45-11:00	**GROUP PHOTO AND COFFEE BREAK**	
11:00-13:00	-Presentation from ICGLR on African intergovernmental organizations and regionalization of peace interventions in Africa sub-theme • Question/answers session • Debate -Presentation from FEMNET/FAHAMU on the sub-	Maggie Pankhurst –Lead Facilitator Nathan Byamukama-ICGLR Yves Niyiragira- Fahamu

	theme: "tragedy of gender based violence" • Question/answers session • Debate	
13:00-14:00	**LUNCH BREAK**	
14:00-16:00	-Presentation from ACORD on the social contract as a case study (general concept, applicability, The case of Kenya (testimony) followed by questions and debate	Maggie Pankhurst Prime Rupiya-ACORD Burundi Leonie Sendegeya-ACORD Kenya
16:00-16:15	**COFFEE BREAK**	
16:15-17:00	-Group work (lessons learnt from the various approaches, how do they complement each other at different levels?)	Maggie Pankhurst- Lead Facilitator
Day 2: Thursday 4th November 2010		
09:00-9:15	Recap	
9:15 -10:45	Experience Sharing Session ICCO –Conflict Mitigation Practice by Inter Pares-A Canada Based Experience of Bio-fuels and Land Grabbing COPAGEN – Land grabbing in West Africa GROUP DISCUSSIONS	Maggie Pankhurst- Lead Facilitator Wilma Rosenga Eric Chaurette Ibrahim Ouedraogo
10:15-11:00	**COFFEE BREAK**	
11:00 – 13:00	GROUP DISCUSSIONS	Maggie Pankhurst- Lead Facilitator

13:00-14:00	**LUNCH BREAK**	
14:00-16:00	Experience Sharing Session	Maggie Pankhurst- Lead Facilitator
	ICGLR –Youth Initiative	Kennedy Walusala
	Tiniguena- Water Resource Management in Guinea Bissau	Augustus Henrigues
	GROUP DISCUSSIONS	
16:00-16:15	**COFFEE BREAK**	
16.15-16:45	Summary of Forum Discussions	
	Summary of Conclusions and Insights	Mutizwa Mukute
	Illustration for CSO learning	Firoze Manji
16:45-17:00	Concluding Remarks and Forum Closure	Ousainou Ngum

Annex III: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

N.	Name	Organization
1.	Kristin Seljeflot Head of Funding and Partnership Development	ACORD Secretariat
2.	Augusta Henriques	Tiniguena- Guinea Bissau
3.	Stephen Wani- Area Programme Manager	ACORD South Sudan
4.	Prime Rupiya	ACORD Burundi
5.	Macky Bah Country Coordinator	ACORD Guinea Conakry
6.	Betty Plewes	ACORD Board Member Canada
7.	Leonie Abela, Kenya Programme Coordinator	ACORD Kenya
8.	Bruna Sironi	Manitese –Italy
9.	Khadija Bashir	ACORD Sudan
10.	Nashon Tado, Communications Officer	ACORD Secretariat
11.	Evans Tinega	Borabu Peace Watch Committee Secretary Kenya
12.	Monica Rono	Sotik Peace watch committee member, Kenya
13.	Stephen Ondieki	Sotik Peace watch committee member, Kenya
14.	Yabowerk Haile Area Programme Manager	ACORD Ethiopia
15.	Michael Herzka	ACORD Assembly Member Switzerland
16.	Kennedy Walusala	RMYF-ICGLR
17.	Firoze Manji	Pambazuka
18.	Molly Kane	ACORD Board Member and ETC Group Canada

19.	Sophie Havyarimana Area Programme Manager	ACORD Burundi
20.	Seid Sultane Ali-Conflict Thematic Manager	ACORD Secretariat
21.	Almonda Foday Khabenje-HROD Manager	ACORD Secretariat
22.	Angela Wauye- Pan Africa Livelihoods Advisor	ACORD Secretariat
23.	Patricia Mugambi	Freelance Interpreter
24.	Rachel Gouin Programme Manager	Inter Pares Canada
25.	Sheila Muli	FEMNET
26.	David Milgo	Community representative Sotik, Kenya
27.	Wilfried Fieremans, First Secretary	Belgium Embassy, Kampala
28.	Catherine Weynanis	Observer
29.	Nathan Byamukama- Programme Officer	ICGLR
30.	Monique van Es Programmes Operation and Dev. Manager	ACORD Secretariat
31.	Sylli Gandega	ACORD Board member Mauritania
32.	Sylvie Elenge Area Programme Manager	ACORD DRC
33.	Jacqueline Williams	ACORD Board member UK
34.	Wilma Rozenga Programme Officer	ICCO
35.	Ousainou Ngum Executive Director	ACORD Secretariat
36.	Emime Ndihokubwayo Head of Policy and Advocacy	ACORD Secretariat
37.	Lihn Trinh Senior Development Officer	CIDA Canada
38.	Eric Chaurette	Inter Pares Canada
39.	Philippe Mayol	CCFD France
40.	Teopista K Akoyi	Vredeseilanden

		Belgium
41.	Mutizwa Mukute	ACORD Board member Zimbabwe
42.	Mary Nzioki Partnership Development Officer	ACORD Secretariat
43.	Gertrude Kazoviyo	ACORD Board member Burundi
44.	Juliet Nakato	ACORD Uganda
45.	Yves Niyiragira	FAHAMU
46.	Richard Bennett	ACORD Board member UK
47.	Doudou Dia	Goree Institute Senegal
48.	Ibrahim Ouedraogo	ACORD Chairperson Burkina Faso
49.	Xavier Richard	CCFD France
50.	Annette Msabeni HIV/AIDS Thematic Manager	ACORD Secretariat
51.	Wilkister Oluoch Administrative Officer	ACORD Secretariat
52.	Mathilde Beuriot	CCFD France
53.	Nirina Kiplagat	UNDP Kenya
54.	Hannah Chira	ACORD Kenya
55.	Gladys Onyango	Open Society Initiative Kenya
56.	Caroline Testud	ACORD Secretariat