‘Not enough to know what we stand for; we must know what we stand against’

Israel Ambassador at the Holocaust Memorial

SECRETARY-GENERAL’S MESSAGE FOR THE DAY.

“The core values of the UN – tolerance, justice, respect for diversity, combatting hatred and violent extremism, promoting mutual understanding and dignity for all – are also key elements for building a more peaceful, harmonious world where the horrors and acts of inhumanity such as those perpetrated during the Holocaust could never take place again,” said the Director-General.

In attendance to this somber ceremony was the German Ambassador, Mrs. Jutta Frasch who called for religious and racial tolerance to avoid future genocides.

“It is very good thing,” said the German Ambassador, “that Germany and Israel are now very wonderful partners and friends on all levels. Our lesson has been that we must have the concept of saying sorry.”

The Israel Ambassador, Yahel Vilan said it is the responsibility of every individual to support racial, ethnic and religious harmony. “Our duty is clear. Being good is not enough. We must know what to do when we face evil. It is not enough to know what we stand for, we must know what we stand against.”

UNIC Nairobi in partnership with the Israel Embassy in Kenya brought together 300 students from 15 Kenyan Universities to commemorate the 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Day, at the United Nations Offices at Nairobi (UNON). The students were joined by over 100 diplomats accredited to UNEP and UN Habitat.

The Director-General of UNON, Sahle-Work Zewde hosted the event, welcomed diplomats and the visiting students before reading the UN Secretary-General’s message for the day.

Goals 11 and 12 - Page 8

Upcoming Events:
03 March – Wangari Mathai Day/World Wildlife Day
08 March – International Women’s Day
20 March – International Day of Happiness
21 March – International Day of Forests
25 March – International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

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EU Partners with UNDP to Strengthen Electoral Processes in Kenya

The United Nations Development Programme entered into an agreement with the European Union to support the electoral process in Kenya. The tripartite partnership between the European Union, the Independent Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC), and UNDP under the project framework on Strengthening of Electoral Processes in Kenya comes at a time when the electoral body in the country prepares for the general elections slated for August 2017.

The 5,000,000 EUROs grant is expected to strengthen the institutional, policy and legislative frameworks of the IEBC in readiness for the 2017 elections. Already, UNDP with support of other development partners has been assisting the IEBC in preparing for the mass voter registration exercise that will officially be launched on 15th February 2016.

“Readiness of the IEBC and other stakeholders remains crucial in cementing development progress towards national targets as outlined in Vision 2030 and other national planning frameworks, as well as regional and international development targets such as the SDGs,” pointed out UNDP RR a.i Mr. Michel Balima at the ceremony.

“The contribution we have just signed will go a long way to compliment Kenya government’s funding for the next elections,” noted IEBC Chairman Isaack Hassan, stating that donors support through the basket fund has enabled the commission to double the number of personnel being deployed for the mass voter registration. The Commission will now deploy 5,756 voter registration assistants to cover 24,559 designated registration centers across the 1450 wards.

The Long-term Electoral Assistance Programme of the EU aims to consolidate the gains accrued from previous elections and improve future electoral processes from 2017 and beyond. The programme will contribute to a harmonized and coordinated framework among donors to support all critical stages and actors of making sure that never again should mankind ever suffer such atrocities.

Dr. Praise told the students that the event was a time for everyone to pause and remember the millions of people who were murdered or whose lives were changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust.

Students were invited for questions at the end of the lecture and they asked competent questions that facilitated live debate as they tried to draw lessons that resonate with the Kenyan situation where ethnic tolerance remain a concern.

The ceremony involved the lighting of six remembrance candles led by the UNON’s Director-General Zewde. Each of the 400+ attendees held flowers which together were assembled into one at the end of the ceremony.

Continued from Page 1
the electoral cycle for the 2017 elections. “The growth and prosperity every Kenyan deserves depends on ensuring political stability and the full respect of the will of each and every citizen especially on polling day. Kenya is fast progressing as one of the leading democratic market economies in Africa. The European Union stands firmly as a reliable friend to every Kenyan citizen to make sure their dreams will come true,” remarked the Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Kenya, H.E Stefano-Antonio Dejak.

For the United Nations Development Programme, the collaboration with the European Union in Kenya has been longstanding and recently reinforced in 2014 by the 10th Anniversary commemorations of collaboration between the UNDP and EU globally, and that reconfirmed the common vision to development, especially for Africa. The UNDP has also managed resources from the EU and other development partners, in the form of a basket fund, to support the electoral cycle in the past. What was left from the previous fund has been used of late to provide technical assistance to the IEBC, helping the commission design a two-year action plan for the years 2015-2017 that covers different phases of the electoral cycle from the consolidation of the legal framework to security, audit and evaluation.

The Strengthening the Electoral Processes in Kenya project is designed to consolidate and build on the gains made from the constitutional transition process and the 2013 elections to strengthen and develop sustainable and effective election institutions, systems and processes. This project is also supported by USAID and DFID.

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**Kenya Green Universities Network Launched to Promote Sustainability Practices in Higher Education Institutions**

On 5 February, 2016, more than 160 participants from Kenyan higher education institutions attended the launch of the Kenya Green University Network (KGUN), aimed at inculcating environmental and sustainability practices into the curricula, campus designs and research projects of Kenyan universities.

Speaking during the launch of KGUN—a joint initiative of the Commission for University Education (CUE), the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)—Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, said Kenya is seeing fast progress in higher education.

Adding that, “Many Kenyan universities have already recognized sustainability demands and have responded in ways that are worth sharing. They are investing in greener campuses, greener curricula, and ways of engaging staff, students and community”.

Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities of Kenya, in her opening remarks, said that the network marks the beginning of long-term cooperation between 70 universities in Kenya that will address sustainability issues through the adoption of low-carbon strategies, mainstreaming environmental sustainability across the curriculum, and engaging with community and other stakeholders at various levels. She called on all Kenyan Universities to green their policies, programmes and activities.

With 70 public and private universities in Kenya, there is great potential to promote sustainability both through education and practice. Some universities are already implementing low-carbon solutions at their campuses; for example,
Strathmore University has installed solar panels with the capacity to produce 0.6 megawatts annually. In addition to being climate-friendly, the move has also proven economically viable, with the university selling 0.25 megawatts to Kenya Power at a price of 12 shillings per kilowatt-hour.

Following the historic adoption of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change last year, KGUN will provide a platform for Kenyan higher education institutions to play their part in these global processes. The universities that comprise the network will serve as hubs for innovation and knowledge sharing of best practices in Kenya.


UN Women in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden organized the fifth commemoration of the Open Day on Women, Peace and Security in Kenya dubbed “Women’s day for Peace” in Wajir County on 4th February 2016.

The commemoration was in recognition of the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and in response to the call in UNSCR 1325 consultation with local grassroots women’s groups. Wajir County is in the northern region of Kenya bordering Somalia and has constantly been faced with threats and conflict related to terrorism, radicalization and Gender Based Violence and the majority of the casualties being women. Women in the early 1990s spearheaded the Wajir peace process, which has been showcased globally today as a best practice when it comes to community-led peace initiatives.

**Women peace activists in Wajir celebrate their achievements in peace processes:**

The event provided a platform for women to articulate and amplify their voices as well as highlight their roles and the importance of their participation and representation in conflict resolution, peace negotiation and peace building. It also served as an opportunity for women...
and peace activists in Wajir to celebrate their achievements and contributions to Wajir’s peace process and the County’s development.

The event was graced by the Governor of Wajir County Ahmed Abdullahi Mohamed, the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya Ambassador Johan Borgstam, the UN Women Kenya Country Director Ms. Zebib Kavuma, Hon. Fatuma Ibrahim Ali- County MP, County Director of youth and gender, representative of the County Commissioner Mr. Ole Talal, Traditional peace leaders and elders, women peace advocates from Wajir Women for Peace Organization as well as Maendeleo ya Wanawake and students representative from Furaha Day Mixed Secondary School Peace club.

Focal points of discussion and engagement during the event were protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence during and after conflict; inclusivity in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peace-building, recovery and reconstruction; participation and representation in decision making processes; and the role of peace leaders and elders in promoting peace and fighting GBV.

Inclusion of women in peace processes is important for lasting peace:

Ambassador Brogstam reiterating Sweden’s commitment to championing human rights and women rights globally highlighted that women inclusivity in peace processes is vital in achieving not only successful but lasting negotiations. “When it comes to solving conflicts, women are left out of the negotiation table. This is why peace negotiations do not last”

The Ambassador further pointed out the importance of establishing peace at the family level in order to establish peace at the community and society at large stating that most of the domestic violence is propagated by people closer to the victims like a brother or a husband. He further challenged men to take a strong stand against Gender Based Violence (GBV) perpetrators. This involves taking action to perpetrators even if they are close family members.

Wajir County has a desk that handles GBV cases:

Governor Ahmed Abdullahi, in his remarks called for the institutionalization of the Wajir peace model to deal with the security concerns in the County and noted that GBV issues continue partly because of the culture and the patriarchal nature of the society. In order to address all gender issues with regards to domestic violence and female genital mutilation, the County has established a gender desk and will launch a 24 hour toll free number in March 2016.

Women should be more involved in formal peace processes:

UN Women Kenya Country Director in calling for the recognition of women as integral part in conflict prevention and peace processes said; “Women are active agents of transformative and sustainable change and peace regardless of society constantly victimizing them,” adding that their representation in formal peace processes and negotiations remain unacceptably low, not only in the region but also the country as a whole 15 years after the UNSCR 1325.

The Alfatah Council of Elders also acknowledged that there is still room for improvement in as far as GBV is concerned, irrespective of having registered some improvement. They further reiterated their commitment to fighting GBV and promoting women’s empowerment.

ICT integration in education in Kenya: Roll-out of the Digital Literacy Programme

A course on ICT integration in education started with a face-to-face three-day workshop at the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA), Nairobi, Kenya from 19 to 21 January 2016. The course will continue online from February to May 2016 in order to prepare teachers in using ICT in the roll-out of the Digital Literacy Programme of the Government of Kenya.

The 59 participants to the course represented the 47 counties of Kenya. Mr. Wekesa Abraham from Turkana County, one of the participants, said, “It was the best, though challenging. I thought I was a guru in ICT but I have learnt a lot and would wish to never miss any other ICT training.” The participants were taken through the KICT-CFT Course that aims at:

- developing Kenyan teachers’ skills in applying principles of ICT in education.
- designing a unit plan with ICT
Using Technology to Empower Women and Girls in Kenya: A Partnership of Intel and UN Women

Intel Corporation in partnership with UN Women in Kenya on 26th January, 2016 launched an online learning platform dubbed – Intel She Will Connect - My Digital Journey – aimed at providing an opportunity for women and girls to connect learn and share online. The online learning platform aims to teach young women how to use the internet and technology to pursue their goals through an innovative combination of digital literacy training and an online peer network.

The event was attended by Intel Corporation’s Vice President, Director of Corporate Affairs, and President
Intel Foundation Ms. Rosalind Hudnell, the UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Deputy Regional Director Simone Oluoch-Olunya, the USAID deputy Mission Director in Kenya Mr. Steve Olive and beneficiaries of the project. Speaking at the launch, UN Women Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, noted that unlocking gender equality will unlock the growth potential of the continent. She further reiterated that the project will assist in achieving not only women economic empowerment which is one of UN Women’s key result area but also the recently launched Sustainable Development goals and specifically goal 5 on Gender Equality.

“Grounded in the vision of equality, UN Women believes that technology can be a game-changer for women and girls. Enhancing women’s economic empowerment is one of the five priority areas of UN Women’s work, therefore this initiative is one of UN Women’s undertakings to advance women’s economic empowerment and support women, particularly from a technology perspective,” added Ms. Oluoch-Olunya.

Launching the program in Nairobi, Intel Corporation’s Vice President, Director of Corporate Affairs, and President Intel Foundation Ms. Rosalind Hudnell said: “My Digital Journey provides an opportunity for women and girls in Kenya, Nigeria & South Africa to learn about the internet and benefit from the wealth of information available that will contribute towards achieving their goals and provide access to opportunities.”

UN-Habitat to lead in planning Kenya’s first Integrated Settlement in Kalobeyei, Turkana County

UN-Habitat has joined in the implementation of Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Program (KISED), a Turkana-based initiative that seeks to facilitate collaboration and coordination between the Kenyan Government, UN agencies, development actors, NGOs, private sector and civil society to build sustainable services and economic opportunities in Kalobeyei, a new settlement in Kenya that is expected to accommodate more than 60,000 refugees and host communities.

The programme focuses on both short (humanitarian) and long-term (sustainable development) interventions and will be implemented through four thematic areas: sustainable integrated service delivery and skills development; spatial planning and infrastructure development; agriculture and livestock development and private sector and entrepreneurship.

UN-Habitat, having gained unique and universally-acknowledged expertise in human settlements development for the past 40 years, will lead the spatial planning and infrastructure development thematic area in close collaboration with the World Bank, Turkana County Government, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), national government agencies, refugees and host communities as well as humanitarian implementing partners.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
such as Peace Winds Japan. UN-Habitat’s intervention will be participatory and is expected to lead to the establishment of a support function for the county government of Turkana, sustainable livelihoods development for refugee and host communities and formulation of detailed re-settlement plan that will include an integrated spatial and investment plan.

The Turkana County Government urged UN-Habitat to utilize global best practice and in-house expertise on planned urbanization and integrated sustainable settlement planning to promote social cohesion and reduce potential refugee and host community conflicts in Kalobeyei and the neighbouring settlements. The implementation by UN-Habitat is supported by the Government of Japan through the Regional Office for Africa in collaboration with the Urban Planning and Design Branch, Programme Division and the Urban Governance Unit.

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**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

*at your fingertips*

**Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

- Half of humanity – 3.5 billion people – lives in cities today. By 2030, almost 60% of the world’s population will live in urban areas.
- 828 million people live in slums today and the number keeps rising.
- The world’s cities occupy just 2% of the Earth’s land, but account for 60 – 80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon emissions. Rapid urbanization is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health. But the high density of cities can bring efficiency gains and technological innovation while reducing resource and energy consumption.
- Cities have the potential to either dissipate the distribution of energy or optimise their efficiency by reducing energy consumption and adopting green – energy systems. For instance, Rizhao, China has turned itself into a solar – powered city; in its central districts, 99% of households already use solar water heaters.

**Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

- 1.3 billion tonnes of food are wasted every year.
- If people worldwide switched to energy-efficient lightbulbs, the world would save US$120 billion annually.
- Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles.
- More than 1 billion people still do not have access to fresh water.

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2. Vaccinates the world's children, saving millions lives a year
3. Assists millions of refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution
4. Combats climate change; heads a campaign to end leaded fuel use in many nations
5. Keeps peace with peacekeepers in more than 12 operations on 4 continents
6. Fights poverty, helping millions of rural poor achieve better lives
7. Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations
8. Mobilizes US$ billions in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies
9. Advances democracy, assisting many countries a year with their elections
10. Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of millions of women a year

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