UNESCO Open Lecture Series launched to celebrate the International Day of Peace - A Regional Interactive Panel Discussion and Westgate remembrance

UNESCO, in partnership with sister agencies from the United Nations in Kenya and Somalia, organized a regional discussion to observe the International Day of Peace. The event brought together 200 university students from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, United States International University and youth organizations from Kenya, including the UNESCO Youth Forum. Other students and youth groups were virtually connected from Mogadishu (Somalia), Juba (South Sudan) and Kampala (Uganda), and participated in the panel discussion.

The programme of the day started with the Director-General of UNON, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, presiding over an official ceremony in remembrance of the Westgate terrorist attack that took place in 2013.

The programme included a panel discussion led by Binyavanga Wainaina and Abdul Lamin, who followed the proceedings via google hangout.

What’s Inside:
- UNESCO Open Lecture Series launched to celebrate the International Day of Peace - A Regional Interactive Panel Discussion and Westgate remembrance
- Leaders call for comprehensive policy to guide pastoralist mobility in the region
- Climate Change taking a toll on pastoralist communities in Kenya
- Kenya Inter-agency Rapid Assessment carried out in Wajir County
- Braving dust storms, women change the landscape of the Dadaab refugee camp
- Police Gender Desk Officers and Members of the County Assembly sensitized on Technology Based Violence against Women in Nyeri County, Kenya
- UN-Habitat trains slum dwellers on ICT
- Breaking the glass ceiling of gender inequality in the Kenya Police Service
- SEED Initiative honors forty one grassroots entrepreneurs in Africa
- Wangari Maathai’s legacy lives on

Upcoming Events

- 6 November: International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- 11-22 November: Climate Change Conference
- 16 November: International Day of Tolerance
- 19 November: World Toilet Day
- 20 November: Africa Industrialization Day
- 21 November: World Television Day
- 25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 25 Nov-10 Dec: 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence
- 29 November: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
place on 21 September, 2013. In her remarks, Ms. Zewde noted that: “Never before has the work of the United Nations been so crucial, as part of our collective efforts to address the pressing challenges facing our world – from peace and security to climate change, and from development to human rights.”

The messages from the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon and UNESCO Director-General, Ms. Irina Bokova, were also shared with the audience. In the Secretary General’s message delivered by Ms. Zewde, Mr. Ban reiterated that: “Peace and security are essential foundations for social progress and sustainable development,” concluding that it was precisely why “three decades ago the United Nations affirmed the right of peoples to peace”. The UNESCO Director-General concurred: “The right to peace is of utmost importance in view of the violence that is tearing the world apart”.

Setting the tone of the discussion, Abdul Rahman Lamin, UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Specialist who moderated the panel discussion, questioned whether people should be optimistic about the future, in light of numerous social and political conflicts currently raging across the globe, consequently undermining peace and human rights.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Justice of Kenya, Dr. Willy Mutunga, pointed out that the new Kenyan constitution outlines the rights of the people of Kenya. In particular, he cited the Preamble to the Constitution, which honours those who heroically struggled to bring freedom and justice to the land of Kenya; celebrates Kenya’s ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, noting their determination to live in peace and unity as one indivisible sovereign nation. From the Constitution he further noted the commitment of Kenyans to nurturing and protecting the well-being of the individual, the family, communities and the nation, and the recognition of the aspirations of all Kenyans for a government based on the essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law.

Dr. Mutunga went on to highlight Kenya’s national values and principles of governance, which promote peace and are well articulated in Article 10, Section 2 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Senior Adviser in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Uchenna Emelonye, observed that although peace was vital to human survival, unfortunately, most international legal instruments as well as national laws such as constitutions, had failed to elevate peace to a right. “Peace must be elevated to the level of rights, and legal texts should insist on the Right of Peace”. He noted that integrating the right to peace in the framework of rules of law would contribute to the process of recognizing peace as a human right for every human being.

Kenyan author and journalist, Binyavanga Wainaina, added that it was healthy for society to be able to discuss disagreements, “to have the agreement to disagree,” but emphasized such must be done in the context of the rule of law and that tolerance must be the cornerstone. Besides, to improve peace-building in societies, the youth has to be sensitized to peaceful values and human rights.

Tunza Programme Youth Advisor at UNEP, Yvonne Maingey, argued for the meaningful inclusion and participation of youth in political life, as part of the broader objective of promoting peace. “We need to bring young people into the political decision-making process and get their meaningful engagement,” she added. “They are decision-makers of tomorrow and must seize the opportunity to do things differently,” she concluded.

In her contribution to the debate, renowned Kenyan athlete and Peace Ambassador, Tegla Loroupe, noted that there was often times a gap between discussions and implementation of policies for peace-building needs, and this, she contended, would need to be addressed to promote harmony among diverse communities. She further argued that African communities need to look at aspects of their culture that promote peace and unity, and use them as a basis to enhance cohesion among their peoples.

In the lively and interactive discussion that ensued afterwards, the audiences in Nairobi, Juba, Kampala and Mogadishu raised quite a number of valuable points, including the disconnection between citizens and their leaders; the need to bring back integrity into public life, and in particular, strengthening the judicial systems of the various countries in the region, as a means of guaranteeing long-term durable peace. The need to have more of such platforms through which...
citizens can engage in a public dialogue and conversation about issues that affect their lives and communities, was highly encouraged.

Earlier, prior to the panel discussion, artistic performances were exhibited by the members from UNESCO Youth Forum, who presented peace songs and poems they created for the event. Beth Wanjiku is one of these writers, encouraged by her personal life and challenges she has to face every day as a young woman living with a mild form of cerebral palsy. Considering herself as blessed for having a limited disability due to the disease, she wants to be the voice of her less fortunate brothers and sisters to attract public attention to people with disabilities in developing countries. Through her poems and novels, she also advocates for the youth’s involvement in building peaceful societies:

“No man is an island, no man stands alone. We all need each other, together we are strong. So let us be our brother’s keeper And let us stand as one against our foes! For Africa’s glory; for the world’s glory will only shine If we all hold up our candles of hope. We must unite!”

At the end of the panel discussion, in her closing remarks on behalf of the UN Country Team, the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, spoke directly to the young people who constituted the bulk of the participants, emphasizing their role and responsibility in building peace.

“I am persuaded that, more than anyone else, you, young people should yearn and demand for real peace in your families, communities and countries, to apply your potential and live with dignity; you should refuse to be weapons of war, you should refuse to be IDPs, you should refuse to be refugees,” she concluded.

The theme of this year’s International Day of Peace was the “Right of Peoples to Peace”, marking the 30th anniversary of the General Assembly Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace. This anniversary offered a unique opportunity to reafﬁrm the UN’s commitment to the purposes and principles upon which the Organization was founded. The Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace recognizes that the promotion of the Culture of Peace and Non-violence is vital for the full enjoyment of all human rights.

Leaders call for comprehensive policy to guide pastoralist mobility in the region

There is a need for policy that can guide pastoralist mobility along the migration corridors between Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

This was highlighted during a meeting convened by leaders from the respective countries to commemorate the Lokiriama Peace Accord on 21 September 2014 and to help map out achievements made to harness peace within the Ateker communities in the Karamoja cluster.

Turkana County has been experiencing various challenges ranging from cross-border conflicts, both with the neighbouring countries and counties, droughts, harsh terrain and underdevelopment. The borders of Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda are the epicentres of cattle rustling, proliferation of small arms and resource based conflict. Given the common denominator of conflict, this meeting provided a platform for the leaders to discuss how to move forward together.

The leaders emphasized the need to project lessons learned in the Lokiriama Peace Accord and foster lasting peace in Loringipi location, Turkana County. This includes plans to replicate the dialogue process that has been implemented in Turkana and Tepeth corridor, which can transform the triangle known as “triangle of death” to “triangle of peace”. The “triangle of death” is in the Karamoja Cluster, within the pastoralist migration corridor. Many use this route when migrating in search of water and pasture.

“There is a strong wind of peace in this region and it is upon us to cement this peace. It is unfortunate that the international community has kept quiet even as our people perish in these conflicts,” said Josephat Nanok, Governor of Turkana County.

The Governor also encouraged the leaders to set up joint infrastructure as a
way of eliminating cattle rustling, saying that: “when our people can trade and find other ways of engagement, their interest will be drawn away from cattle rustling”.

Turkana has offered to host a network of parliamentarians from the region to discuss effective ways of cementing the peace process.

Among other issues, the leaders agreed to: include women and youth in the peace processes; enforce education for all; strengthen early warning systems; conduct and complete disarmament; institutionalize common peace dividends; establish joint grazing zones; work with partners to replicate the successful peace accord; and practice and promote harmonious and peaceful existence.

Furthermore, to support Kenya’s peace initiative, IOM, in partnership with the National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management (NSC) hosted the Turkana County Peace Committees’ Consultative Forum on 22 – 24 September at St. Teresa’s Pastoral Center in Lodwar.

The objective of the forum was to provide a platform where the respective representatives from the peace committees combined their knowledge to find a sustainable solution to the issues affecting Turkana. The forum also aimed to build synergy between the National and County governments to enable them, together with the peace committees, to build a harmonious path towards a peaceful Turkana County.

Climate Change taking a toll on pastoralist communities in Kenya

AGNES Leina, the Executive Director of Illaramatak Community Concerns, has expressed concern that climate change is drastically taking a toll on indigenous communities in the East Africa region.

“Climate change is taking a toll on most pastoralist communities, they can no longer predict the rainy season and the number of cows owned by the pastoralists have declined drastically,” said Ms. Leina.

She explained that climate change had far reaching consequences leading to the scarcity of water and pasture. In some extreme situations cattle have died and impacted negatively on the pastoralists, who depend on livestock, not only for food but also for income to pay school fees for their children. This has led to school drop-outs, mainly of girls, since boys are given priority.

According to Ms. Leina, this situation has been one of the hindrances on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2 on universal primary education. “When we talk of the MDG on education, ‘we have enrolment, retention and continuity’. We probably have scored highly on enrolment. When you look at statistical data, standard one up to six, the girls are many but when you continue on to standard eight and up to form four they drop drastically,” she added.

Another challenge associated with climate change is poverty and lack of resources. Thus, girls are often forced into early marriages so that the family is enriched through dowry.

Ms. Leina is one of the delegates from Kenya who attended the first World Conference on Indigenous People in New York in September 2014, where UN Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Illaramatak Community Concerns is a Non-Governmental Organization aimed at addressing human rights and development concerns of Maasai pastoralist women and girls. The organization believes that the perception of women and girls is the root of their marginalization. Women are denied basic rights because they are perceived as unworthy or incapable of making decisions for themselves and their families. Girls are not encouraged to go to school because their value is calculated by the size of their dowry.

Samburu women, one of the indigenous communities in Kenya (Photo by Illaramatak Community Concerns)
The Kenya Inter-agency Rapid Assessment (KIRA) is a joint assessment mechanism that aims to provide timely information on humanitarian needs and support strategic decision-making in the early stages of a sudden emergency.

The development of the project is led by the National Disaster Operation Center (NDOC), National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, RedR UK, Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), UNICEF and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). KIRA has been used sixteen times in response to floods, landslides and inter-communal conflict since November 2012.

More than 700 staff from different organisations and field locations have been trained in KIRA. The rapid assessment mechanism has achieved significant success in bringing stakeholders together for a multi-sectoral overview of needs in sudden emergencies and in making recommendations. Lessons learned from the various assessments have helped further develop the tool and strengthen the analysis of the data.

The KIRA approach aims to complement and draw upon existing mechanism capacities and best practices.

The inter clan clashes between Garre and Degodia along the Wajir-Mandera border prompted for a rapid KIRA by humanitarian stakeholders in Wajir.

The assessment participants (from NDMA, UNICEF/UNOPS, SAVE THE CHILDREN, KRCS, Wajir South Development Association, WFP-Kenya and the Government of Kenya) were drawn from a Wajir KIRA training facilitated by RedR-UK in June 2014 for the County.

The KIRA core group facilitated a secondary data review for the assessment which was a combination of pre-crisis and in-crisis secondary data used for contextualizing the primary data collected and understanding the impact of the conflict.

The methodology used comprised community group discussion with both males and females, key informant interviews at the administrative level and direct observation at site level.

The data was remotely collected through mobile phone technology and thereafter uploaded to a web platform for storage and analysis.

The assessment team did a joint analysis to agree as a group on assessment findings, priorities and recommendations. For more information please visit the UNOCHA website: https://kenya.humanitarianresponse.info/local-themes/kira
Braving dust storms, women change the landscape of the Dadaab refugee camp

Leila, with her baby on her lap, keenly following the training in Daadab. (Photo by UN Women)

At one of the rooms of Ifo 2 hospital of the massive Dadaab refugee settlement in Kenya’s North Eastern Province, women — some, with their babies on their laps — are listening attentively to their teacher at a business management workshop.

Leila Abdulilahi, a 25-year-old Somali refugee and mother, has brought her 5-month-old along, while her four other children wait at home. She asks question after question, eager to learn more. Leila has lived in the camp for the past three years and has no source of income, so her family depends on the rations distributed by the World Food Programme (WFP). Unlike others who have called Dadaab home since 1991 at the start of the civil war in Somalia, she is a ‘new arrival’ — a term used for those who came in response to the 2011 drought and more recent military intervention against extremist groups. According to the UN Refugee Agency there are 339,606 registered refugees in Dadaab, half of whom are women. Thousands more live in Dadaab, unregistered. (August 2014 statistics)

Women and girls are sexually abused in and around the camp. “We are afraid to go and fetch firewood in the forest. Bandits also attack us in our own homestead and rape us,” says Leila. “If I had the money I would just buy firewood and wouldn’t have to go or send my daughter to the forest.”

According to the Kenya Red Cross Society, rape rates are highest in Ifo 2. It is the newest camp and safety measures are yet to be put in place, such as community protection mechanisms for overcrowding, as well as lighting and fencing.

UN Women Kenya, through its Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Programme, has been supporting and working closely with the Kenya Red Cross to implement a livelihood project in IFO 2 West and East, which is located approximately 100 kilometres from the Kenya-Somalia border.

“The lack of livelihood opportunities is a contributing factor to sexual and gender-based violence at the camp,” says Idil Absiye, Peace and Security Specialist with UN Women Kenya. She says providing women with the opportunity to earn a living is an important step that will help them fend for themselves in the camp and when they go back to their homes.

The initiative also provides counselling services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as family mediation services at Ifo 2 District hospital. Since these sessions began, more sexual and gender-based violence cases have been reported. According to Counsellor Gertrude Lebu, the Gender-Based Violence Centre now receives up to fifteen cases on an average day. Men have also been seeking family mediation services with their wives.

Beneath the scalding sun that has parched the landscape of north-eastern Kenya, ten women are digging the dry, dusty land using rakes. When dust storms come up, they use their scarves to shield their eyes. They hardly notice the harsh conditions as they dig. For now, they are toiling, but three months later they will be harvesting their horticultural products.

Ephraim Karanja, the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Programme Coordinator with the Kenya Red Cross, says the women are busy preparing the land to plant and sow crops that they will sell at a new market in Dadaab.

“I want to open a shop. With the money I
make, I will buy clothes, vegetables and fruits for my children,” says Leila. She will be trained and supported to start a business that will generate some income to sustain her family. She and 300 other women will be trained in business management and horticulture. The overall goal of the project is to improve the living standards of refugee women and girls who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, through socio-economic empowerment. Income-generating activities in Dadaab refugee camps are rare and agriculture even more so, because of the harsh weather conditions and extreme poverty. Women sometimes sell a portion of their food aid in order to be able to purchase fruits, vegetables and school supplies, as well as pay for their children’s school fees.

Higala Mohammed used to be a farmer back in Somalia and is optimistic to see the fruits of her labour. Meanwhile, she also has a small vegetable garden next to her makeshift tent where she grows ‘Barere’, a traditional vegetable consumed in Somalia. “We need all the nutrients we can get here,” she adds.

Providing for their families means everything for women like Leila and Higala. They feel that they will not have to fight with their husbands for food, school fees or other basic needs as they too will be able to provide for themselves and their families.

Inspired, Leila says: “I want to work and support my family, even when I return home someday. And I will open a bigger shop”.

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Police Gender Desk Officers and Members of the County Assembly sensitized on Technology Based Violence against Women in Nyeri County, Kenya

UNESCO supported the International Association for Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) in a one-day workshop on Technology-Based Violence against Women on 25 September 2014 in Nyeri County, Kenya.

The training targeted twenty five participants from the Kenya Police Gender Desk Office, County Administration and Members of the County Assembly. It was aimed at creating awareness on technology-based violence against women. The workshop highlighted practical ways in which law enforcers can handle and prosecute perpetrators of technology based violence.

During the workshop, participants were trained on what constitutes technology-based violence against women; laws governing the use of social media; staying safe online and offline; how to keep and handle evidence on technology-based violence against women cases; types of abuses against women on social media platforms and how to use Ushahidi platform to map out technology-based violence against women cases in Kenya.

Mr. Washington Odhiambo, Ushahidi Map Administrator from KICKTANet showcased the Ushahidi platform https://ke.takebackthetech.net/mapit/ that allows anyone to submit information through text messaging or use of a web form to report cases of violence against women. Mr. Odhiambo also took participants through a practical step by step process of how to report technology-based violence against women by sending a text message to +254700777724, or e-mail map@ke.takebackthetech.net or by filling in a form available on https://ke.takebackthetech.net/mapit/. The platform also permits NGOs and law enforcement agencies to visualize, through the interactive map, reported cases. Participants realized that the Takebacktech.net website can be a powerful tool for mapping technology-based violence against women.

The workshop was conducted through use of presentations, case study reviews, group discussions and assignments.

Mr. Stephen Kiboi, a County representative for Nyeri noted that the training was beneficial to him as he was not familiar with technology violence and had only known about domestic violence. “I now know what to do as a ward member when I come across incidences of technology violence. I am very pleased that this training has also involved participation of Kenyan Police officers as they are the custodians of the law.”

The recommendations given at the end of the training by the participants include: need to use mass media, especially the radio, to help create
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

awareness of technology-based violence against women in Nyeri County; and need for follow up training of law enforcement officers and the public on technology violence against women.

This workshop comes as a follow up to the National Workshop on Technology-Based Violence against Women that was held in June 2014 in Nairobi. The training is part of UNESCO’s ongoing initiatives of building capacities of women and girls in ICT through gender equality approaches and establish gender inclusive access to information and knowledge. It was supported by the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Kenya.

UN-Habitat trains slum dwellers on ICT

The Chairman of the Mzambarauni Residents Committee, Mr. Jilani Mwabonje, addressing the residents at one of the meetings between the villagers and UN-Habitat staff members

(Photos by Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat)

As part of its Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), UN-Habitat has embarked on training slum dwellers in Kilifi County on the use of ICT.

The month of September saw members of the Mzambarauni and Majengo slums of Mtwapa area train in e-learning under which they would be able to run the affairs of their community. The ultimate plan is to build for them a resource centre from where they will operate.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme aims to strengthen community, city and national key stakeholders’ capacities in participatory slum upgrading in Kenya and is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development, the County Government of Kilifi and the community of Mtwapa in Kilifi County.

The pilot activities being undertaken will benefit over 20,000 people. In general, the Country Team aims to contribute to the development of a national slum upgrading and prevention strategy through lessons learnt from the multi-stakeholder pilot programme in Mtwapa, while improving inter-sectoral coordination on slum upgrading and prevention programmes and activities at both national and local levels. It is a tripartite project that has seen the European Community contributing USD 650,000 and the Government of Kenya putting in additional USD 250,000. UN-Habitat is the implementing agency in close collaboration with the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development.

The projects consist of slum upgrading initiatives in the neighborhoods of Majengo and Mzambarauni. A One Stop Resource Centre where residents can access community information and services that include health and economic development will also be set up. The centre will also host an e-participation platform that will enable community members, local government and organizations, and other interested parties to share experiences and ideas, keep track of development programmes as well as request for feedback on matters that relate to service delivery.

Area residents are delighted with the new developments, especially the component of safety.

“...for them a resource centre from where they will operate...”

“We have very many problems in Mtwapa including blocked drainages, poor waste disposal and scarce job opportunities which bite the youth the most,” says Caleb Omondi, a music producer.

“...Through PSUP that targets Mtwapa, Caleb hopes that most, if not all of these problems will be a thing of the past and that the next generation of the area residents will grow up in a more secure environment. This optimism from Caleb seems infectious. Talking to the people of Kilifi - from slum dwellers up to their leaders - the picture is that of a people who believe they have finally hedged their bets on the right horse with high hopes for better lives. And that horse is the PSUP...

Mr. Jilani Mwabonje is the Chairman of the Mzambarauni Residents’ Committee. A Mtwapa old timer, he says he has seen the township evolve from a small layby to a thriving hotchpotch of cultures.

With this steady growth has come various challenges, Jilani says. “...we have serious infrastructural problems here. Coupled with this is the lack of adequate sanitation facilities and its twin problem of shortage of water. Our women and children have to walk long distances searching for water, with negative impacts on the family life,” he says, adding that he wished there was a component to include a dispensary in the project.

Currently, he notes, the residents have to carry sick family members over long distances in search of medical attention.

Political leaders at Kilifi County Government headquarters seem to be in agreement with Jilani. Mr. Kenneth Kamto is the Deputy Governor and says he is committed to seeing the project come to a conclusive end.

“The problem of chaotic urbanisation cuts across all the counties in Kenya but in Kilifi we are leading in efforts to address this problem. This is because of the fact that we find ourselves in the enviable position that we have...”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
slums almost up to village level. This has been occasioned by historical injustices where you find that someone living in the Middle East has the title to a huge plantation meaning the rest of those living on that piece of land are just, but squatters”. According to Mr. Kamto, one of the ways of tackling the slum menace was to ensure that the residents have security of tenure for the pieces of land where they live.

The Deputy Governor says his government has benefited a great deal by involving the citizens in decision-making. “The constitution is very explicit that we must involve all stakeholders and this is why we are always seeking the views of the citizens on any project we embark on,” he adds.

Breaking the glass ceiling of gender inequality in the Kenya Police Service

L inda Okello talks with confidence about herself and why she chose to be a police officer. At 31 and working in the traffic department, she has no doubt that the governance and leadership skills earned during a recent training organized by UN Women shall help her in her day-to-day activities working with the National Police Service.

“This training has really helped me and will enable me to look clearly at my role as a police woman and an agent of transformative change as I want to be a leader someday,” Linda says smiling.

After completing her education, Linda joined the Kenya Police eight years ago. “I have always wanted to be a police officer since I was a little girl and I love my job, even though I have faced many challenges being a woman,” she adds.

UN Women Kenya, through its Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action programme has been supporting and working closely with the National Police Service in promoting gender sensitive police reforms and supporting the establishment of the first ever association within the Service. The Association aims to champion the rights of women, promote gender equality and professional growth of women within the Service. It is expected to enhance the role of women in policing by developing leadership skills, providing a platform for women officers to share experiences and support one another, as well as lobby for gender sensitive policies and also enhance their ability to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

Ms. Karin Fueg, UN Women Kenya Deputy Country Director stressed the importance of recognizing the role of the police women since different genders and ages face diverse security threats that require tailored responses. “A crucial element in ensuring peace and security is adequate representation of women in the security sector, to broaden trust and act on gender-specific concerns such as GBV/SGBV,” said Ms. Fueg.

The training aimed at building the capacity of the Kenya Association of Women Police (KAWP) members to become more gender responsive by promoting women’s leadership in decision-making, advocating for the increase of women in police and developing strategic plans and initiatives focused on responding to the security needs of women and girls.
The training provided KWAP members an opportunity to take stock of
the Association, recap the long journey from where they started to where they
are, assess the challenges faced and progress that has been achieved to date in
efforts to promote and elevate the profile of women within the police and criminal
justice systems in Kenya. Additionally, the training provided a platform to
examine the role of KWAP within the larger police reforms in Kenya.
“There is a need to keep police women on
their toes,” reiterated Professor Maria
Nzomo, who facilitated the training and
often reminded the participants of how
far the Kenyan women had come from
with regards to leadership. It is worth
noting that Professor Nzomo has been
a firm advocate for gender equality and
has been instrumental in advocating for
gender to be mainstreamed within the
police reforms. “It is not easy but we have to
push and work together to ensure we achieve our
objectives,” she emphasized.

Ms. Sicilly Gatiti, KWAP Chairperson,
is proud of the achievements the
Association has realized in one year. “I
can happily say that gender has been integrated
in the Police Curriculum and we have been
able to hold our elections,” noted Sicilly.
She reminded the members of the long
journey ahead: “We need to be prepared, we
need good governance and mechanisms to cope
with challenges and conflict. We all need to work
together to make Kenya a better and safer place for all”.

Like Linda, many women police
officers want to be leaders in the police
service. “I hope through this Association, many
women and girls will be reached and helped,”
said Pauline Muriithi, KAWP member
and an Inspector in the Administration
Police Service.

The SEED Initiative, a global
partnership for action on
sustainable development and the
green economy, recognized forty one
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“SEED Initiative honors forty one grassroots
entrepreneurs in Africa

(First from Left) Ms. Helen Marquard, Executive Director of Seed, (4th from Left) Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw,
Deputy Executive Director of UNEP; and some of the 2014 SEED Award winners (Photo by UNEP)

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Association has realized in one year. “I
can happily say that gender has been integrated
in the Police Curriculum and we have been
able to hold our elections,” noted Sicilly.
She reminded the members of the long
journey ahead: “We need to be prepared, we
need good governance and mechanisms to cope
with challenges and conflict. We all need to work
together to make Kenya a better and safer place for all”.

Like Linda, many women police
officers want to be leaders in the police
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Police Service.

The SEED Initiative honors forty one grassroots
entrepreneurs in Africa

The SEED Initiative, a global
partnership for action on
sustainable development and the
green economy, recognized forty one
laureates in the region this year, as part of
efforts to promote and elevate the profile of
women within the police and criminal
justice systems in Kenya. Additionally, the training provided a platform to
examine the role of KWAP within the
larger police reforms in Kenya.

“There is a need to keep police women on
their toes,” reiterated Professor Maria
Nzomo, who facilitated the training and
often reminded the participants of how
far the Kenyan women had come from
with regards to leadership. It is worth
noting that Professor Nzomo has been
a firm advocate for gender equality and
has been instrumental in advocating for
gender to be mainstreamed within the
police reforms. “It is not easy but we have to
push and work together to ensure we achieve our
objectives,” she emphasized.

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The SEED Africa Symposium, which
is a multi-stakeholder forum, brings
together businesses, policy makers, civil
society and support institutions to share
their knowledge and experience, explore
partnerships, and develop solutions to
stimulate the growth of social and green
trepreneurship.

Established by UNEP, UNDP and the
International Union for the Conservation
of Nature (IUCN) at the World Summit
on Sustainable Development in 2002 in
Johannesburg, the SEED Initiative sets
out to stimulate and support innovative,
small-scale and locally-led enterprises
which integrate social and environmental
bene

fits into their business models.
The United Nations staff in Kenya joined other guests in a tree planting ceremony in honour of the late Nobel laureate and environmentalist, Professor Wangari Maathai. The trees were planted at Wangari Maathai Corner in Karura forest in Nairobi.

The Guest of honour was Lady Justice Njoki Ndung’u, who was joined by other guests including David Mbugua, the Director of Kenya Forests Research Institute, the Green Belt Movement, Friends of Karura Forest, students and the public.

Lady Justice Ndung’u acknowledged the late Professor Maathai’s contribution to environment conservation and encouraged everyone to emulate her. She called upon everyone to mark important occasions by planting trees.

“Let us use important occasions to plant trees: if your child is having a birthday, as you are having the birthday celebration, plant a tree. If we’re going through a rite of passage, for example from teenage to adulthood, why don’t we, make tree planting part of the initiation! When our children are graduating from high school and university why don’t we in our celebrations plant a tree! You can plant very many trees with the amount of money you spend on parties,” she advised.

Even in her demise, Professor Maathai’s legacy lives on and continues to resound by challenging Kenyans to take up the mantle of environmental leadership in the fight against climate change and deforestation, a pledge which Professor Karanja Njoroge, Chairman of Friends of Karura Forest, vowed to be unbowed in fulfilling.

The event also included a walk, recitation of poems and singing loaded with messages of environmental conservation. It was organized by the Green Belt Movement, founded by Professor Wangari Maathai in 1977 to encourage women to plant trees in order to improve their lives through access to clean water by reversing the effects of deforestation.
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