invited guests were then led to reciting a “Peace pledge” by a Kenyan youth group known as “Faces of Peace”. The pledge was re-emphasized by speeches delivered by Mr. Aeneas Chuma, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, as he condemned the current ethnic clashes in Kenya that had led to loss of lives. Mr. Chuma acknowledged and commended the efforts, large or small, individual or communal, towards the promotion of peace and justice everywhere.

Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director General of UNON presented the UN Secretary-General’s message in which Mr Ban Ki-moon called on all combatants to find peaceful solutions to their conflicts.

In her remarks, Ms. Zewde reiterated the need to embrace a culture of peace and urged everyone to be committed to:

- Embrace peace and make a difference.
- High level conference on Women, Peace and Security – Putting women at the forefront in peace and security in Kenya
- Revised Kenya Education Sector Policy on HIV and AIDS endorsed by Stakeholders
- IOM, Kenya Government Ink Deal towards Health Promotion for Mobile Communities in North Eastern Province
- Mainstreaming Human Rights Standards into the media
- University of Nairobi student wins global United Nations contest and meets the UN Secretary General
- World Food Day 2012
- ICAO hosts training workshops on significant weather warnings for aviation
- UNHCR donates vehicles to the Government of Kenya
- ICAO hosts 5-Letter-Name-Code designators workshop and meeting

What’s Inside:

- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- International Day of Tolerance
- Africa Industrialization Day
- World Television Day
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

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In collaboration with the Embassy of Finland and the National Gender and Equality Commission, UN Women Kenya recently organized two important conferences on Women, Peace and Security. Practitioners from Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Somalia, Senegal and Sierra Leone gathered in Nairobi on 12 and 13 September 2012 to attend the conference themed “Best Practices: Women, Peace and Security interventions”. The other conference was a High Level one on Women, Peace and Security in Kenya dubbed “Putting Women at the Forefront in Peace and Security in Kenya”.

Speakers at the Conference included, the Ambassador of Finland to Kenya, Sofie From-Emmesberger, the Kenyan Assistant Minister for Co-operative Development and Marketing, Linah Jebii Kilimo, the former Minister of Defense for Finland, Elisabeth Rehn, Kenya’s Betty Kaari Murungi and many more experts from the region.

The objectives of the conferences were to explore strategies and progress in the implementation in Kenya of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security, and to draw on best practices and lessons from the experiences of countries that have developed and are currently implementing National Action Plans for the Horn of Africa which has been afflicted by relentless instability. Mr. Onyonka assured the guests that the Government had learnt from past experiences and was determined to ensure that the forthcoming elections are free, fair, transparent and peaceful.

A minute of silence was observed to honor victims who lost their lives, and those who survived but must now cope with trauma and pain.

The event ended with the writing of peace messages by all present which will be displayed within the UN complex.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
Revised Kenya Education Sector Policy on HIV and AIDS endorsed by Stakeholders

Jane and John (names changed to protect identity) are in class 4 and 7 respectively at a rural school in Kenya. In the past three months, the two have been reporting late to school in the mornings, and have had to face the wrath of the teacher on duty. What the teachers do not know is that, Jane and John have to feed and ensure their bedridden mother, a single parent, is comfortable before they leave for school. They also have to cook their own breakfast as well as prepare their younger sibling who attends nursery school. Their mother is living with HIV and contracted pneumonia.

At a boarding secondary school in one of the towns in Kenya, Maria (name changed), a form two girl has to take medication every morning. Her dormitory mates wonder why she has to be on medication, but she cannot reveal she is taking ARVs, having been born with HIV- for fear that her friends will stop associating with her.

As exemplified by the situation of Jane, John and Maria, HIV/AIDS has presented new challenges to the education sector in Kenya thereby affecting access, transition and completion of education by many children.

During the conferences a number of strategies were shared to overcome the challenges and obstacles in implementing the Security Council resolution. This included ensuring that the media is well versed with the concerns of UNSCR 1325 leading to informed reporting of the same in order to raise awareness, build publicity and support the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms through the development of review and accountability systems.

A participant from Rwanda warned Kenyan women present at the conference by stating, “Nations are easy to destroy but extraordinarily difficult to rebuild”. She described the cross border nature of conflicts, maintaining that war in a neighboring country negates and compromises peace at home.

As Kenya seeks to become the 10th African country to domesticate UNSCR 1325, the gathering of women, peace and security experts and actors in Nairobi was an expression of the commitment that exists in Kenya to realize the promise made twelve years ago.

Director-General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) Sahle-Work Zewde, emphasized: “the women’s inclusion in peace processes should never be an option; it is a requirement and a right”. The women of Kenya were encouraged to seize the moment, recognizing themselves not as victims of conflict and crises but as proactive agents of peace.
with the virus. Most of these children come from poor households and may be malnourished, traumatized from the loss of one or both parents, facing stigma and discrimination, or acting as caregivers or heading households. If proper measures are not put in place, these children have higher chances of missing school, performing poorly in exams and experiencing behavioral problems.

Teachers, school managers and support staff are similarly infected and/or affected. The situation is threatening the delivery of quality education due to absenteeism, lowered morale and fewer hours spent with learners.

Yet education plays a key role in the prevention of new HIV infection and in mitigating its effects on learners, educators, families, communities and the society in general. It is upon this basis that the Ministry of Education in partnership with UNESCO and USAID developed the Education Sector Policy on HIV/AIDS in 2004. The policy provided a framework for the implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes in the sector. This led to the inclusion of HIV/AIDS as one of the Investment Programmes among the 23 in the Kenya Education Sector Support Programme 2005–2010.

As time went by, gaps in implementation of the policy were noted. In 2011, as part of its efforts to strengthen the Ministry of Education’s response to HIV/AIDS, UNESCO, in partnership with the International Institute of Education Planning (IIEP) supported the Ministry in undertaking an impact assessment of the pandemic in the sector as well as a situational analysis of the implementation of the sector’s policy on HIV/AIDS. Findings from the two studies would inform policy revision.

The findings confirmed that indeed HIV/AIDS continued to ravage the education sector and that concerns emerging from implementation of the policy needed to be addressed urgently such as the needs of HIV positive learners and provision of comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive health, to enable learners make informed decisions. There was also need to align the policy to the provisions for children, youth and persons with disabilities as per the Kenya Constitution (2010).

After a series of meetings and workshops that commenced in January 2012 led by the Directorate of Policy, Partnerships and East African Affairs in the Ministry of Education, the revised Draft Education Sector Policy on HIV/AIDS was, in September 2012, finally presented for endorsement to senior officers from the Ministries of Education, and Higher Education, Science and Technology; representatives from the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM), parents and school heads associations, people living with HIV and other development partners.

The two-day workshop was officially opened by the Assistant Minister for Education, Professor Patrick Auyecho Olweny. Also present at the opening ceremony were the Director, Policy, Partnerships and East African Affairs in the Ministry of Education, Mr. Kiragu Magochi, the UNAIDS Kenya Country Coordinator, Maya Harper and the Director, Education and Youth, USAID/Kenya, Dr. Dwaine Lee.

The revised Education Sector Policy on HIV/AIDS acts as a guideline for effective prevention, care and support, management of responses as well as addressing workplace concerns within the education sector at all levels. The policy also proposes strengthened coordination of HIV/AIDS programmes to reduce overlaps and wastage of resources through duplication of efforts by all stakeholders in the education sector.

It is aimed that the policy will be finalized and printed before the end of 2012 while an implementation plan for the policy will also be developed.

IOM, Kenya Government Ink Deal towards Health Promotion for Mobile Communities in North Eastern Province

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has entered into a Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Kenya through the Provincial Director of the Ministries of Health in the North Eastern province of Kenya, agreeing to partner and work together towards health promotion for migrants, host communities and cross border mobile populations in the province.

The Agreement seeks to promote collaborative strategic planning among stakeholders involved in health care promotion, increase and improve availability of research information on the health status and underlying risks and vulnerabilities of migrants and other targeted beneficiaries.

The Agreement further aims to develop, implement and share model health promotion programmes and projects based on the national community health strategy, which assists the beneficiaries to access essential health care.

While signing on behalf of IOM...
in Garissa, the agency’s Regional Migration Health Assessment Coordinator for Africa and the Middle East, Dr. Aleksandar Galev said that the Agreement will enhance and further strengthen the existing close collaboration between the Ministry of Health and IOM in providing health support to vulnerable populations in the North Eastern Province. The Provincial Director of Public and Sanitation in the Province, Dr. Mohamed A. Sheikh signed on behalf of the Kenya Government.

For the past six months, IOM’s health team has provided medical care to a total of 105,592 refugees and their host communities in both Dadaab District and Turkana County, through the agency’s on-going health assistance for crisis affected populations’ activities in north eastern Kenya.

Majority of the beneficiaries are currently being treated for malaria, upper and lower respiratory tract infections, watery/bloody diarrhoea and anaemia, among other ailments. Over 400 children below the age of five years received immunization against measles, polio, TB, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough, among other diseases.

Under the medical outreach for the refugee host community, IOM has also distributed a total of 276,560 chlorine tablets for drinking water disinfection and donated 104,084 Oral Rehydration Salts tablets to be administered to dehydrated patients frequently suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting.

Additionally, IOM has carried out health education sessions in six primary schools in Dadaab where a total of 3,317 students were de-wormed with Albendazole, and 66 others received treatment for conditions related to the poor hygiene and sanitation conditions. IOM is also stocking Government hospitals in Dadaab District and Garissa County with medical supplies such as medicines and laboratory equipment.

Mainstreaming Human Rights Standards into the media

The general opinion about the media is favorable, identifying them as a powerful medium capable of promoting rapid change for communities.

However, critics of the media and specifically community/vernacular radio stations emphasize constant breaches of regulations, human rights or ethics violations. The case that is most common is the infamous Radio Mille Collines, which is alleged to have incited the genocide in Rwanda, and closer home is the International Criminal Court Case against a Kenyan radio presenter.

The media (and especially community/vernacular radio stations) were adversely mentioned in both the Kriegler and Waki Commissions’ reports as having played a key role in fuelling ethnic tension and hatred that contributed to the post election violence in 2007/8.

In this regard and in preparation for the upcoming general election, the UN Human Rights Unit collaborated with the Media Council of Kenya to conduct training for media personalities on human rights and the human rights standards in reporting.

To date about seventy journalists

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from various media houses have gone through this training. The capacity of the participants in the training sessions were enhanced and specifically on the link between what they report and how it can contribute to human rights violations. Of interest to the participants was the issue of personal/individual responsibility when human rights violations occur as a result of a report. The participants were reminded how human rights are all about tolerance and human agency. Tolerance being the ability to recognize and accept differences in human beings, and agency being the capacity for human beings to act as they wish, and their obligation to ensure that their actions do not infringe upon the rights of others.

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World Food Day 2012

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been observing World Food Day since 1981 as a way to heighten public awareness about world food problems and create a sense of solidarity in the ongoing struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The day is celebrated each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945.

The World Food Day aims to draw attention to agricultural food production and stimulate national, bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental efforts to this end. It also promotes economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and transfer of technologies to the developing world.

World Food Day 2012 shines a light on agricultural cooperatives in particular, and their contribution to poverty and hunger reduction. After all, of the estimated 925 million hungry people in the world today, 70 percent live in rural areas where agriculture is
This year’s theme “Agricultural cooperatives – key to feeding the world” was chosen to highlight the role of cooperatives in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger. Interest in cooperatives and rural organizations is also echoed in the decision of the UN General Assembly to designate 2012 “International Year of Cooperatives” which celebrates the unique role that this “business model with a social conscience” plays in our modern world.

In Kenya, the first cooperative society was established in 1927. Today, the number has risen to over 14,000 with over 12 million registered members whose cumulated shares and deposits make about 30% of national savings. The Kenyan cooperative movement ranks top in Africa and 7th globally. In agriculture, forestry, fishing and livestock, members participate in production, profit-sharing, cost-saving, risk-sharing and income-generating activities, that lead to better bargaining power for them as buyers and sellers in the market place.

As part of the observance of the Day, FAO organized a poster contest where school-going children aged between 5 and 17 from all over the world were invited to use their imagination and artistic talent to illustrate this year’s World Food Day theme. This contest has given Kenyan children from 34 rural and urban schools an opportunity to express their ideas about hunger and share their creative visions with the world.

In addition there was interaction with media practitioners in Kenya to underline the role of agricultural cooperatives in food security.

The Director General of FAO, through the Kenya Representative, delivered a keynote address at the annual Agricultural Sector Development Forum in Nairobi, an event presided over by the President of the Republic of Kenya. Simultaneous field day activities also took place at the county level throughout the country.


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**ICAO hosts training workshops on significant weather warnings for aviation**

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) conducted two workshops in September 2012 on the preparation and dissemination of significant weather information for aircraft in flight known as SIGMET. A SIGMET or Significant Meteorological Information contains details on potential hazardous en route weather phenomenon which advises pilots and other aeronautical personnel of conditions likely to affect the safety of aircraft operations.

Many States in Africa continue to have long-standing challenges relating to SIGMET preparation and dissemination mainly due to inadequate training and inappropriate infrastructure.

ICAO Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) Regional Office conducted two workshops; one in English from 3 to 4 September 2012 and one in French from 6 to 7 September 2012 aimed...
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) donated seven Toyota Land Cruisers to the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of State for Migration and Registration of Persons. The vehicle handover was held in Nairobi at the Ministry headquarters and was attended by the UNHCR Representative in Kenya, Elike Segbor and the Minister of State for Migration and Registration of Persons, Otieno Kajwang. Also present to receive the vehicles was the Commissioner for Refugee Affairs Mr. Badu Katelo.

The vehicles were donated to support the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) in its services towards protecting refugees and asylum seekers. DRA, whose core mandate is development of policies and laws on matters relating to border control and protection of refugees and asylum seekers, is attached to the Ministry of State for Migration and Registration of Persons.

During the handover, the UNHCR Representative thanked the citizens of Kenya for their peaceful coexistence with refugees living in various parts of the country. He also applauded the Government of Kenya for its continuous support to refugees and noted how the vehicles will go a long way in strengthening the partnership between the two offices, and most importantly, expedite the Government’s provision of services to refugees and asylum seekers.

The Minister on his part thanked UNHCR for its continued support to Government’s efforts to host and protect refugees. He expressed his hope that countries in the region will stabilize so that refugees can voluntarily go back home and rebuild their countries. As a former refugee himself, he assured UNHCR that protection of refugees is close to his heart and of great interest to his Ministry. He added that his Ministry is working towards having all refugees issued with ID cards.

UNHCR donates vehicles to the Government of Kenya

Minister of State for Migration and Registration of Persons Otieno Kajwang receiving seven Toyota Land cruisers from UNHCR. © E. Nyabera/UNHCR, 2012
ICAO hosts 5-Letter-Name-Code designators workshop and meeting

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) hosted a workshop and meeting on the application of the ICAO 5-Letter-Name-Code designators (5LNC).

These codes are used by States and air navigation service providers to identify the trajectories of air traffic services routes that are used by aircraft when navigating from one airport to another. Each code is represented by a unique 5-letter name and is allocated with a set of geographical coordinates. In the aviation world, 5LNCs are also known as waypoints. The number of 5LNCs used for any route will depend on the length of the route and the number of positions that this route will cross others along its trajectory.

The 5LNC codes are drawn from a set of pre-defined five letter combinations generated by the ICAO and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) since the 1960s. This list was then split and distributed to the various ICAO Regional Offices throughout the world. These reserve lists have since formed the basis for 5LNC allocation by ICAO.

The codes are normally selected via the ICAO International Codes and Routes Designators (ICARD) database by States and presented to the Organization for validation. Following validation, the States would normally publish this information to aviation stakeholders in their relevant aeronautical publication, which is then used by Data Managers responsible for updating aircraft flight data management systems (FMS) to revise the navigation of aircraft software.

The codes are not to be duplicated since this could pose a serious safety challenge to data managers and aircraft operators in deciding which set of coordinates to use when planning a flight.

The workshop and the meeting provided the participants with the necessary guidance and ability to access and utilize the 5LNCs effectively when developing new routes, in support of the optimization of the Africa-Indian Ocean (AFI) route network.

Nineteen participants attended from nine States and two organizations, namely: Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Seychelles, the Civil Aviation Caretaker Authority for Somalia (CACAS), Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe; as well as the Agency for the Safety of Air Navigation in Africa and Madagascar – ASECNA, and the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers’ Associations - IFATCA.

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