



REMARKS BY THE COMMISSION SECRETARY/CEO DR. SKITTER W. OCHARO, HSC, DURING THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION AND GLOBAL PEACE FOUNDATION AT THE COMMISSION'S BOARDROOM – BRITAM TOWERS ON 2nd FEBRUARY 2022

- **Executive Director, Global Peace Foundation, Mr. Daniel Omondi Juma;**
- **Chairman National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia;**
- **NCIC Commissioners;**
- **NCIC and Global Peace Foundation Staff;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I am pleased to grace this important occasion of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) and Global Peace Foundation (GPF). Indeed, this MoU is the culmination of a consultative process that involved both the leadership and the technical teams of NCIC and the Global Peace Foundation. I commend the teams for their commitment to deliver this MoU. On the same note, I thank most profoundly the leadership of GPF and NCIC for supporting this process.

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission is a statutory body established by the National Cohesion Integration Act, No 12 of 2008 (NCI Act, 2008). The object and purpose for which the Commission is established as espoused in the National Cohesion and Integration Act No.12 of 2008, is to facilitate and promote equality of opportunity, good relations, harmony and peaceful coexistence between persons

of different ethnic and racial communities of Kenya, and to advise the Government on all aspects thereof.

The Commission in its endeavour to deliver on its mandate has achieved a number of milestones:

1. Strengthened peacebuilding, national values and cultural systems in institutions of learning
2. Influenced the Cohesion and Integration Agenda in Public Institutions
3. Enhanced inter and intra communal relations through dialogue and mediation processes
4. Promoted Compliance and Enforcement of Hate Speech Law
5. Strengthened Early Warning and Early Response Mechanisms for peaceful elections
6. Increased generation of knowledge on cohesion issues through research

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Despite the aforementioned achievements, the Commission has encountered several challenges which including: Budgetary constraints; Limited understanding of the Commission’s mandate by the Kenyan public; Limited resources to ensure sustainability of community social contracts and peace agreements; Multiplicity of drivers of conflict and violence; the Statutory nature of the Commission; and the Slow judicial process.

The signing of this MoU is of mutual benefit as it will enhance collaboration and partnership by building linkages and synergies of both institutions and complement in the realization of the respective mandates of the institutions.

This partnership is specifically key for the Commission as it implements its Elections *Bila Noma* Roadmap. It is key to note that the delivery of a peaceful electoral process cannot be achieved by one. Partnerships such as the one being formalized this

morning will go a long way in assisting the country realize a peaceful electioneering period.

The MoU envisages the two institutions collaborating in the following three main areas:

- 1 Civic Education and Advocacy;
- 2 Reconciliation and Integration; and
- 3 Information sharing and awareness creation.

The areas of cooperation are however not limited to these and I am certain should an area of mutual interest come up, the two institutions will be happy to take it up.

This MoU therefore, opens a new area of strategic partnership between our two organizations. In view of this, the Commission will leverage on the strengths and comparative advantage of Global Peace Foundation to ensure that the envisaged areas of collaboration and partnership are explored and fully implemented. I look forward to a fruitful and long-term partnership.

Thank You and God Bless Kenya

SKITTER OCHARO, PhD, HSC
COMMISSION SECRETARY/CEO, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION