



REMARKS BY NCIC CHAIRPERSON (HON) FRANCIS OLE KAPARO DURING THE OPENING OF THE 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEACE AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE AT THE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA ON 3RD MARCH 2016.

- Dr. Nicholas Letting, the Vice Chancellor, The Management University of Africa (MUA)
- Prof. Richard Miller, Kobe Gakuin University, Japan
- Hon. Omingo Magara, Chairman, Centre for Multiparty Democracy
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am glad to be part of this important Conference on *PEACE AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE* and wish to thank the Management University of Africa for planning this. It is happening at the opportune time when peace issues are at the epicenter of focus in Kenya as the country gears up to the 2017 General Elections. Political campaigns are heating up, often characterised by negative sentiments of ethnicity and incidences of incitements and ethnic mobilisation. Nonetheless, peace has to reign supreme as we denounce hate mongers and present them for prosecution.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This conference brings together various stakeholders from across the world; I see policy makers, the donor community, and representation from the Civil Society, young sons and daughters- the youth to whom the future of this country, the continent and the entire world belong. I have no doubt that this diverse representation will certainly contribute to the success of the conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As you may be aware, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), in which I am the Chairperson was formed after the chaos of 2007/2008 general election, has endeavored to facilitate and promote equality of opportunity, good relations, harmony and peaceful co-existence among persons of different religious, ethnic and affiliations. A lot of progress has been made, though, a lot still needs to be done to cultivate a more cohesive society. We have conducted mediations and reconciliations among warring communities; we have and we continue to intensify investigations on hate speech cases in every effort to have those culpable of spreading hate brought to book. However, for us to have a peaceful society, we must all play a collective role. We must make individual and collective commitments to have a peaceful environment where we can comfortable work, invest and live. I therefore, on behalf of the NCIC invite all participants in this conference today, to join in the struggle as world cohesion champions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The NCIC's mandate is a shared norm among various institutions and stakeholders including the institutions of higher learning like the one hosting us here today. These institutions are very instrumental in nurturing and shaping the future of young people. The Commission has partnered with institutions of learning across the country, to establish *AMANI* (PEACE) CLUBS; a platform that we use to cultivate long lasting peace among the young generation. We also use the Scouts Movements in the grassroots to spread peace amongst students and their communities. We plan to expand the programme to all our universities and colleges.

Ladies and Gentlemen

When we talk about Cohesion, we should mean to embrace a national culture, that of treating each other as brother and sister; by so doing, the currently fractured system of peace will restore itself in a matter of time once a favorable social and political environment is availed; and this is only possible when we make PEACE a global language.

The theme of this conference underscores the **Great *Promise of World Peace***.

I take this opportunity to invite you and all the people of the world to consider a social order fostered by all people seeing themselves as members of one universal family. It is the means to the Great Peace which people of good will throughout the world must incline their hearts to; of which seers and poets for countless generations have expressed their vision, and for which from age to age the sacred scriptures of mankind have constantly held the promise, must now be embraced by all the nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The much visible scientific and technological advances, especially in ICT occurring in this unusually blessed century portend a great surge forward in the social evolution of the planet, and indicate the means by which the practical problems of humanity may be solved. They provide, indeed, the very means for the administration of the complex life of a united world. Yet barriers persist. Doubts, misconceptions, prejudices, suspicions and narrow self-interest beset nations and peoples in their relations to another.

With these advancements, it is much easier for everyone to view the entire planet, with all its myriad diversified peoples, in one perspective. Global Peace is not only possible but inevitable.

Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity's stubborn clinging to old patterns of behaviour, or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth, including us. At this critical juncture when the intractable problems confronting nations have been fused into one common concern for the whole world, failure to stem the tide of conflict, war and disorder would be considered unconscionably irresponsible.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is out of a deep sense of spiritual and moral duty, which I often refer to as a calling, not by the NCIC, that we are all impelled at this opportune moment to invite your attention to the insights communicated on the need for Global Peace. This is a language that will ensure unmatched prosperity, both economically and socially to all the generations. In deed when we embrace peace as a global language, we exorcize the spectre of war, we threatened the total collapse of anarchy and terrorism, and the intense suffering which these and other afflictions are causing to increasing innocent millions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As we gather here today, I consider ourselves a privileged group. A group with a full understanding of the need for peace; the value of cohesion and the joy of acceptance. We must now make solemn vows to move away from our comfort zones to the lands beyond and aggressively carry on with the gospel of Global Peace as a universal language. We owe this responsibility to ourselves, we owe it to our children, we owe it to the nation, we owe it to our continents and we certainly owe it to the world.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I don't wish to consume more time than I already have. But as we discuss the various issues at this event, let us confront the challenges in order to provide the solid solutions for peace and development for the world. In this regard, I invite you to have robust discussions and share your wide experiences and knowledge on peace as a global language.

Thank you and May God bless you.

HON. FRANCIS OLE KAPARO

**CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION
COMMISSION (NCIC).**