

Diaspora Conference on the Great Lakes Region: “Root Causes of Conflict & Opportunities for Peace”

INVITATION

On the 5th and 6th of November The Hague Peace Projects, Institute for Social Studies (ISS) and African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) organize a Diaspora Conference on the Great Lakes Region under the title: “Root Causes of Conflict & Opportunities for Peace.” We would hereby like to invite you for this event.

The Hague Peace Projects, ADPC and ISS aim to facilitate the positive and effective contribution of the diaspora communities from Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and DR Congo to the peace process in their region of origin. Through open discussion and dialogue, people from all different diaspora backgrounds will reflect on the context of the conflict. By sharing their knowledge and expertise, they will be able to analyse the main obstacles to sustainable peace. Together they will formulate possibilities on how these obstacles could be overcome and how they could become engaged in this peace building process.

When: November 5 & 6, 09:00 – 17:00

Where: Institute of Social Studies, Kortenaerkade 12, The Hague

Language: English

Moderators: Victor Scheffers and Jan van der Kolk

The general outline of the conference will be as follows:

Day 1:

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome

09:30 – 10:00 Opening

10:00 – 10:30 Keynote speech 1: Introduction into conflict studies. How can the conflict best be characterized? Which types of conflict can be distinguished? How do they occur?

10:30 – 11:00 Keynote speech 2 - **Filip Reyntjens** (Professor of Law and Politics, University of Antwerp):

Current situation of the conflict in the Great Lake Region. Description of the current political and (in)security developments in the Great Lake Region, perceived from recent history.

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:00 Keynote speech 3: **Ben Rutabana** (singer, author, activist): Root causes of the tensions in the Great Lakes Region. A personal story

12:00 – 12:45 Panel discussion with the three keynote speakers

12:45 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Working sessions, in-depth sessions from specific themes as presented in the speeches.

14:30 – 14:45 Coffee break

14:45 - 15:30 Working sessions, continuation

15:30 – 16:30 Plenary session; reports from the working sessions

Day 2

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome

09:30 – 09:45 Opening

09:45 – 10:15 Keynote speech 1 – **Dirk-Jan Koch**, (Special Envoy Natural Resources, The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs): Theory and practice of peace building on an international level with a focus on natural resources. Strengths and weaknesses of the current international response.

10:15 – 10:45 Keynote speech 2 – **Joost Puijenbroek** (PAX): Theory and practice on peacebuilding on a local level. Outline of local peace building with some best practices

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 11:45 Keynote speech 3 - **Stephanie Mbanzendore** (Burundian Women for Peace and Development): Opportunities for sustainable peace in the Great Lakes Region. Overview of initiatives for peace and outline of new methods to be implemented in the Region

11:45 – 12:30 Panel discussion with the three keynote speakers

12:30 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 14:15 Working sessions, presentation of reflections and ideas on how the Diaspora can contribute to sustainable peace in their respective homelands.

14:15 – 14:30 Coffee break

14:30 - 15:15 Working sessions, continuation

15:15 – 16:00 Plenary session; reports from the working sessions

16:00 – 17:00 Summary of the conference, perspectives for future of HPP and diaspora, coming to concrete action plans that follow from the two days of reflection and debate days.

Admission is free, but registration is required. Sign up [here](#).

If you have questions, please contact us: l.boersma@thehaguepeace.org.

Best regards,

The Hague Peace Projects, Institute for Social Studies & African Diaspora Policy Centre