REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The National Federation of The Gambia UNESCO Clubs & Centers (NAFGUC)

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GAMBIA

UNESCO CLUBS AND CENTERS

funded by UNESCO

Prepared by: (LAMIN CEESAY)

INTRODUCTION

International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on the **21st of September**. Established in 1981 by resolution 36/37, the United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people. Furthering the Day's mission, the General Assembly voted unanimously in 2001 to adopt resolution 55/282 establishing 21st September as an annual day of non-violence and cease- fire The National Federation for Gambia **UNESCO** Clubs and Centers **(NAFGUC)** believe that a country that wants to realize meaningful development and growth should uproot the seed of violence and sow the seed of peace.

This year the National Federation of Gambia UNESCO Clubs and Centers (NAFGUC) decentralized and observed the day on the 21st of September 2016, in Essau, North Bank Region of the Gambia.

The occasion was observed in the form of a **March pass/parade** lead by the scout band of the region (North Bank Region). The march pass started from the police check point through the streets of the village of Essau along with other satellite villages at a distance of 800 meters. The parade started with 60 participants initially but the further the parade the more people from the community joined the crowed, the children were not left out cheering throughout under the scorching sun all in the name of PEACE. The parade was followed by **Speeches** from different personalities and stakeholders ranging from the National Commission, Federation of UNESCO Clubs and representative from the National Youth Council. Recitations of poems on peace, **drama** skits on peace performed by the Peer Health Educators and a short play on call on peace.

Cultural performance from the local traditional communicators **(kanyeleng)** were part of the celebrations, they sang songs relating to peace as well as send the message out to the community in local languages with proverbs '' meaning the important of peace and how to maintain it: to accept our cultures, each other as brothers and sisters in our society and communities. These groups are very vital in our local communities when disseminating information and educating people. The celebration was followed by a **symposium,** another interesting part of the program, in which everyone participated and contributions came from the participants: the village elders and other youth groups. The issue of youth migration was among the discussions and when they should to stay and prepared the **BLOCKS FOR THE BUILDING OF PEACE.**

The occasion was graced by the community of Essau and its surroundings, from Community elders, religious leaders, and village chiefs. All the UNESCO Clubs across the nation were represented including stakeholders and youth organizations.

PART ONE: SPEECHES

The president of the federation **Mr. Momodou M. Sarr** welcomes elders, and participants for joining the Federation in the celebration. He highlighted on the importance of peace and it being everybody's responsibility to make sure peace prevail. Thanked UNESCO for funding such a great occasion.

NAFCUC President

NAFGUC Secretary General

In his statement for the day, the Secretary General of the Federation **Mr. Lamin Ceesay** thanked UNESCO – Dakar for funding such a great occasion. He highlighted on **NAFGUC's** main functions promoters of **UNESCO's** ideals and activities.

He also told the gathering that the Federation holds a strong belief in the importance and strategic role of young people in preventing and resolving conflicts non-violently, bearing in mind the crucial part being played by young people in the field of human endeavor and as the back bone of every development. ***''Today, I believe each of us has a shared responsibility to shape a better future for all through peacebuilding in our own lives, every day''.***

He further reminded the audience that it is the turning point of the year for the world, when States define a new global sustainable development agenda. This must be an agenda for peace **"BUILDING BLOCKS FOR PEACE**" across the globe and at all levels of society. The Secretary General reminded once again that **man those not live with conflict but with difference**, therefore in order for a peaceful coexistence to become the order of the day between neighbors, families, family members, children, boys and girls, youth, students and teachers, let us appreciate and consider our individual differences which are not our faults.

He ended his speech with the preamble of UNESCO quoted**:**

''SINCE WARS BEGINS IN THE MINDS OF WOMEN AND MEN IT IS IN THE MINDS OF WOMEN AND MEN THAT THE DIFENCES OF PEACE MUST BE CONSTRUCTED"

The Senior Program Officer for Communications and Social and Human Sciences, **Ms. Maimuna Sidibeh** conveyed the UNESCO Director General's Message on the occasion of the 2016 International Peace Day Celebration.

Senior Programme Officer Sidibeh

''The 2030 Agenda states that ''there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development''. The 17 sustainable Development Goals set forth a new transformative vision of how to build peace where UNESCO playing a key role at every level, to strengthen, in the words of SDG 16, ''peaceful, just and inclusive societies,'' on the basis of good governance, inclusive institutions, accountability and justice for all".

Mr. Alhagie Jarju the Program Manager of National Youth Council also gave a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary, National Youth Council. Mr. Jarju highlighted on the role of young people as the back bone of every development and Sustainable Development Goal **16** is our shared vision in constructing peace, justice and strong institutions. This is a global responsibility to be observed every day and challenge young people to be the change they should be and learn to combine their enthusiasm with patience, realizing the importance of living together and should be responsible to defend the frontiers of peace and non-violence. He Said "Young people should not be the obstacle of any development but be invaluable resources, for development and should be part of solution to the problem in schools and communities. International day of peace should be celebrated by young people every day".

Programme Manager, National Youth Council

PART TWO: SYMPOSIUM

Mr. Lamin Jarjou , Senior Program Officer, Culture, at the National Commission for UNESCO The Gambia presented on the theme of the year **''BUILDING BLOCKS FOR PEACE''** as well as the role of **UNESCO** in peace building. Mr. Jarjou started his presentation with a quotation from **Madiba Mandela** who said **''Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all''** he also highlighted on the sustainable Development Goals which are integral to achieving peace in our time, as development and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Mr. Jarjou outlined the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its associated 169 targets. On the role of UNESCO in peace building, it has been recognized that the International Institute of Peace brings to UNESCO a unique focus and expertise in addressing the violent conflicts that take place in cities and urban areas. Mr. Jarjou presented in both English Language and local language. He explained what the theme means in the local language since the celebration took place in the rural community. Mr. Jarjou's presentation was comprehended by all students from UNESCO School clubs, Community base UNESCO clubs, the stakeholders and the community of Essau.

Senior Programme Officer, NATCOM

In his presentation the Program Manager of the National Youth Council **Mr Alagie Jarju** presented on the **Role of Young People in Peace Building.** Young people should not be the obstacle of any development but are invaluable resources, for development and should be part of solution to the problem in schools and communities.

"International day of peace should be celebrated by young people every day" he said. Young people are vital stake holders in conflict and peace building they have the potential to act as community leaders in peace building, reconciliation and post conflict reconstruction.

DISCUSSIONS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND LOCAL LANGUAGES

An open discussion took place on how peace can prevail and how can we as a people promote the sustainable development goals?

Esau Village Development Committee Member

The head of the village development committee started the discussion with an issue on the female genital mutilation which he said is a cultural practice that is a violation of Human Rights. If human rights are not respected peace cannot prevail.

The President of the Gambia University UNESCO Club **Omar Malmo Sambou** highlighted on some of the obstacles to peace building and maintenance, Omar stressed that if justice does not prevail between the poor and the rich peace will never prevail. He also stressed on that job opportunities are not enough this is causing many young people traveling out of the country for greener pasture and if all the back bone of the development of the nation leave the country how will the country be develop? If there is no development there will be no peace.

President of the University Of The Gambia UNESCO club

On his part the Head of Fidyaanu Sidiqin Association, this is an Islamic youth association which also is out to create awareness on the essence of peace in the society, **Mr. Cham** highlighted on the misconception of all violent extremism going around the world with the Islamic religion which he said is condemned by Islam, Islam is peace. He ended up saying Islam is a religion which always embarks on praying for peace as whenever individual Muslims meet they will say ‘‘SALAMU ALAIKUM’’ meaning peace be with you.

The president of the Brikama Community Base UNESCO Club **Mr. Amfall Daffeh**, in his contribution to the open discussion highlighted on how important it is in creating more UNESCO Clubs in the communities as UNESCO Clubs promote the ideal of UNESCO and this ideal is to promote peace. He also reminded parents on the gathering that let them not be worried about their children holding series of meetings with UNESCO Clubs as the only thing we discussed is peace and how to disseminate the information to others. And also advised the young people to be focused as the elders in the gathering have played their role. It is now the responsibility of the young people to see that lasting peace exist, he concluded.

The Secretary General of the federation **Mr. Lamin Ceesay** also took part in the discussion, he reminded the young people that if we stick on our cultures peace will prevail but our cultures are fading away. He reminded that individual differences come along with our traditions and cultural back grounds which reflect in the environment where we live all our childhood.

"Remember! Are we born with special food or cloth? If not then all we need to consider is live by adaptation in other to maintain **PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE** among ourselves as humans. But with reality if only we could try eating our neighbor's diet for about a week we would begin to like it and later love it. This is how our forefathers were living but today young people do not want to engage on this. If we do not heed to our traditions peace to prevail will not be easy" he reiterated.

PART THREE: RECITATION OF POEMS AND DRAMA

The Way Peace Is Open

There is a silence into which the world cannot intrude

There is an ancient peace you carry in your heart and have not lost.

Peace is a natural heritage of spirit

Everyone is free to refuse to accept his inheritance but he is not free to establish what his inheritance is.

Peace and understanding goes together and never can be found alone.

Strength and innocence are not in conflict not in conflict but naturally are in peace.

Lay down your arms and come without defense into the quite peace.

Where heaven's peace had all things still at last.

Lay down all thoughts of danger and fear.

Let no attack enter you.

In this quiet state alone is strength and power.

Here can no weakness enter, for here is no attack and therefore no illusion.

Peace is God

You who is part of God is not at home except in his peace.

READ BY:

MUHAMMED CAMARA OF (ACHDEACON GEORGE SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL UNESCO CLUB)
Kanifing Municipality or Region One

Call On Peace

Hello Peace, your name on our tongue quite often

Prior vital I am a need not for greed

Peace are you ever seen? Peace are you ever felt?

Or can be ever heard, shall I ask about smell? Sure you are a living thing. Do you fly like a bird?

Oh! No, I am living in your paws, look, don't you call for peace when joy comes?

Remember, you pray for peace to replace sorrow, when be felt.

Spread your fingers, use your mind to open your eyes and ears you can grab me into your face.

Peace our love, get well in our midst

What a call Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Welcome by people, education. Association and the community embodiment

Never escape never escape

I've got you now

Peace! Peace! Peace!

DRAMA AND A SHOT PLAY BY: MUHAMMED AND OUMIE from

(Archdeacon George and Brikama Community Base UNESCO Clubs respectively)

Region one and Two

AFRICA

Oh Children of Africa, why are you crying?

Why the spoil of innocent blood?

Stop the war and let PEACE prevail.

Mother Africa is bleeding, the Children are dying of hunger, and there is no work in the East, West, North and South.

We need no war but work, we need PEACE in mother Africa.

READ BY:

KADDY KUMBA JALLOW (KOTU SEN SEC SCHOOL UNESCO CLUB)

PART FOUR: PEACE PARADE

UNESCO CLUB VOLUNTEERS HOLD THE BANNER WHILE THE SCOUT LEAD THE PARADE

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

PICTURE GALLERY FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS PARADING

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

SECRETARY GENERAL ON HIS STATEMENT

SPO SIDIBEH DELIVERING THE DG'S MESSAGE

THE VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY BEFORE THE PEACE PARADE

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

THIS TRADITIONAL COMMUNICATORS ARE VERY VITAL IN TRANSLATING THE INFORMATION AND DESIMANITING WITH PROVERBS AND DANCING CRACKING JOKES THAT ARE MEMORABLE

UNESCO CLUBS REPRESENTATIVES

SCOUT BAND PREPARING FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

PRESIDENT SARR MODERATING

COMMUNITY LEADERS

(From different villages)

NAFGUC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PARTICIPANTS MARCHING WITH DISCUSSING THEIR PLACARDS

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

SCOUT BAND LEADING THE PARADE

WOMEN FROM THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES LEAVING THEIR FARM WORK FOR THE DAY

CARE ABOUT CHILDREN

ANSWER THIS QUESTION

PEACE IS SMILE

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

DISSEMINATING PEACE MESSAGES OUT ON THE PLACARDS

CHILDREN IN THE HOT SUN CELEBRATING WITH YOUTH

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

FEDERATION'S MEDIA ASSISTANT

JARJOU PRESENTING

ALAGIE PRESENTING

MASTER OF THE CEREMONY (SARR)

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

LAMIN TRANSLATING THE THEME IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

LAMIN CEESAY

ABDOULIE FATAJO

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

PARTICIPANTS WAITING FOR OTHERS CROSSING WITH THE FERRY

BEATING THE DRUMS, BLOWING THE TRUMPETS WHILE MESSAGES ARE DISPLAYED

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

WOMEN ARE NOT LEFT OUT (IT IS IN MIND OF WOMEN AND MEN THAT THE DEFENSES OF PEACE MUST BE CONSTRUCTED)

COMMUNITY CHILDREN PARTICIPATED EVEN THOUGH IT WAS VERY HOT UNDER THE SCOURCHING SUN LIGHT WITH BARE FOOT

THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

THIS BANNER IS ALMOST A WEEK OLD HERE BEFORE THE DATE

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

THE JOURNALISTS TAKEN NOTES

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

FIDYAANU SIDIQIN ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION AND PARTNERS OF THE FEDERATION

NAFGUC EXECUTIVE PREPARING TO SERVE

NAFGUC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND PARTNERS HOLDING THE BANNER

Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men and Women that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

IT IS TRUE THAT, IT IS IN THE MIND OF WOMEN AND MEN THAT DEFENSES OF PEACE MUST BE CONSTRUCTED .WOMEN FROM THE SATELITE VILLAGES TOOK PART

RECOMMENDATION:

Finally, the executive of the Federation believes that such a gathering should be an annual celebration in the Gambia in the course of promoting peace. It is of conviction that a more interactive socio-political dialogue should be organized in order to allow a proper discourse to take place between the politicians and communities. This can be held annually in the other part of the regions.

To partners, the Federation seeks to build a strong collaboration to share ideas and knowledge on Peace Education issues. Capacities need to be built and awareness created. The youths of this nation consist more than 50% of the population and therefore needs to be empowered since they are the future leaders.