

Report on the 1st ICC Africa Peace Forum

Date: November 17-19, 2023

Location: Cairo, Egypt

Theme: "African Partnerships for African Peace and Prosperity"

Organized by: ICC Africa Task Force - PDG Annemarie Mostart (South Africa), PDG Christophe Koreki (Cote D'Ivoire) and PDG Abdul Hamid El Awa (Egypt - Organizing Committee Chair).

Introduction

The 1st ICC AFRICA PEACE FORUM, convened in Cairo, Egypt, marked a significant milestone in the journey towards fostering African partnerships for peace and prosperity. Organized under the patronage of RI Director Patrick D. Chisanga, RI Representative RI Past Vice President Nicki Scott and under the auspices of The Inter Country Committees executive board chair PDG Mohamed Ghammam, this forum brought together over 150 distinguished humanitarians and industry leaders from Africa and around the globe.

The event was focused on promoting peace, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding.

Goals and Objectives

- **Promote Positive Peace:** Aligning with Rotary International's service mission, the forum emphasized the importance of peace building.
 - **Enhance Cultural Exchange:** It fostered cultural and friendship exchanges, improving awareness and respect for diversities.
 - **Foster Mutual Understanding:** By sharing ideas and best practices, the forum sought to bridge communities and cultures.
 - **ICC Mapping:** The focus on designing and outlining the goals/targets and tools needed for clubs and the entire continent to achieve their ambitious goals and objectives, for long-term prosperity.
 - **Forge a Unified Vision:** The event aimed to create a powerful alliance of African countries, laying the foundation for sustainable peace.
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Key Activities and Sessions

- **Opening Ceremony (Nov 17):** Hosted by senior Rotary leaders and guest speakers, including Egyptian dignitaries. The session also featured a flag ceremony recognizing the numerous ICC attendees and friends of rotary from different countries.
- **Breakout Sessions:** Topics like "Technology in Peace Keeping", "The Red Crescent - Gaza in our hearts", district relief committee and strategic partnerships with Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) and Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI).

- **Makerere Peace Centre Update:** Discussions on long-term visions and peace initiatives.
 - **Panel Discussions and Workshops:** Topics included community-based peacebuilding mapping and practical tools of peace keeping and the role of technology and AI in peacekeeping.
 - **Signing of ICC Agreements:** A critical activity where commitments were formalized – country to country.
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Outcomes and Recommendations:

Humanitarian support from Gaza:

- **Establishment of a Special Humanitarian Aid Fund for Gaza:** The forum advocated for the creation of a dedicated fund aimed at providing immediate relief and long-term support to Gaza. This initiative underscores the commitment to addressing urgent humanitarian needs in the region.
- **Enhanced Collaboration for Gaza Relief Efforts:** Appeal to the ICC structures from around the world to support the need for humanitarian relief. It was recommended to strengthen partnerships with international humanitarian organisations for effective aid delivery to Gaza. This includes coordinating with agencies that have an established presence and expertise in the region.
- **Priority Allocation of Funds for Gaza:** A significant portion of the newly established fund should be allocated specifically for critical areas in Gaza, such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and other essential services.

Intercountry Committees:

- **Rotary Awareness and Advocacy for ICC:** Engaging in campaigns and media outreach to raise global awareness for the establishments of Intercountry Committees. This would involve diplomatic channels and media platforms to garner support and advocacy for the cause.
 - **Quarterly Progress Reports on Initiatives:** Regular updates and progress reports should be shared with the ICC Executive Board and the broader community to track the impact and effectiveness of the humanitarian efforts in Gaza, establishments of new agreements – country to country.
 - **Peace Building Forum:** Establish and host an annual Peace Forum in Africa.
 - **Capacity Building:** Focus on training, seminars, peace forums.
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Conclusion

The 1st ICC Peace Forum in Cairo was a success and a significant step towards "Africa United." It not only fostered a culture of peace and mutual understanding but also set actionable plans for a unified vision of prosperity across the continent.

Links to photos:

Day 1 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dWxTLNGSfoDLJAYKA>

Day 2 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/SG5E78qSAw66EaJYA>

1st Image: ICC Chairperson Board PDG Mohamed Ghammam, RID Patrick Chisanga, PRIVP Nicki Scott with some of the delegates and attendees



2nd Image: ICC African Executives for Africa: PDG Abdul Hamid (HOC), PDG Annemarie Mostert (MC) PDG Christophe Koreki.





Rotary Intercountry Committees ICC First Africa Peace Forum - Cairo/Egypt



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