



# Bridging Cultures, Building Positive Peace



## 2nd ICC Africa Peace Forum Cape Town, Report 25 - 27 April 2025





# 2<sup>nd</sup> ICC Africa Peace Forum, Cape Town

We are delighted to present the following report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICC Peace Forum in Cape Town 2025.



PDG Ann Wright



PDG Carl-Heinz  
Duisberg



DG Stephen Young



PDG Annemarie  
Mostert

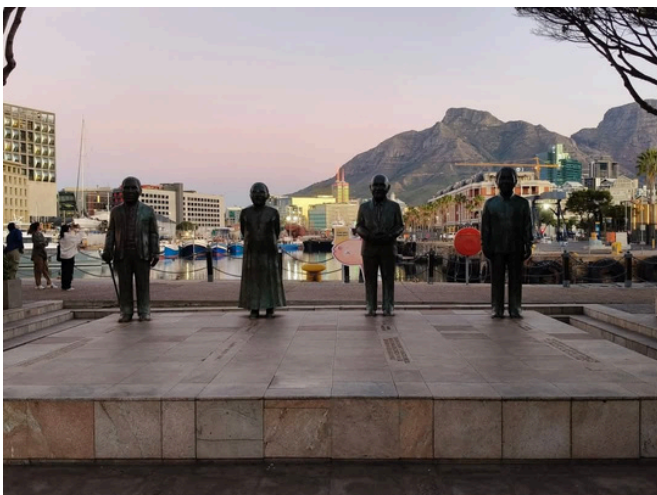
## Event Overview

The 2nd ICC Africa Peace Forum, held from 25 to 27 April 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa, marked a significant milestone in Rotary's commitment to peace, global collaboration, and intercultural dialogue. Hosted by Rotary Districts 9350 and 9400, this year's event expanded the reach of the ICC Peace Forum, bringing together over 150 delegates, including global Rotary leaders, National Coordinators, Rotarians, Rotaractors, peace practitioners, and community partners from more than 18 countries.

Themed “Bridging Cultures, Building Positive Peace”, the forum was jointly held at The Vineyard Hotel and several community venues throughout Cape Town. The forum honoured the original vision of its architect, PDG Mohamed Ghammam, Immediate Past ICC Chairperson of the Executive Board, who shared a moving video message highlighting Rotary's unique position to lead peace conversations across the African continent.

We were honoured to have the Deputy Premier Jaco Londt attend the ICC, who welcomed delegates on behalf of the Western Cape Government.

There were also various tours included that participants in the event went on.





## Day One – Welcome Reception & African Queens Exhibition



The forum commenced on Friday evening with a welcome reception and the unveiling of the “African Queens” art exhibition by Cape Town-based artist Chantal Coetzee. This evocative exhibition paid tribute to forgotten or overlooked African female rulers, reminding all present of the power of heritage, representation, and dignity. Guests were welcomed by Deputy Premier Jaco Londt and District Governors, before gathering for a vibrant evening of cultural celebration, storytelling, and introductions.



## Day Two – Conference Day: Learning, Dialogue & Strategy

On Saturday 26 April, delegates gathered for the main conference day at The Vineyard Hotel, where multiple sessions ran across the full day. The event was hosted by DG Stephen Young and co-moderated by PDG Annemarie Mostert and PDG Abdul Hamid El Awa.

### Opening Plenary

#### Key speakers included:

- PDG Nathalie Huyghebaert, Chair of the ICC Executive Board (Via Video)
- Mr Christo van der Reede, FW de Klerk Foundation
- Ms Janet Jobson, Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation
- Ms Nomhle Canca, Chief Albert Luthuli Foundation
- Mr John Arvanitakis, introducing Rotary Foundation partners
- PDG Mohamed Ghammam (via video), on the vision and evolution of the ICC Peace Forums
- Ms Ellina Kushnir and Mr Fergal McCarthy, representing Rotary International

### Session Highlights

#### Session 1: Global Peacebuilding

Featuring leading thinkers such as Mr Brian Currin, The Reverend Dr. Robert V. Lee III, and HE Mr. Nicolae Zaharescu, this session explored frameworks for reconciliation and inclusive diplomacy.

#### Session 2: Digital Trends in Peacebuilding

Moderated by Ms Mariam Fayez and Ms Shereen Hunter, this panel explored the future of peace in a digital world. Key speakers included:

- PDG James Onions (GB&I), presenting on video “The Sun Never Sets in Rotary”
- Mr Richard Knowlton, on cybersecurity and trust
- Ms Thandi Mabena, on youth and digital engagement
- PDG Mr Abdul Hamid El Awa, and Mr Roy-Stanley C Nwafor, on ICC and Positive Peace
- Moderated by Prof Emad Ghabrial, Ms Cosmina Zaharescu and Ms Habiba Bennani, My Journal in Peace Building
- Ms Aloysie Benite, founder of Refugees Beyond Borders, who delivered a deeply moving video on the power of forgiveness in post-trauma healing
- Ms Emily O’Ryan, representing Rotaract, contributing youth leadership perspectives

#### Session 3: Environment, Health & Peace

Chaired by PDG Annemarie Mostert and PDG Abdul Hamid El Awa, with insights from:

- Ms Sue Paget, CEO of Rotary for Family Health & Aids Prevention
- PDG Deepak Talwar and Mr Vijay Narayan Kewalramani, on health equity and grassroots peace
- Ms Dunja Herzog, and Mr Thembalezwe Mntambo shared Peace in Nature - Hiving and HUMing
- PDG Andrzej Ludek, on food diplomacy of different cultures, customs and continents together
- PDG Prof Barbara Wolf-Wicha, who reminded all of the need to stay relevant and partner with communities and countries in meaningful, reciprocal ways



## Evening Gatherings & Fellowship

PDG Carl-Heinz Duisburg was the Host of the evening with PDG Stephen Young as the Moderator and Former Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano remained in Cape Town to deliver a special keynote, likening peace to a garden – “nurtured daily, seeded with forgiveness, and grown with commitment.” His presence underscored the forum’s focus on tangible, grassroots peace.



We had an extraordinary dinner evening where locals and Rotarians had a great presence main speaker was Chissano and Mrs De Klerk was also in attendance.

The Centennial Celebrations of 100 years in Cape Town was also recognised and celebrated.





## Day Three – The Rotary Peace Garden & Peace Pole Ceremony

On Sunday, 27 April, the forum concluded with the unveiling of the **Rotary Peace Garden** at the **Long March to Freedom Park** in Century City. Delegates were transported to the site for a ceremonial morning led by **PDG Ann Wright**.

At the heart of the ceremony was the unveiling of a **Peace Pole**, inscribed with the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in multiple languages. The pole stands surrounded by indigenous trees and the 101 bronze figures of South Africa’s historical freedom leaders – a powerful symbol of legacy and hope.



Every evening, participants enjoyed fellowship events in some of **Cape Town’s** most iconic locations, including the **V&A Waterfront**, **Bo-Kaap**, and panoramic views from the Fairst Cape. These events allowed international delegates to build friendships, exchange ideas, and experience the vibrancy of the host city.



## Participation & Sponsorship

The 2nd ICC Africa Peace Forum in Cape Town was made possible through the generous support and collaboration of various organisations and partners. Over 150 participants, including global ICC representatives, country coordinators, peace experts, Rotaractors, community partners, and Rotary leadership from across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and beyond, attended the event.

Key sponsors and supporters included:

Rotary District 9350, Rotary District 9400, SPAR Creation Wines, FEM (Federated Employers Mutual Assurance Company), The Long March to Freedom Project, Century City Property Owners' Association, Vineyard Hotel, Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, Refugees Beyond Borders, RFHA Inc. Kelvin Grove Club, African Brand Architects, Event Synthesis, Mila Services, Chatr & FW de Klerk Foundation

Their contributions were instrumental in delivering both the logistical excellence and inspirational tone of the forum, allowing Rotary to amplify its peacebuilding mission in a world-class setting.

## Host & Organising Committee

These Committees played an essential role in welcoming international and local delegates to Cape Town and ensuring the seamless execution of all forum events. Their dedication, regional leadership, and commitment to peacebuilding created an environment of trust, learning, and fellowship.

Members included:

**DG Stephen Young D9350, PDG Ann Wright, PDG Carl-Heinz Duisberg, PDG Annemarie Mostert, PDG Nathalie Huyghebaert, PDG Mohamed Ghammam, PDG Abdul Hamid El Awa, PDG Christophe Koreki, Shereen Hunter, Angelique Smith, John Arvanitakis**

## Looking Ahead: ICC Africa Peace Forum 2026

The ICC Africa Peace Forum will continue its continental journey in 2026, with the next event to be hosted in a French-speaking African country. Plans are underway to further elevate Rotary's role in building positive peace across borders, cultures, and generations.

## Conclusion

The 2nd ICC Africa Peace Forum in Cape Town served as a platform for education, action, and legacy. From high-level thought leadership to deeply personal moments of reflection, this forum reaffirmed Rotary's belief that peace begins with service, partnership, and understanding.

The planting of the **Rotary Peace Pole** will remain as a permanent fixture in Cape Town—a symbol of what can be achieved when people from diverse backgrounds unite for good.

Thank you for all who attended and your participation!

**Signed off by the Host Committee**



## Photos





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## Videos recorded of the sessions on 26 April

Channel where videos are being uploaded:

<https://www.youtube.com/@RotaryDistrict-pt4zu>

### YouTube Videos:

<https://youtu.be/hnJnFG7BUio>

<https://youtu.be/xZZ-OxPrLDc>

<https://youtu.be/jHsJWVTK1Jc>

<https://youtu.be/nFA7EjHr5xE>

<https://youtu.be/D5-3wumsPFo>

<https://youtu.be/TbEz-Bfkb7I>





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