



CHURCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM
2ND NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE

Holiday Inn, Bulawayo

October 29, 2014

“Strengthening Community resilience and mobilizing communities towards peace”

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
ACRONYMS	3
Executive Summary.....	4
Structure of the Report	5
Background	5
Conference Objectives	6
Workshop Methodology, Facilitation And Attendance.....	
Opening Remarks and solidarity message	
CCSF contribution towards realisation of Peace: Key steps towards the development of the National Peace Architecture in Zimbabwe	Error! Bookmark not defined.
National Peace and Reconciliation Commission CSO Shadow Bill	Error! Bookmark not defined.
National Peace framework, Legal and Institutional Framework	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Strengthening Community resilience and mobilisation communities towards peace	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Capacity Building of State and Non State Actors on Peace building	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Advocacy for Truth, Justice, and accountability – Strengthening the work of the Church and Civil Society in use of Transitional Justice Tool	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Moving Forward – Identifying key priorities for achieving lasting peace using a multi-stakeholder approach	17
Launch of a documentary “The Journey towards Peace and Reconciliation in Zimbabwe”	

ACRONYMS

CCSF – Church and Civil Society Forum

COPAC – Constitutional Select Committee

CSOs – Civil Society Organizations

CSU – Counseling Services Unit

EWER – Early Warning and Early Response

FGD – Focus Group Discussion

NTJWG – National Transitional Justice Working Group

NPRC – National Peace and Reconciliation Commission

ONHRI – Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

ZHLR – Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

Executive Summary

The report chronicles the Second Peace Conference which was held in Bulawayo on the 29th of October, 2014. In attendance were **123** delegates **47** women and **76** men, with a fair representation of all stakeholders from the Church, Civil Society Organizations, academia, Business, Labor, government ministries donor organisations and the Media. The purpose of the conference was to provide a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on the CCSF progress and best practice, build consensus on the imperatives to influence the strategic direction and engagement between state and non-state actors on the national peace framework and review the provisions for peace, conflict prevention and resolution and the establishment of the NPRC as outlined in the new Zimbabwean constitution with a view of defining the role and functions of the Church and CSOs in operationalizing them. The methodology used was presentations on key issues and responses through plenary.

Listed below are the key issues that came out of the discussions:

- The CCSF should broaden its engagement both at community level and at national, for it to realize strengthened mechanisms for conflict prevention and a functional peace framework.
- It is the role of CSOs and the general public to ensure that the NPRC does not fail, reflecting on the key issues mentioned in the presentations and the consensus was that it is the duty of the people to push government and draw lessons and best practice to advance accountability peace and justice from other countries that have gone through the same process.
- There is need to hasten the process of operationalization of the commission given the timeframe allocated to it and the work to be done.
- The NPRC enabling act should provide for localising the NPRC so that it deals with issues/ conflicts according to regions for comprehensive local engagement because narrations of truth differ according to geographical location and experiences among other things

The discussions informed the programming for CCSF going forward, emphasizing on the participation of the communities, CSOs and other stakeholders towards the operationalisation of the national peace framework in Zimbabwe.

Structure of the Report

Section I of the report provides the background and objectives of the conference. The section chronicles the progress that the CCSF has attained in contributing to the national framework for peace highlighting the continued strengthening of relations with the Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration.

Section II details the presentations by the three cluster leads on the progress of the work that was done over the past three years and plans going forward. It chronicles a presentation by a representative from the national working group on peace, detailing the role of the working group. This section also contains the

plenary, with the contributions that came from the delegates, with identified gaps and recommendations for the CCSF programming and implementation processes.

Section III of the report covers the evening event where a documentary on the CCSF journey was launched. It was graced by Senator Holland, who was also part of the CCSF from its inception, representing the Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration (ONHRI). This section also provides the conclusion of the conference.

SECTION I

Background

In November 2013, the Church and Civil Society Forum convened its first national peace and reconciliation conference in Bulawayo. The purpose of the two day conference was to consolidate multi-stakeholder input and foster dialogue on the national peace framework in Zimbabwe. Through a thorough analysis of the constitutional provisions on peace as well as the 2009/2010 submissions towards the development of a national healing framework by the church and civil society; the conference managed to define and recommend key actions towards the operation of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC). Since then, significant progress has since been attained by the CCSF's ongoing advocacy towards the operationalisation of the NPRC.

This progress is marked by a national publicity and visibility strategy which was rolled out in June 2014 to utilize public and private media to sensitize citizens on the urgency of an enabling law for the NPRC, a

nationwide stakeholder sensitization programme to unpack the provisions of the NPRC as contained in the new constitution as well as consolidate input on the development of the NPRC Shadow Bill. Accordingly, the 2014 edition of the National Peace and Reconciliation Conference objectives focus on receiving feedback from the CCSF national NPRC sensitization programme, receiving feedback on the national efforts towards the establishment of the NPRC and consolidating input on the imperatives for the operationalisation of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC).

The CCSF acknowledges that it has not been walking this journey alone, but has received immeasurable support from a number of both state and non-state actors, of which ONHRI has been a consistent and reliable partner in the crafting of a sustainable peace infrastructure for Zimbabwe. Therefore the conference sort to engage the stakeholders present to dialogue, as we all explore best practices and methodology in order to build a lasting legacy on peace for the country.

Conference Objectives

Overall objective

To foster national dialogue, coordination, and strengthen mechanisms for the development of conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms in Zimbabwe

Specific objectives

- Provide a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on the CCSF progress and best practice.
- Build consensus on the imperatives to influence the strategic direction and engagement between state and non-state actors on the national peace framework as provided for by the constitution
- Review the provisions for peace, conflict prevention and resolution and the establishment of the NPRC as outlined in the new Zimbabwean constitution with a view of defining the role and functions of the Church and CSOs in operationalizing them

Workshop Methodology, Facilitation And Attendance

Methodology

Workshop methodology included presentations interspersed with discussions in plenary.

Facilitation and Attendance

The workshop was co-facilitated by members of the CCSF Management Committee. A total of **123** delegates attended; **47** women and **76** men. Stakeholders to the Conference included the Church, Civil Society Organizations, academia, Business, Labor, and Media. An official from the UNDP was in attendance to give a solidarity message before the meeting began. Representatives were also invited from the UNICEF, ONRHI, political party representatives, Government Ministries and Departments within the Justice, Law and Order Sector, ministries of Gender and Information.

SECTION II

Opening Remarks

Blessing Makwara (EFZ – MANCOM Co-Chairperson)

On behalf of the Church and Civil Society Forum and the Management Committee, Mr. B. Makwara welcomed all the delegates to the multi-stakeholder conference which was convened under the 7th IDEAS Festival which was strategically themed “Transformative Ideas for a Better Society”. For the peace conference the theme was adapted to “Transformative Ideas for a Peaceful Society”.

He reiterated the overall objective of CCSF being “promote justice, peace and violence prevention through advocacy for the development and realization of a home grown national healing and reconciliation framework developed through a participatory manner involving grassroots communities”. Therefore the objective of the meeting as (civics, churches and traditional leaders, government officials and influential leaders in society) was to reflect on the work done thus far in promoting sustainable peace and champion the operationalisation of the NPRC among other ingredients of a sustainable peace infrastructure.

While others are tempted to enjoy the squabbles in ZANU PF and MDC-T with regards to succession, he urged the house to say, as peace makers, builders and keepers, let us preach and teach tolerance, conflict resolution and transformation as they head towards their elective congresses. We must all cherish the idea of sustained dialogue, inclusive engagements and conclusive deliberations.

Let us as Churches and Civil Society share our collective wisdom, energy, shared interest for peace while remaining patriotic to this Great People and Great Zimbabwe.

Solidarity Message

Tafadzwa Muringi (UNDP)

The presenter acknowledged and congratulated organisers of the meeting for organising the National Peace and Reconciliation Conference and the opportunity that they afforded a myriad of stakeholders to come together and discuss strategies on effectively contributing to the operationalization of the peace architecture in Zimbabwe. In a word the UNDP representative, emphasised the importance of this process to main objectives on the United Nations, “for the UN, this resonates very well with our emphasis of peaceful communities that are able to ensure to human security, observance of human rights, good governance and the rule of law, all of which are key enablers for human development”.

The constitutionalisation of the national peace architecture is a key milestone in the history of Zimbabwe, particularly because it acknowledges Zimbabwe’s chequered history that has been punctuated by conflicts of a magnitude. Linked to that has been a limitation of communities abilities to resolve the conflicts and build resilience for sustainable and peaceful conflicts resolution. This has led to recidivism and recurrence

of conflicts. Now as the country makes concerted efforts to build a sustainable peace culture, the role of the Church and Civil Society has become increasingly important. UNDP therefore recognizes the role of the Church and Civil Society Organizations in complimenting Government development efforts in particular its role in contributing to the establishment of the NPRC, its operationalisation and effective delivery of its mandate as outlined in the Constitution.



UNDP Rep. giving solidarity message.(Tafadzwa Muvingi)

The Church and Civil Society is a critical platform for dialogue on peace and reconciliation in the country and its success is anchored on strong relationships with other stakeholders including Government. It is therefore critical that the dialogue such as today's will need to be anchored in the background that the resolutions and recommendations of this meeting must dovetail into the national efforts being steered by Government. In this regard, I urge you to create and nurture sustainable relationships and partnerships because of the realization that this process is much bigger than CCSF itself.

As the process of operationalizing the NPRC is underway, the Church and Civil Society will play a key role in creating a conducive environment for true and effective reconciliation. This is through continued awareness raising initiatives, community engagement and outreach programmes among others. Your downstream connection enables a lot of your members to work at the grassroots level and this will unlock torrents of community support buy in and ownership that will lead to success of the NPRC in delivering on its mandate

In ending, she emphasized that it is imperative that the CCSF designs strategies to better support the NPRC to effectively play its mandate. Such collaborative processes are strategic and a move in the right

direction. CCSF is a natural partner of choice for the NPRC and it is your responsibility to ensure that your work will always be relevant to the NPRC and it work as the institution that will drive the national peace efforts and wished the participants thoughtful deliberations and bearing in mind that their work can change Zimbabwe's peace history in a good direction for an integrated, peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe.

CCSF contribution towards realisation of Peace: Key steps towards the development of the National Peace Architecture in Zimbabwe

Zacharia Godi (MANCOM -Counselling Services Unit)

The presentation sort to give a narrative of the CCSF journey and the major benchmarks that have been marked. The July 2013 election marked the end of the Global Political Agreement of 2009 and was widely regarded as peaceful by national, regional and international observers. During the period building up to the elections, the CCSF channeled its efforts and resources towards contributing to a peaceful pre and post election environment thereby breaking the cycle of politically motivated violence long associated with elections in Zimbabwe. Post election, the CCSF Strategic Planning in September 2013 saw members reinforcing the need to continue to advocate for a home grown peace framework developed through a participatory and inclusive process which recognises the central role of traditional and local mechanisms of conflict resolution in Zimbabwe.

He spoke to the sustained dialogue methodology, which was implemented at community level strengthening and sustaining community conflict resolution mechanisms through addressing underlying dysfunctional relationships and community conflicts. Whilst at national level CCSF has continued to engage with the state through parliamentary engagements on policy dialogue as well as advocating for the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) to come to life.

In October 2013, the CCSF held a multi stakeholder Conference in Bulawayo to interrogate the constitutional provisions for the NPRC and came up with CCSF submissions, which were shared by the Violence Prevention Cluster in detail in the second session. Other relevant stakeholders such as the Church and the lawyers for human rights also held countrywide consultations and have since come up with a draft NPRC Shadow Bill, which was shared in detail by NGO Forum.

He then concluded by saying, it is on the backdrop of the aforementioned developments that CCSF is convening this multi-stakeholder peace Conference for state and non state actors and other development partners to discuss and interrogate further the various submissions in an endeavor to ensure that stakeholders in their different capacities are aware of the NPRC, and are able to lobby and advocate for its operationalization, the ultimate goal being to strengthen the peace infrastructure at both local and national level.

National Peace and Reconciliation Commission CSO Shadow Bill

Blessing Gorejena (Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum)

This presentation outlined the provisions of the constitution regarding the NPRC and also highlighting the gaps that have been identified and addressed by the CSO NPRC shadow bill.

She began by giving an allegory which likened the legacy of violence in Zimbabwe to a cancerous gangrene or potent poison which is hereditary and threatens to wipe out even those who were not directly exposed to it, the healing cannot be an event but it ought to be a process involving not only the living but also the experiences of those who now only reside in the memories of their loved ones. The current conflict in Zimbabwe is the product of an incomplete and corrupted transition from colonial rule” Savage, T.



Participants concentrating on the presentation by Blessing.

She then outlined that the NPRC incorporates the principles against impunity as part of its functions, the right to know, the right to justice, the right to reparation and the guarantee of non-recurrence functions of the NPRC. She emphasized that, it is not just a truth commission nor is it a commission of inquiry. It Objective truth- accurate historical account, public and official acknowledgment, Narrative truth- a chance for victims, perpetrators and witnesses to tell their stories, personal truth, Social truth- society's resolution of the past that allows it to move forward and Restorative truth- truth that helps to repair past damage and prevent recurrence of violence. Truth commissions are intended to help establish the truth about the past; promote accountability among perpetrators of human rights violations; provide a public platform for victims; inform and catalyse public debate; recommend victim reparation; recommend necessary legal and institutional reforms; promote social reconciliation; and help to consolidate a democratic transition.

Drawing lessons from the plight of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission whose operation was curtailed by lack of both technical and financial resources; the CCSF identified the need to lobby for the political will and allocation of adequate resources towards the implementation of the NPRC as a prerequisite. Through NGO Forum and ZLHR, CSOs came up with a shadow bill to which gives the commission the limbs it needs for it to achieve. From the consultations that were carried out nationwide the key issues that were highlighted, which need to be addressed by the bill were the preamble, structure, jurisdiction, interpretation, power, hearings and procedures of the commission and its committees, independence, reporting and recommendations.

In a nutshell, the presentation gave the outlook that the NPRC should have a national outlook, reach and scope because it is meant to serve the people and its success or failure depends on whether it is accepted or rejected by the people. The NPRC work is too sensitive and complex to be left in the hands of the government and the NPRC alone, thus CSOs become key actors in the process.

Plenary

The presentation probed many issue of concern from the house like how far back will the NPRC go as there are many incidents of violence in the Zimbabwean history. The other concern was what is the role of CSOs and the general public in ensuring that the NPRC does not fail, reflecting on the key issues mentioned in the presentation and the consensus was that it is the duty of the people to push government and draw lessons and best practice to advance accountability peace and justice from other countries that have gone through the same process. The issue of independence of the commission from government was raised, because the commission will be funded by government therefore as a way of addressing this concern it was agreed that there is need for the commission to have alternative funding besides government to safeguard its impartiality and independence.

Guarantee for justice and protection of victims after testifying was another major concern which should be addressed by the act so that people are free to engage with the commission. Transparency in shortlisting criteria for commissioners and reporting, how often, under which ministry and how is it accessed by the public, was another area which was raised to be key and should be made clear in the act. In closing the session the house agreed that a peace process is not linear and cannot be prescribed and outcomes are not premeditated and that there is need to hasten the process of operationalization of the commission given the timeframe allocated to it and the work to be done.

2nd Session

Stakeholder Progress Reviews vis-à-vis Development of National and Local Level Architecture for Peace in Zimbabwe

Chaired by Mr. O. Machisa (ZIMRIGHTS)

This session comprised of presentations from the three cluster leads, the violence prevention cluster, community mobilisation cluster and capacity building cluster. The idea was to share information with delegates on the achievements of the clusters, giving an update on the work done and the progress so far within their clusters and getting responses on gaps and best practice.

National Peace framework, Legal and Institutional Framework

Shastry Njeru (MANCOM, Violence Prevention Mechanisms Cluster Lead, NGO Forum)

The presenter firstly defined the work of the cluster, which is to work towards strengthening existing violence prevention mechanisms as well as support the creation of new tools for combating violence both at national and community level. The violence prevention mechanisms cluster focused on knowledge creation and informing evidence based lobbying and advocacy work for broader non state actors. As well as strengthening existing violence prevention mechanisms as well as support the creation of new tools for combating violence both at national and community level.



Shastry emphasizing a point during his presentation

He went on to give a narration that during the first and second year of the project much emphasis was placed on undertaking research work to identify gaps within existing national and local mechanisms for violence prevention. The intention being to form the basis of engagement with policy makers on key

reforms that are needed to align the law, institutions and policy with the imperatives of having sustainable peace in Zimbabwe.

In summary he said that since the formation of the CCSF in May 2009, the cluster amongst many activities implemented the following, policy engagement meetings with Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Gender Women's Affairs and Community empowerment, Local government Public works and Housing, Thematic Committee on Peace and Security, national sensitization meetings on the NPRC, church leadership consensus building and training of survivors of political violence.

Strengthening Community resilience and mobilisation communities towards peace

Blessing Makwara (MANCOM, Community Mobilisation Cluster lead, Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe)

"The work of the community mobilisation cluster is critical for creating awareness of issues of peace and ensuring active engagement of communities," said Mr Makwara as he began his presentation. He went on to mention that there is general acknowledgement that the greatest incidences of violence occurs at the community level hence the need to empower communities to be resilient in the face of possibilities of future outbursts of violence.

He explained how the strategy for community level intervention had be aligned after the harmonised elections from a purely violence preventive mode to a more structured process lead intervention. The intention of this approach, guided by the sustained dialogue methodology, was to strengthen community violence prevention mechanisms through addressing underlying dysfunctional relationships and community conflicts. The pool of peace builders is currently using a variety of tools with research, capacity building and advocacy components in their interventions.

As he wrapped up, Mr Makwara informed the house of the next key action areas for the cluster through sustained dialogue using the existing community interventions. This will be achieved through training, dialogue facilitation, multi-stakeholder engagements so that the communities are fully equipped with skills to identify potential conflict situations and facilitate dialogue as a means of peaceful resolution of disputes. The CCSF is currently in the process of taking stork of the different levels of the various dialogues so that a comprehensive plan to support the dialogues can be undertaken following which communities take over and run the dialogues.

Capacity Building of State and Non State Actors on Peace building

Zachariah Godi (MANCOM – Capacity Building Cluster Lead, Counselling Services Unit)

The CCSF capacity building component focuses on strengthening stakeholder groups' capacity to engage effectively in building and sustaining peace at community and national level. It has three levels of target groups, namely; Civil Society Organizations (CSO) broadly defined, Policy makers and community leadership. The strategy prior to the constitutional referendum and harmonized elections was to reach out to key influential and potential drivers of politically motivated violence and transform them into peace ambassadors. Therefore CCSF and member organizations held capacity building meetings in 2012 and

2013 targeting chiefs, headmen, village head, councilors, JOMIC, and broader CSOs, on three broad categories: Community capacity building, Church and Civil Society Leadership conferences and Capacity Building Training

Community capacity building workshops focused on training in peace building and conflict management for traditional leaders (chiefs, headman, village heads), youth leaders, and general community members reaching out a total of 309 leaders across the country. Whilst Church and Civil Society Leadership conferences hinged on adaptation of participatory methodologies involving member organizations in key decisions affecting the Forum. The CCSF leadership Conferences are held twice a year to facilitate knowledge exchange and reflection on project implementation. These platforms have also been used to concretize and endorse positions and demands for presentation to policy makers. This cluster has managed to reach out to 434, CSO leaders, church leaders, government representatives, media practitioners, academic community, political party leadership, community leadership and development partners over the three years.

Plenary

Delegates acknowledged the work that has been done so far and encouraged for a larger and more comprehensive approach to the implementation of work by CCSF so as to reach a wider spectrum of grassroots and minority groups ie persons living with disabilities. The issue of forgiveness is key in conflict resolution and violence prevention and our language should demonstrate peace. At the same time, forgiveness does not do away with accountability. Perpetrators of violence should own up to their actions for reconciliation to be possible (blanket impunity).

Advocacy for Truth, Justice, and accountability – Strengthening the work of the Church and Civil Society in use of Transitional Justice Tool

Dr. Motsi (National Working Group on Peace)

Dr. Motsi, a committee member of the NTJWG, responsible for memorialisation, gave a summary of the work to be done by the working group. He explained that peace initiatives should be inclusive of the church, traditional leadership and civil society as these institutions have influence and interface with the social structures more thus the creation of the working group. However the national working group on peace has not done much as it is awaiting for the national structure on peace (NPRC) as provided for in the constitution. It was agreed that the NTJWG would be structured around 5 thematic areas: Promotion of Truth, Justice and Accountability, Reparations and Guarantees of Non Recurrence, Memorialisation and Gender. The NTJWG comes into operation when Zimbabwe has just started operationalizing the new Constitution, which creates, in section 252, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), as well as a number of other institutions that support a culture of human rights and democracy.

As he concluded, Dr. Mosti said that NTJWG realizes that there is need to work towards the transformation of the environment and the structures and create space for the realization of justice and accountability for all Zimbabweans. He also said that the working group is open for dialogue and engagement on the way forward for our country to ensure that we together build a peaceful, just, accountable and democratic

society. For the future and the past, we will adopt an inclusive approach to human rights violations and their redress. No victim from any period in Zimbabwean history is more important than another, and only a nonpartisan approach to the past will free us of the terrible legacies of violence.

Plenary

The main issue that came out from the discussions in this session were of localising the NPRC so that it deals with issues/ conflicts according to regions for comprehensive local engagement because narrations of truth differ according to geographical location and experiences among other things. People need to be allowed to tell their story. There was a concern whether the NPRC or the NTJWG has a structure to deal with rehabilitation, reintegration and reconciliation (restoration of relationships) of victims and perpetrators after the issues have been resolved because they are key aspects of transitional justice.

Moving Forward – Identifying key priorities for achieving lasting peace using a multi-stakeholder approach

Chaired by Mmeli Dube (Bulawayo Agenda)

This session sort to wrap up the deliberations for the whole day, coming up with recommendations and a way forward for the CCSF to realign its work and include issues that were raised by the presentations and updates that had been made.

Key priorities for achieving lasting peace using CCSF

- There was consensus that there is urgent need to lobby and push the government to operationalize the NPRC and making the process as transparent as possible.
- Broadening of CCSF in terms of sectorial and geographical coverage especially in Matabeleland, to ensure inclusive participation of different geographical locations with different history that is spoken by the voice of different actors, recognition of diversity in engaging communities
- There is need of coordinated approach to the peace initiatives, all institutions that are working on peace, for collective and coordinated efforts which will achieve more.
- Youth empowerment when it comes to peace (make sure their voices are heard because they are key when it comes to peace).
- Engagement of all kinds of media so that they report positively on peace initiatives, full coverage of peace activities and also for them to use the peace language and advocate for a peaceful Zimbabwe
- CCSF to make a statement on the intraparty conflicts that are flaring these days The dominance of one tribe over the other, even in forums of peace, leaves us to wonder whether the plights of the marginalized will ever be responded to appropriately
- Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system to be made functional so that it informs on the operational environment and early responses to prevent occurrence of escalation of conflict.
- Engagement or involvement of the security sector in the peace agenda through lesson sharing and dialogue for better transformation and shared understanding

- CCSF management of implementation may need to be revisited so that we quickly archive the set objectives, flexibility in programme implementation so that we are more responsive to emerging issues
- CCSF should go further to work with traditional leaders and local structures.
- There is need for reconfiguration of governance structures to align with the new constitution, we need advocacy to be linked to issues such as marginalization, systematic exclusions which can be addressed through devolution of power.
- There is need for CSOs to have a coordinated plan to lobby for the full implementation of the constitution
- Strong advocacy on full implementation of ZimAsset so that we address existing socio economic inequalities
- Advocate for peace education to be assimilated into the school curricular targeting relevant ministry of education so that peace becomes a legacy
- Positive peace we need to focus on positive peace pillars such as socio economic issues
- Media engagement- some toxic media reports are fuelling divisions and not promoting peace, working with journalists, press releases so that they are and community media not just focus on mainstream media.
- Engagement of political parties to promote internal democracy so that they do not fuel public divisions and promote factionalism as in evident in the media currently
- Business sector participation to peace initiatives for sustainability issue, we need to establish the link between profit and peace to convince them that they have a role

SECTION III

Side Events

Launch of a documentary “The Journey Towards Peace and Reconciliation in Zimbabwe”

This was an evening event by spearheaded by the CCSF communications department, were CCSF launched a documentary titled “*The Journey Towards Peace and Reconciliation in Zimbabwe*”, gives a narration of the CCSF journey from its inception.

Key note address by Senator Sekai Hollard, former Minister of State in the Presidents’ Office, responsible for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration. She narrated how the CCSF was established in 2009 after a realization by non-state actors that there is need to have a platform to jointly lobby for the establishment of a national framework to facilitate peace and reconciliation in the country. Today non state actors in their diversity acknowledge that for effective lobbying and advocacy there is need to pool resources and different comparative advantages that exist in order to impact meaningfully on the peace agenda in Zimbabwe.

She highlighted the milestones that the CCSF undertook to be where it is now, engagement with government and the presidents' office to get a buy to the project and also the support that the CCSF got from the Organ for National Healing and Reconciliation (ONHRI). She spoke highly about the work that the CCSF has done and that these efforts should continue until the NPRC, a baby of the advocacy by CCSF, is fully functional.

The general comments that came out were that the documentary is a true reflection of the efforts by the CCSF but the concern was that there is need for the documentary to include activities and pictures by organisations in the Matabeleland region so that it gives an inclusive national perspective of the peace work.



Hon. Sekai Holland, giving the keynote address

Ideas Market

The Ideas Market is an annual activity hosted by Bulawayo Agenda, a member of CCSF. It is a platform that accords CSOs an opportunity to exchange ideas, interface with members of the public, ideas festival participants from peri-urban and rural areas and showcase their ideas for transforming society through exhibition. The exhibition ran over one and half days and was punctuated with edutainment led by local performing and visual arts groups.

CCSF took this opportunity to touch base with public, who came through for the exhibition. There was a stand particularly for the CCSF publications and researches, where people came in to pick publications of

interest and also ask about the project and how they can benefit or participate in promoting peace in Zimbabwe. Five publications in DVD format and booklets were distributed. There were posters on the “Demand for the NPRC” campaign which were distributed to the members of the public so that they paste them in their offices, kombis, and the streets as a way of reaching out to as many people as possible. This was also an opportunity to explain in detail and respond to questions on the national peace framework and related peace issues that were raised by the people who visited the CCSF stand. Other visitors who had more interest left their details and also promised to contact the CCSF secretariat for further engagement. The exhibition lasted for two days and there was meaningful publicity of the project as well as input from the public.



Members of the public, picking publications of interest, CCSF Exhibition Stand.

Closing remarks NANGO National Chairperson/ CCSF Co-Chairperson

The Chairperson rounded up the deliberations of the day by urging everyone to put on the spirit of peace so that Zimbabwe becomes a new nation. He went on to say that in our diversity if we sing peace, as it is our common wish for the country, there will be lasting peace for this generation and the generations to come.

He denounced politically motivated violence, economic exclusion and social exclusion as these propagate divisions and instability! He ended by emphasizing the urgency of the NPRC Bill and applauded the work that has been done so far by the CCSF in lobby or the NPRC functionalism. As he sat done, he left a

challenge to everyone in the house by saying “the Zimbabwe bird cannot fly with one wing, there is need for a sense of unity to move forward!”