

4<sup>TH</sup> BMS-15TH JUNE, 2010

Introduction of discussion paper on item on ‘other issues’

Je vous remercie, Mr. le Président pour m’avoir donné la parole

This agenda item just as the chair has already clarified, comprises a basket of other issues where States are free to raise any issue that they may consider important. Such issue may even include issues that were not addressed specifically, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial meeting of states or even by the current Meeting. Considering that people meet to aggregate wisdom, States can also flag issues that they believe should be the subject of focused discussion at future UNPOA.

Peace is the main generator of wealth and development is an adage in originating from Africans and other regions. There is an inexorable link between peace and development.

Today, you have before you a discussion paper on pragmatic ways of looking at our ultimate goal for the BMS 4 and indeed all UN forums: attainment and sustenance of lasting a peace. The paper reflects the hints of views disclosed to us and equally based on UN resolutions and decisions. There are many issues pertinent to our BMS, but now we are looking at the need for promotion or a culture of peace. As it can be inferred from the above, the agenda item is not aimed at imposing one culture over any other. It is neither directed at demonizing any culture either. The UNESCO constitutional principle says that Since wars began in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.

This is an invitation ‘invitation au voyage de la paix’ an invitation to a voyage of peace, let us re-examine the reorientation of the seat of human decisions, including preparation for conflicts and wars: the human mind biologically termed the brain. As we endeavour to silence most if not all illicit guns and put them beyond use, we can also try to discourage the fingers from pulling them by creating for the mind a more attractive image of what the fingers can profitably do.

We recognize that conflict is human but its resolution is like a pot of hot soup, calls for utmost care, lest our people and governments get injured. In this paper, we have laid a platform for an architectural framework aimed at reorientation of minds and probably state decision-making quarters, from the mechanical tendency to resolve conflicts by force of arms, towards the choice of dialogue, negotiation, accommodation, mediation, even arbitration and other non-violent means of conflict resolution.

We have equally enumerated the benefits of the culture of peace.

Habits, cultures are a very strong factors and methods or approach could be crucial to results. As our people say: there is a way you chew the bitter leaf and it tastes sweet and there is

away you chew sugar cane that should taste sweet and it ends up tasting bitter. It all depends on method or approach.

I commend the paper to you all.

Mr. chair, I thank you.