

PREPARATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE IN RWANDA



Some of the participants who attended the first meeting on international Day of Peace

This year the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) as her mandate of coordinating all activities related to peace, unity and reconciliation requires, has decided to take the lead of organizing and coordinating this year's celebration with the aim of strengthening the coordination of all activities planned by different stakeholders as well as avoiding duplication of activities.

In preparations for this event, NURC convened a meeting on 1st September 2011 that brought together all stakeholders involved for mutual collaboration and planning for the event. Stakeholders who were present in the meeting are Government institutions and Non-Government Organizations. Among the Government institutions were the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Rwanda Peace Academy, The Ministry of Defense, The Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Local Government, The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, The National Women Council, The National Youth Council, The Office of the Ombudsman, The Center for Conflict Management –NUR, ORINFOR and National Unity and Reconciliation Commission.

Non-Government Institutions in the meeting were the following: Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace, Imbuto Foundation, Search for Common Ground, Right to play Rwanda, Profemmes Twese Hamwe, La Benevolencia, Friends Peace House, Fawe Rwanda and Prison fellowship Rwanda.

Participants agreed to conduct a weekly meeting for smooth preparations.

There is hope that Rwandans among all are willing to come together with a spirit of Peace and Unity to share their ideas and experiences and tell the world that Peace starts from within as it is everyone's concern.

As the UN theme for international day of peace 2011 is "**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**", it is a great opportunity for everyone to contribute in how to maintain peace around the world.