

## Centre for Mediation in Africa

### Activity Report No 5: December 2013 – May 2014

#### Research and Publications

During the reporting period two papers for *Mediation Arguments* were completed:

- Chris Saunders, 2013, 'The dog that didn't bark: the absence of significant international mediation in the South African transition to democracy', *Mediation Arguments* no. 5, Centre for Mediation in Africa.
- Cori Wielenga and Nickson Bondo, 'Mediated power-sharing agreements, reconciliation and transitional justice: Liberia, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo', *Mediation Arguments* no. 6, Centre for Mediation in Africa.

The CMA has commissioned Prof Chris Alden from the London School of Economics to work with Ambassador Welile Nhlapo, an experienced South African diplomat, to produce papers for *Mediation Arguments* and *Practitioner Notes* on South Africa's mediation efforts on the continent.

Prof Nathan was invited to join the Editorial Board of *African Affairs*.

Prof Nathan was invited to serve on the Advisory Board of the new Centre for the Resolution of International Conflicts at the University of Copenhagen. He attended the first Board meeting in April.

#### Teaching

During the reporting period Prof Nathan taught the following post-graduate courses:

- Managing Intelligence Reform, Masters in Security Sector Management, Cranfield University

#### Centre for Mediation in Africa

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- Peace, Conflict and Mediation, Honours Programme, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria.

The CMA has entered into a partnership with the Global South Unit for Mediation (GSUM), an initiative of the Institute of International Relations at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. The CMA will design and teach courses on international mediation at the GSUM Winter School in Rio in July 2014.

### **Seminars and Conferences**

In February the CMA and the Department of Political Sciences hosted a public seminar addressed by Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation.

In March Dr Nyathi presented a paper at the inaugural meeting in Costa Rica of Global Action against Mass Atrocity Crimes.

In April Dr Odendaal was a panellist at a conference on national dialogue processes, organised by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, UNDP and other partners in Helsinki.

In April Victoria Maloka, the CMA's new Senior Associate, presented a paper on 'lessons learned from South Africa's negotiations' and participated in a panel discussion on Boko Haram at the 23rd Africa Diaspora Conference: Rethinking and Managing Ethnic and Religious Relations in Contemporary Africa, hosted by the Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, California State University.

In May the Department of Political Sciences and the CMA co-hosted a seminar addressed by Prof Chris Mitchell, a renowned mediation scholar from George Mason University.

### **Training**

The CMA has forged a partnership with the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF) and in December provided mediation training support in Oslo.

In February Dr Odendaal, Prof Nathan and Ms Maloka ran a five-day training course on mediation for women government officials from African countries, hosted by the Department for International Relations and Co-operation.

In April Prof Nathan led a mediation training course for officials from the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York.

In May Dr Nyathi facilitated mediation training for the Malawi Public Affairs Committee, a grouping of faith-based organisations.

### **Facilitation and Support**

Prof Nathan was a resource person at the Third Meeting of Regional, Subregional and International Organizations on Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation, co-hosted by the UN, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Cairo, February.

In March Ms Maloka facilitated a strategic planning discussion on the establishment of the Association of African Women Mediators and participated in the first planning meeting of the

Association's Co-ordinating Committee. This initiative is sponsored by the South African Department of International Relations and Co-operation.

In March Dr Nyathi facilitated the development of the Strategic Plan (2014-2018) and the donor parliamentary support programme for the Zimbabwean Parliament.

### **Other Activities**

The CMA has appointed a new Senior Associate, Victoria Maloka, who worked previously at the Centre for Conflict Resolution, the South African Human Rights Commission and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She will prioritise promoting and supporting women mediators in Africa.

Prof Nathan participated in the meeting of the UN Academic Advisory Council on Mediation, January, New York.

In May Ms Maloka was part of the SADC Lawyers Association's Election Observation Mission to South Africa. She monitored the elections in KwaZulu-Natal and is responsible for writing the mission report.