

Report on the recently concluded Intern. Conf. and Inauguration of the Peace Advocates and Practitioners Organisation Nigeria European Headquarters Austria – PAPONEHA. From Friday, 18.10.2024 – Saturday, 19.10.2024 in Vienna, Austria

The summary report on the two-day event, covering the International Conference and Official Inauguration of the Peace Advocates and Practitioners Organisation Nigeria, European Headquarters Austria (PAPONEHA) started with an evening get-together as follows:

Introductory Reception with Uni.-Professor Paul Uche Mbakwe

Friday, 18.10.2024 marked the official beginning of the launching of PAPONEHA with a reception and introductory dinner, to welcome the worldwide initiator, founder and chair of the board of trustees (BOT) *Univ. - Professor Dr. Paul Uche Mbakwe*.

During the evening get-together, members of PAPONEHA met for the first time with *Uni.-Prof. Paul Mbakwe*. It was a warm welcome evening with the worldwide initiator. *Dr. Samuel Ogbonna*, the European coordinator and chair of the Austrian branch conducted the official introduction of members of the Austrian branch to the worldwide initiator *Uni.-Prof. Paul Mbakwe*. He also officially introduced *Uni. - Prof. Paul Mbakwe* to his members.

After the introduction, *Uni.-Prof. Paul Mbakwe* spoke. He praised the hard work of *Dr. Samuel Ogbonna* and his members. He pointed out that their efforts and sacrifices were unmeasurable, and that the continued relentless efforts not only from *Dr Samuel Ogbonna* but also from members of the organisation would not be in vain. He urged them never to give up. He promised to be there for them each time they needed his presence and assistance.

Under this, working modalities between the worldwide headquarters and the branches all over the world were discussed. Members expressed their concerns and experiences and promised to make adequate contributions to propagate the ideologies of the founding fathers and contribute to bringing peace all over the world.

Thereafter, participants dined, wine, and engaged themselves in small talks to grace the occasion. It was a very lovely, peaceful and harmonious evening. Members were satisfied, and happy as they enjoyed themselves with their special guest of honour *Uni.-Prof. Paul Mbakwe* who brought them rich information on emerging issues from downtown – Nigeria.

On the International Conference and Official Inauguration of PAPONEHA

These were successfully executed as planned. Government Agencies and Organisations that were invited were:

- The Nigerian Embassy in Vienna, Austria,
- The United Nations Organisation,
- The National Association of Nigeria Community in Austria (NANCA),
- The Igbo Cultural Society Austria (ICS) and
- The Abia Community in Vienna,
- The ORF – Austria Radio and TV Corporation, represented by Radio Afrika TV, and
- The African Net and other Journalists representing diverse Media Bodies.

It was recalled that three days before the International Conference, a Courtesy call was made at the Nigerian Embassy in Vienna, Austria. Members of the delegates that represented the Peace Advocates and Practitioners Organisation Nigeria European Headquarters Austria were *Ing. John Okeke and Mag. Dr. Samuel Ogbonna*. Both of them are members of the Executive Committee of PAPONEHA. *Chief Wise Ibe, Eze Okonko*, a member of PAPONEHA joined them as a member of the delegate.

Other personalities included *Univ.-Prof. Paul Uche Mbakwe*. He is the initiator, founder, and chair of the board of trustees (BOT) worldwide with headquarters in Nigeria. He came exclusively from Nigeria to participate in the International Conference and at the same time officially inaugurated the European Headquarters in Austria. He spoke extensively during the courtesy call interactions with the officers of the Nigerian Mission in addition to what *Mag. Dr. Samuel Ogbonna*, the chair of Austria and European Coordinator who led the delegation already said.

The Embassy of Nigeria requested that PAPO-PAPONEHA submit all the necessary documents testifying their legal status to the Mission. These documents were the certificate of confirmation of the registration of the organisation per Austrian Law, the Certificate of the confirmation of Members of the Board of Trustees (BOT/ Executive Committee Members) and finally the Statute of the Organisation. The requested documents were submitted to the Mission within the time agreed upon.

Based on the documentation, the Mission agreed:

- First to participate actively in the International Conference and official Inauguration of PAPONEHA,
- Second to open an official file on PAPONEHA at the Nigerian Embassy in Vienna, Austria,
- Third, to cooperate with PAPONEHA in future in its efforts in the pursuit of peace, not only in Austria and Europe but also in Africa, especially in Nigeria and finally across the Universe,
- Fourth to assist PAPONEHA in any way that will leverage the unwavering efforts the organisation would be making fighting a good course, which is peace for humanity, and finally;
- Fifth to even recommend PAPONEHA should the need arise to the Federal Government of Nigeria among other things in the future.

The diplomats and officers with whom the delegate from PAPO-PAPONEHA met and discussed at the Nigerian Embassy were *Ms. Florence Lola Ejim* the Minister in

charge of Councillors, representing the Head of the Mission, Minister *Dr Dogondaji Haliru Bello* the Charge de Affairs, who was unavoidably engaged due to other responsibilities. *Mr. Dike* who is the councillor with the Mission and *Ms. Stella Ubani*, the Secretary to the Mission.

The courtesy call was an opportunity for both Institutions to officially know and acquaint themselves with the activities of the Organisation and Institution on both sides. It created opportunities to exchange views on diverse issues of challenging matters both in Austria and in Nigeria. Measures on how to resolve matters diplomatically from the point of view of the diplomatic mission of Nigeria in Austria and the PAPO-PAPONEHA as Peace Ambassadors discussed. Both partners exchanged experiences and encouragements to champion the continued maintenance of peace amongst people of all races.

Another highlight before Saturday, the 19th of October the official Inauguration was the invitation from ORF – Austria Radio and Television Corporation to their headquarters in Vienna for Radio discussions covering the Event and the missions for which the organisation was established. The Austria chair and European Coordinator *Mag. Dr. Samuel Ogbonna* and *Univ.- Prof. Paul Uche Mbakwe* (the worldwide initiator and chair of the Board of Trustees (BOT) went to the Radio Studio and discussed fully what the Missions' Statements of the Organisation PAPO-PAPONEHA are all about. The discussion and interview were broadcast in the following period and channels:

- Friday, 18.10.2024 at 21:00 hours, a ninety (90) minutes programme at RADIO AFRIKA INTERNATIONAL. link: <https://oe1.orf.at/collection/624951>
- Saturday, 19.10.2024, a repeat at 15:00 hours.
- Saturday, 19.10.2024 at 09:00 link: <https://o94.at/player> or
- In Radio on FM 94.00 Mhz.

Meanwhile, on Saturday the 19th of October at 14:00 hours, the preparation for the international conference and the official inauguration started. It began with the accreditation of participants, which lasted for two hours.

MASTER OF CEREMONY (MC)

The Moderator of the Event, *Chief Wise Ibe, Eze Okonko* meanwhile, took to the Microphone at exactly 16:00 hours and welcomed all participants present at that moment when the International conference fully began.

He went on to introduce the speakers starting from *Mag. Dr. Samuel Ogbonna* that billed to speak first in his capacity as the chair and chief organiser of the event and the European Coordinator. He was to present a welcome address entitled, "THE DREAM COMES THROUGH".

Following his address was another paper from *Lady Dr. Chinedu Brown*, who was to come from Nigeria but circumstances beyond human control said no. That warranted and requested *Ms. Chinwe Agatha Egwuibe*, the First Lady of Igbo Cultural Society Austria to step in for her. The paper received a standing ovation after its presentation.

This was not only because of the philosophical analysis or because of interpretations of the topic “PEACE BEGINS WITH ME, PEACE BEGINS WITH YOU” but also because the speaker presented it professionally and the chemistry of the author and the presenter matched together. It would be difficult for anyone who was not present to doubt that the presenter was not the author.

Thereafter followed the speech from the Minister in charge of councillors, a career diplomat from the Nigerian Embassy in Vienna, Austria. This fellow is *Ms. Florence Lola Ejim* who represented the mission in the absence of His Excellency from the Embassy of Nigeria in Vienna Austria, Minister *Dr. Dogondaji Haliru Bello* the Charge de Affairs. She spoke on the importance of peace across the universe and praised the initiator, the European Coordinator and their members for calling such an International Non-Governmental Organisational (INGO) to life given the various crises around the world.

Finally yet important was the highlight of the day, a paper presented by the worldwide initiator, founder and chair of the overall Board of Trustees (BOT). This is no other person than *Univ.-Professor Dr. Paul Uche Mbakwe*, Head of the Department of History and International Relations at the Abia State University Uturu, Nigeria.

In his paper, he elaborated on the original theme, while highlighting the mission statements of the Organisation. He drew the attention of participants on the theme of the international conference; “PEACE BEGINS WITH ME, PEACE BEGINS WITH YOU” and leveraged it with “PEACE BEGINS WITH ME, AND CONTINUOUS WITH YOU”.

As a University lecturer of note, he lectured at the conference about how the idea first came to him and the challenges he met while assiduously working to put in place the Organisation PAPO – Peace Advocates and Practitioners Organisation Nigeria. Currently, the idea has extended its tentacles across African soil down to Austria Europe and metamorphosed to *PAPONEHA* – Peace Advocates and Practitioners Organisation Nigeria European Headquarters Austria. In so doing, he extensively cleared any doubt anyone may have been nursing about the Organisation.

You can read these explosive and touching papers and addresses on the Website of the Organisation www.paponeha.com

At the end of his lecture, the conference went into discussions on the diverse papers presented. Key points were raised, questions asked and answers were given.

Univ.-Professor Paul Mbakwe on finishing entertaining questionnaires, called on the attention of the conference participants. He asked for their attention and said it was a privilege and honour to stand before them and officially inaugurate *PAPONEHA Austria*.

Witnesses to the official inauguration were the Federal Republic of Nigeria represented by the Nigerian Embassy in Vienna, Austria through *Ms. Florence Lola Ejim*. Accompanied by her colleagues to this all-important occasion, the President of the National Association of Nigeria Community Austria (NANCA) *Mag. Dr. Jude Okonkwo* representing Nigerians in Austria, The Chairperson of the Igbo Cultural

Society Austria, *Mr. Anthony Egwuibe*, Media people covering the event, members of the PAPONEHA Austria and other participants present during the inauguration.

To cap it all, a few minutes were given to the representatives who witnessed the inauguration to comment on the exercises. They all confirmed the positive experiences and peace they experienced during the events. The President of NANCA Mag. Dr. Jude Okonkwo expressed his joy and happiness that PAPONEHA – a piece Organisation has been established as well as inaugurated in Austria.

In addition, there was a toast at the end to grace the occasion and bless the newly inaugurated Organisation – PAPONEHA Austria.

VOTE OF THANKS

In the conclusion, *Ing. John Okeke*, a duo to the proponents of PAPONEHA Austria gave a closing remark. He brought in some of the interesting ingredients in the papers presented and other points during the general discussions. He thereafter thanked both the speakers and the participants. He thanked *Univ. - Professor Paul Uche Mbakwe* for flying from Nigeria to officially inaugurate the Austrian European Chapter and Headquarters. He called for the close of the International Conference and Inauguration Event.

He further announced that all participants should drive down to AKARAKA HOME— Restaurant, Café, and Bar for entertainment. Everybody who wanted to participate in the entertainment was conveyed to the venue with the vehicles provided.

Other Highlights After the Inauguration and International Conference

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

Within a few days after the inauguration and launching, some renowned International Media Outlets that covered the event took to pen and made publications on the recently concluded Events. These Media Outlets are as follows:

1. Modernghana News,
2. NewsExpressngr,
3. Njenje Media News,
4. ProwlingEagles,
5. Texas Guardian News,
6. The Voice Magazine, and
7. TreckAfrica.Net.

Previous Publications on PAPONEHA before the Inauguration

1. GWG.NG Nigerian News Media,
2. News.band Nigeria Online Media,
3. ORF-Radio Afrika TV, Austria.

Meanwhile, ten (10) media houses participated throughout the preparations and implementations of the inauguration Event. A record! In Austria. In addition, about

thirty-five (35) people including experts from different disciplines participated in the two-day Event.

Peoples' Reactions:

- a. The Offices of PAPONEHA have received kind information and reactions internationally from people targeting emerging issues. Through diverse channels, the organisation has been in contact with people who have expressed their interest to become members of the organisation. Efforts are being made through due process to get them properly registered,
- b. Some cross sections in Austria, especially people living in the capital city of Vienna, the seat of PAPONEHA were dumbfounded. They were surprised and shocked to learn about the successful establishment of such an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO). In addition, the initiators and stakeholders to inaugurate the newly established organisation flew in a refined Univ. - Professor and Head of the Department of History and International Relations at the Abia State University Uturu (ABSU).

The Management Team:

Mag. Dr. Samuel Ogbonna (President & European Co-ordinator)

Mr. Patrick Onuh (BA) Vice President & Secretary)

Ing. John Okeke, (Financial Secretary)

Mr. Paul Alexo (BA) Project Office)

Mr. Chinedu Ibeji (Publicity Officer)

This day, Friday, 25th October 2024.