

Preface

This collection of articles in this volume is a development of the outcome of the conference under the title of “Indigenous Methods of Conflict Resolution in Africa” held by the University of Botswana at Gaborone in September 2010. This is also a product of joint research by researchers of the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University, Japan and the University of Botswana led by the Centre for Culture and Peace Studies housed in the Department of Political and Administrative Studies. This collaboration goes beyond cooperation in the area of research, Mr. Gabriel Malebang, a University of Botswana lecturer is registered as a Ph.D. student at Hiroshima University, attesting to the ties of friendship that exist between the two institutions.

Africa is a continent fraught with many conflicts, the resolution of which has often times relied on external interventions from both state and multilateral actors such as the United Nations and other regional bodies such as the African Union. This approach has neglected the wealth of valuable indigenous and traditional methods which have been time tested and have proven to do less harm in warring communities. Research has proven that there is a wealth of indigenous and traditional conflict resolution practices from across the vast and varied cultures found on the African continent. This volume has been given impetus by the visible shortcomings of external conflict resolution interventions, mostly Western led. It thusly seeks to intensively investigate the basis, nature and content of indigenous conflict resolution approaches as well as their interface with international norms and standards. The contributors wish that this volume will help those who are interested in the topic to find some critical research agendas to tackle in the future.