

8th ISF 2009

Topic Session hosted by the [Geneva Peacebuilding Platform](#), a cooperation between the [CCDP](#), [GCSP](#), [Interpeace](#) and [QUNO](#)

" Who makes peace, who builds peace? : National ownership in peacebuilding processes "

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Organised by the [Geneva Peacebuilding Platform](#), a cooperation between [CCDP](#), [GCSP](#), [Interpeace](#) & [QUNO](#)

Abstract

While peacekeeping and peacemaking processes need strong and determined intervention from the international community to be successful, establishing the foundations of a lasting peace requires more subtle forms of international cooperation and cannot be imposed externally. To be sustainable, peacebuilding entails a wide level of participation and buy-in from the various stakeholders involved in the stabilisation of a war-torn society. This panel will consider the challenges that the nascent international peacebuilding architecture faces in finding ways of establishing effective partnerships between internal and external actors in post-conflict countries. The issues to be addressed where better practices are needed include identifying and supporting local peacebuilders, ensuring national accountability, finding ways to deal with spoilers, taking into consideration local specificities and developing nationally-owned, and context-sensitive peacebuilding strategies.

Speakers

	Discussion topics
Prof. Thomas BIERSTEKER, Professor Political Science, The Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva	Chair
Prof. Michael BARNETT, Stassen Chair, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota	The Strategic Alternative: Backing a Decent Winner
Amb. Alvaro DE SOTO, Associate Fellow, Geneva	A Reluctance to Commit: Does the International Community Have the Required Staying Power?

Centre for Security Policy	
Mr Scott WEBER, Director-General, Interpeace, Geneva	The Challenge of Building Broad National Ownership in Peacebuilding Processes

Michael Barnett

Professor, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, CCDP research fellow

Michael Barnett is the Harold Stassen Chair of International Relations at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. He previously taught at the University of Wisconsin, Macalester College, Wellesley College, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and has been a visiting scholar at the New School for Social Research and the Dayan Center at Tel-Aviv University.

Barnett teaches and does research on international relations, international organizations, humanitarian action, the United Nations, and the politics of the Middle East. Among his books are *Confronting the Costs of War: Military Power, State and Society in Egypt and Israel* (Princeton, 1992), winner of the ISA's Quincy Wright award; *Security Communities*, co-edited with Emanuel Adler (Cambridge University Press, 1998); *Eyewitness to a Genocide: The United Nations and Rwanda* (Cornell University Press, 2002), a Choice outstanding book; *Rules for the World: International Organizations and World Politics*, co-authored with Martha Finnemore (Cornell University Press, 2004), winner of the ISA's best book award and ACUNS best book award; *Power in Global Governance*, co-edited with Raymond Duvall (Cambridge University Press, 2005); and *Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, and Ethics*, co-edited with Tom Weiss (Cornell University Press, 2008). In addition to his on-going research on the international humanitarian order, Barnett is directing a Luce-funded project on "Religion, Humanitarianism, and World Affairs."

Thomas Biersteker

Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Thomas Biersteker is the first holder of the Curt Gasteyger Chair in International Security and Conflict Studies, established thanks to the support of the APESI to honour Professor Gasteyger, HEI professor emeritus.

The author/editor of nine books, including *State Sovereignty as Social Construct*, *The Emergence of Private Authority in Global Governance*, and *Countering the Financing of Terrorism*, Biersteker's research focuses primarily on international relations theory and economic aspects of

contemporary global security issues. His recent activities include work with the UN Secretariat and the governments of Switzerland, Sweden, and Germany on the design of targeted sanctions.

He was previously Professor of Political Science at Brown University where he served for many years as Director of the Watson Institute for International Studies. He has also taught at Yale University and at the University of Southern California. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an Honorary Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association, and a Fellow of the Club of Madrid.

Alvaro DE SOTO

GCSP Associate Fellow and former United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Alvaro de Soto, an ambassador in the Peruvian diplomatic service, spent 25 years in senior positions at the United Nations from 1982 to May 2007. His UN career began with 13 years in senior positions in the Secretary-General's office and 5 years as Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Among many assignments in peacemaking and peacekeeping during that time, Mr de Soto was the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for the Central American Peace Process, in which capacity he led the 1990-1991 negotiations which resulted in a number of profound social and institutional reforms and ended the decade-long war in El Salvador. From 1995 to 1999 he was the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Myanmar. He was promoted Under-Secretary-General in 1999. From 1999 to 2004 he led the negotiations on Cyprus which produced a comprehensive settlement proposal that was submitted to the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots in separate and simultaneous referendums in April 2004, approved by the latter but rejected by the former. He was the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Western Sahara from October 2003 to April 2005. His last assignment, from May 2005 to May 2007, was as UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

Scott Weber

Interpeace, Director-General

As Director-General of Interpeace, Scott Weber oversees the strategic growth and development of the organization and provides support to Interpeace's field teams. Since his nomination to the position in 2005, Scott has led the process of restructuring the organization and re-branding as well as expanding the organization's operational presence and budgets. Interpeace was highlighted for its innovative model for conflict resolution

at the 2006 and 2007 Clinton Global Initiatives. In 2009, Scott was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

Scott began his career in the United Nations, first with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and then as a Political Officer in the Office of the Director-General of the UN in Geneva. Prior to his appointment as Director General, Scott acted as the Special Assistant to the Director General of Interpeace and Program Officer for Rwanda. Scott is a member of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO). He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations, Economics and Russian from Georgetown University and has completed an Executive Education programme in Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard University's JFK School of Government. Scott is French and American.