



Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

GPP Inaugural Event

Public Discussion

The Peacebuilding Commission two years ahead: lessons learnt and ways forward

Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Tuesday, 1 July 2008

12:30-14:30

Speakers' Biographies

Prof. Stephen John Stedman is Director of the Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies at Stanford University, and Senior Fellow at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. In 2003-2004 Professor Stedman was Research Director of the United Nations High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and was a principal drafter of the Panel's report, *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility*. In 2005 he served as Assistant Secretary General and Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations, with responsibility for working with governments to adopt the Panel's recommendations on strengthening collective security and for implementing key changes within the United Nations Secretariat, including the creation of a Peacebuilding Support Office, a Counter Terrorism Task Force, and a Policy Committee that acts as a cabinet to the Secretary General. Professor Stedman is a leading expert on civil wars and conflict management. Recent books include *Ending Civil Wars*, which examines the determinants of successful implementation of peace agreements, and *Refugee Manipulation*, which studies how warring parties and states attempt to manipulate the international refugee regime. He received his BA from Stanford in 1979 and his PhD in political science from Stanford in 1988.

Mr. Ejeviome Eloho Otobo is Director, Strategic Planning and Deputy Head of Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. Prior to joining PBSO, Mr Otobo was Deputy Director for Policy Analysis and Monitoring in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) at the UN Secretariat, where he led the team that prepared several reports on the progress and challenges in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Before joining OSAA, Mr. Otobo served at the UN Economic Commission for Africa where he worked on issues concerning sub-regional dimensions of post conflict reconstruction and development, institutional reforms and governance. His main areas of research interest are business-government relations, development management and strategic planning. He has written on the intersecting issues of public service and institutional reforms, international trade, economic governance and corporate governance. His writings have been published

as book chapters and as articles in scholarly journals and policy bulletins. Some of Mr. Otobo's most recent book chapter contributions include: "*The New Peacebuilding Architecture: An Institutional Innovation of the United Nations*" in *United Nations Reform and the New Collective Security* published by Cambridge University Press, 2008; *Public Service Reforms in Support of the New Partnership on African Development (NEPAD): Moving from Tactical to Strategic Responses*" in *Administrative Culture in a Global Context*, published by de Sitter Publications, Toronto, Canada, 2005; "*Contemporary External Influences on Corporate Governance: Coping with the Challenges in Africa*" in *Africa Development and Governance Strategies in the 21st Century: Looking Back to Move Forward*, published by Zed Books, New York, 2005; and "*Policy Process in a Democratic Context: A Glimpse at Nigeria's Privatisation Programme*" in *Better Governance and Public Policy: Capacity Building and Democratic Renewal in Africa*, Kumarian Press, Connecticut, USA, 2002.

Mr. Otobo has also contributed to the 2007 African Development Report devoted to the theme of Natural Resources for Sustainable Development in Africa and the 2001 African Development Bank Report devoted to the theme of Fostering Good Governance in Africa. Mr. Otobo had his undergraduate education at the University of Lagos, Nigeria and did his graduate studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Chair: **H.E. Nobuyasu Abe** is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Switzerland. Prior to this position, Mr. Abe has been serving as Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since November 2001. Mr. Abe, who joined the Japanese Foreign Service in 1967, is an accomplished diplomat with a wide experience in the field of arms control and disarmament. In addition to his bilateral assignments dealing with political and economic issues, Mr. Abe served in the Japanese Missions to the International Organizations in Geneva (1977-79), to the United Nations in New York (1987-90 and 1996-97) and to the International Organizations in Vienna (1999-2001), thus acquiring extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy. Ambassador Abe was an international fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University in Boston (1986-87), where he later served as Consul-General of Japan (1994-96). Earlier in his career, he served in Tokyo as Private Secretary to Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa (1974-76); Director of Policy Planning (1984-86); and sous-Sherpa for the G7 Summits (1992-94). His last assignment in Tokyo was as Director-General for Arms Control and Science Affairs (1997-99). During that time, he helped organize the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament and participated in many international activities for disarmament and nonproliferation. He was instrumental in bringing about the Japanese ratification of the Ottawa Convention to Ban Anti-personnel Landmines. During his assignment in Vienna, he led the efforts to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to conclude the negotiations on the Firearms Protocol of the Anti-Organized Crime Convention.