

## **Operationalizing Resilience in Peacebuilding Contexts: Approaches, Lessons, Action Points**

**Geneva, Friday, 9 November 2012**

Hotel Warwick – 14, rue de Lausanne – Geneva

The Annual Meeting 2012 explores the operational experience to achieve higher levels of resilience of communities and institutions, and asks about the action points necessary to strengthen such efforts in peacebuilding contexts. This theme connects the wide use of the 'resilience' concept in various policy communities, but also critically examines its applicability to peacebuilding contexts. Approaches to resilience can vary significantly and range from a narrow understanding of the concept as the ability to return to an original form or state, to a broader understanding that highlights the adaptive and transformative capacities of a system in the face of crises or chronic stresses. For peacebuilding, the resilience concept implies a certain tension between its static and transformative connotations, as illustrated by the struggles between a resilient political order, and the social forces that want to change it.

The Annual Meeting acknowledges the wide normative agreement that the resilience of communities and societies is desirable, but recognizes that there is a need for a better cross sectorial and institutional exchange of operational experience. The Annual Meeting, therefore, draws together the best practice of different actors, while elaborating the particularities of strengthening resilience in peacebuilding contexts. These contexts can be marked by the stresses of post-conflict environments, high-levels of armed violence, and multiple political processes that address imminent tension or work towards long term systemic transformations.

The expected outcome of the Annual Meeting is to:

- Draw together the operational experience from different sectors and institutions to achieve higher levels of resilience of communities and institutions;
- Gain a better understanding of the applicability of the resilience concept in peacebuilding contexts; and
- Identify a series of action points to strengthen resilience in peacebuilding contexts.

The Annual Meeting speaks directly to a variety of policy communities that have adopted 'resilience' as an overarching concept, especially in relation to development, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and conservation. It also speaks directly to the implementation challenges of the priority actions and policies highlighted in the forthcoming Secretary-General's 2012 Report on *Peacebuilding in*

*the Aftermath of Conflict*, especially to ensuring inclusive approaches to peacebuilding. The Annual Meeting also speaks to the Programme of Work 2013-2014 of the OECD's International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), in particular to deepen analysis in key areas of, and improve policy coherence and partnerships for, peacebuilding and statebuilding.

The Annual Meeting is the Platform's yearly flagship event and has the objective to contribute to the networking of peacebuilding resources across sectors and institutions. It brings together a variety of actors and representatives from civil society, government, international organizations, business, and academia.

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is an inter-agency network that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide. Founded in 2008, the Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding issues and contexts. It also plays a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding activities in the field.

Created in 2008, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a joint project of four institutions:

