

## Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

CCDP QUNO GCSP

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform has the pleasure of inviting you to an informal lunchtime seminar and discussion on:

# Non-State Conflict Management Opportunities and Limits of NGOs Engaging Non-State Armed Groups

### **Dr Ulrich Schneckener**

Head of research, Division Global Issues  
German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

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Project associate, Non-State Conflict Management  
German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

**WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2008**

12:30 – 14:00

Geneva Centre for Security Policy  
2nd floor, WMO/OMM Building  
Avenue de la Paix 7bis  
(Identity document required to enter the venue)

A light sandwich lunch will be served at 12:00 outside of the seminar room

**To register, please contact [gpp@gcsp.ch](mailto:gpp@gcsp.ch)**

For a successful treatment of contemporary wars and conflicts the engagement with non-state armed groups has become of central importance. Non-state armed groups of different type, be it rebel groups or criminal networks, dominate the environment during and after armed conflict in manifold ways. They often bear the potential to disturb, undermine, or completely truncate processes of peace and state building, leading violence to flare up again.

Non-governmental organisations are active in the world's crisis or conflict regions in multiple ways. They provide humanitarian aid, facilitate between parties of conflict and spread distinct norms and values. In their work they are always confronted with non-state

armed groups; they need to come to terms with them or are looking for direct contact in order to influence these actors.

In view of this it becomes crucial to analyse the existing experience with interaction between NGOs and non-state armed groups. The central questions are: Under which circumstances and with which methods may NGOs affect non-state armed groups in a way that leads to a change of behaviour and possibly a renunciation of violence? And how far do forms of non-state conflict management arise from the interaction between NGOs and non-state armed groups?

This seminar will bring together various perspectives from the academic, NGOs, International organisations in order to think collectively about the preliminary findings of Dr Schneckener and Dr Hofmann's research project on Non-state conflict management at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs .

We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a stimulating and informative discussion and encourage you to share this invitation with any colleagues who may be interested. To register, please simply reply to this email with your full contact details ([gpp@gcsp.ch](mailto:gpp@gcsp.ch)).

Sincerely,

Frédérique Guérin  
Coordinator, The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform