

THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM

2009 FORUM



Saving lives or building peace?

Roles and Responsibilities of Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Actors in Conflict Settings

11 December 2009

Auditorium Jacques Freymond
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Modern peacebuilding operations take place in increasingly complex environments, which make the old continuum of intervention from relief aid to longer-term stabilization and development less and less relevant. Peace and conflict are non-linear processes which do not necessarily reflect organizational mandates, intervention processes and funding schemes. Because war-torn societies are deeply divided and extremely volatile, any attempt to effect change, including saving lives through the delivery of emergency assistance, has political implications. All external actors, regardless of their mandates and windows of intervention in a conflict cycle, can contribute to building peace or sow the seeds for further conflict.

Humanitarian actors not only play a key role in mitigating the consequences of war, their action often has much longer-term effect on internal dynamics of change in a given society. Yet because of the very nature of their mandate, which is reactive and purposely a-political, they cannot be held accountable for a conflict dynamics without due attention being paid to the tensions and dilemmas they are facing.

The GPP Annual Forum will bring together a number of experienced panelists from different settings to:

1. Shed light on the multifaceted impact of emergency aid on peace and conflict dynamics;
2. Look at the lessons learned, remaining dilemmas and new challenges facing humanitarian actors engaged in conflict settings;
3. Articulate ways forward to better link humanitarian assistance to longer-term peacebuilding objectives with respect for humanitarian independence.

This Forum will provide a neutral space to address openly and constructively this humanitarian/peacebuilding nexus. The Forum is designed as a dialogue process held under the Chatham House rules. Organized primarily around a series of panels, the theme of each will be introduced by brief presentations by actors from different settings and experiences. The emphasis, however, will be on dynamic interaction with Forum participants.

This Forum will bring together approximately 40 participants from: the United Nations Peacebuilding architecture in New York, post conflict governments and civil society; Geneva-based peacebuilding and humanitarian communities, UN integrated missions in country, diplomatic community, donor community, experts, analysts and policy makers.

Programme

- 9h00 **Welcome and Introduction**, Mr Scott Weber, Director-General, Interpeace, Member of the GPP Steering Committee
- 9h10 **Keynote Speech: “Humanitarians vs. Peacebuilders: False Dichotomies, Real Dilemmas”**
Ms Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support
- 9h35 **Framing the debate**, Dr Randolph Kent, Director of Humanitarian Futures Programme at King's College, London
- 10h00 **Panel Discussion 1: Observations from the Perspective of External Actors**
Chair: Prof. Riccardo Bocco, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Mr Ross Mountain, Former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRC
Mr Antonio Donini, Feinstein International Centre, former Director of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (1999-2002)
Mr Fabrizio Carboni, Deputy Head of operations for South Asia, International Committee of the Red Cross, former Deputy Head of ICRC Delegation in Sudan
- 10h30 *General Discussion*
- 11h15 Coffee break
- 11h45 **Panel Discussion 2: Three perspectives from the field**
Chair: Ms Susanna Campbell, Research Fellow, Centre on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Mr Pascal Nyabenda, Gouverneur de Bubanza, Burundi, membre du mécanisme de suivi du projet cadre de dialogue, Burundi
Mr Ali Hassan, Civil Affairs Team Leader, UNAMID/DPKO, South Darfur, Sudan
Mr Steve Matenga, Radio Okapi, Fondation Hirondelle, Kinshasa, RDC
- 12h15 *General Discussion*
- 13h00 Lunch
- 14h00 **Advancing the Debate: Ideas and Options**
Chair: Mr Tom Delrue, Programme Officer, Humanitarian Action - Early Recovery, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, United Nations Environment Programme
Mr Charles Vincent, Director, World Food Programme, Geneva
Dr Timothy Sisk, Associate Fellow, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Professor of International and Comparative Politics & Director, Center for Sustainable Development and International Peace, The Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver
Mr Howard Mollett, Conflict Policy Advisor, Care International UK
- 14h45 *General Discussion*
- 15h30 **Wrap up: Dr Randolph Kent**
Final comments from Ms Judy Cheng-Hopkins
- 16h00 **Closing remarks, Amb. Fred Tanner**, Director, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Member of the GPP Steering Committee