

**Thursday 22 September, 8:00-9:30AM (Quaker House, 247 E 48 Street)**

**Informal Discussion Among Peacebuilding Organizations And Friends From Near And Far**

**Overview:**

Informal discussion among peacebuilding organizations and friends from near and far, (including those with an interest in the peaceful, just and inclusive societies mandate within the 2030 Agenda), to share insights and ideas on messaging and points of entry as we interact over the coming days with delegates, officials and colleagues during ministerial week.

**Summary:**

Andrew introduced the main themes which formed a framework for the discussion:

1. Peaceful and just societies
2. SDG Goal 16
3. Gaps – what do we as a community need to be doing?

This note summarizes the discussion and is broken down along the themes listed below, a list of participants who attended appears at the end of this note.

- a) Funding for peace
- b) Lack of case studies
- c) Focus on "justice"
- d) Inclusivity/Participation
- e) SDG Goal 16
- f) Countering violent extremism
- g) Displacement and humanitarian response

**a) Funding for peace: going down | need to think about long-term solutions**

Our colleague, Marina, noted that all countries spend on military rather than creating a political economy of peace. Only 10% countries have a budget for peace whereas all countries have a military budget. Andrew Tomlinson of QUNO noted gladly that the topic of funding had been introduced to the discussion. He observed that funding levels for peace were dropping because of the focus on refugees and migrants. Funding is going down for most of the activities around the world that contribute to prevention of the issues which cause such migrant flows in the first place. He made the point that if a quarter of all the money flowing to the refugee crisis would go toward longer term solutions, that would be transformative in so many of the actions in this context.

Barbara Adams of the Global Policy Forum (GPF), Social Watch made two helpful points in respect of funding. First, she said that we should follow the money and pay attention to what is happening to UN financing. Unless there is an increase resources, there will be increasing competition between development / humanitarian budgets. Second, she asked, where is the money coming from? UNDP's core budget is down to 14% of its budget. Money comes from philanthropy mainly the Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation. This takes the UN further away. She drew the meeting's attention to the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation's report on [Financing the United Nations Development System: Current Trends and New Directions](#) and the report's [executive summary](#). Ryan Smith of the Presbyterian Church of the USA, noted that civil society organizations (CSOs) is losing space to the global business community. CSOs have ceded some ownership on funding to private business. Linked to this point, the GPF produced a report in 2015 on [Private funding and corporate influence in the United Nations](#).

**b) Lack of case studies:** need to learn from people on the ground

Melanie Greenberg of the [Alliance for Peacebuilding](#) powerfully pointed out that there has been a failure in carrying out the peaceful, just, inclusive society agenda in highlighting stories around the world. She asked how can we work together to carry those voices into the discussion to highlight local perspectives.

Minna Hojland of [GPPAC](#) noted that her organization was trying to communicate what has been done and show how govt speaks about same issues. Local CSOs can use such language as an advocacy tool.

**c) Focus on "justice"**

Ryan Smith noted that there was a tendency to ignore the justice piece to get a peace declaration and asked if there was a place for us to focus on the 'just' part, in order to have lasting peace justice is an important component. An important element of just societies is inclusivity, which is the next theme this note will consider.

**d) Inclusivity/Participation:** what does inclusivity entail?

Regarding inclusivity or the idea of leaving no one behind, SDG 10 is very important in this and talks about political, social and economic exclusion. As mentioned above, Ryan Smith, noted that CSOs are losing space to the global business community and expressed concern at how we define 'inclusivity'.

Gizem Sucuoglu of the [Center on International Cooperation](#) said that two important shifts needed to happen, first, greater inclusion and participation to meet needs and demands. And second, the role of women and youth tend to be highlighted but more issues including more stakeholders and ensuring that peace agreements trickle down from elite sphere should be highlighted.

**e) SGD Goal 16:** lack of attention | should not be overemphasized

Federicka Scala, the [International Development Law Organization's](#) legal officer, noted that we need to keep advocating for implementation of SDG 16. There is something of a gap of understanding of the 2030 agenda between New York and capital. Many countries do not know where to start and so to assuage their fear we need to highlight that there are organizations already doing SDG 16 work before it had that name. She also noted that we need to work with experts at local level and tailor how to approach the agenda depending on the audience.

We need to be careful of separating SDG 16 into the remit of conflict countries only. We need to think more of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. [David Steven](#) for the [Center on International Cooperation](#) prepared a very helpful [presentation](#) on targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Jordan Street of the [World Federation of United Nations Associations](#) observed a disconnect within countries' approaches inside and outside of capital. He gave the example of Timor-Leste which made a good expression of political will and commitment to SDG 16 in a speech at NYU but there was no mention of SDG 16 in the country's recent development plan.

#### **f) CVE:**

Christina Nemr of the [Global Center on Cooperative Security](#) noted that the focus on violent extremism has been a big failure, we are so focused on CVE that we are failing to recognize the drivers behind it, namely, instability and conflict.

#### **g) Displacement and humanitarian response:**

Andrew note that the only discussion regarding refugees and migrants so far in UNGA has been related to economics and there was little on peacebuilding or prevention. Mike Jobbins of [Search for Common Ground](#) said that it was shameful that there was no discussion around the cause of the refugee crisis and will be pushing to make the link between conflict and displacement. Marina noted that we need to think about how a policy will affect all people and think in a less linear manner, she gave an example of how a woman speaker went beyond talking about the impact of the refugee crisis on women and noted the impact that it was having on Syrian children's access to education in Lebanon.

#### **List of attendees**

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Organization</b>                   | <b>Name</b>       | <b>Organization</b> |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Christina Nemr    | Global Center on Cooperative Security | Jordan Street     | WFUNA               |
| Melanie Greenberg | Alliance for Peacebuilding            | Marina Kumskova   | Peace Women         |
| Gizem Sucuoglu    | CIC                                   | Hafsa Maalin      | QUNO                |
| Peter van Sluijs  | Cordaid                               | Federicka Scala   | IDLO                |
| Barbara Adams     | Global Policy Forum                   | John Romano       |                     |
| Minna Hojland     | GPPAC                                 | Eveline Rooijmans | TAP Network         |
| Erin McCandless   | New School                            | Henk-Jan Brinkman | Oxfam               |
| Antti Pentikäinen | Peacemakers Network                   | Rachel Madenyika  | PBSO                |
| Ryan Smith        | Presbyterians                         | Andrew Tomlinson  | QUNO                |
| Mike Jobbins      | Search for Common Ground              | Anna Mijnlief     | QUNO                |