



Peacebuilding and the Security-Development Nexus

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Concept note

The establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (UNPBC) represents a visible commitment by the international community to bridge humanitarian action and development. It builds on the long-standing expertise and experience of the UN, particularly the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The post-crisis period is an opportunity to address fragility and it ought to provide the conditions for the establishment of a basis for sustainable socioeconomic development. However, violence is likely to relapse unless institution building and reconstruction policies promote social cohesion and reconciliation. After repeated requests by civil society organisations, the 'security-development nexus' has finally been incorporated into the international agenda.

The challenge of global governance now is to develop institutions and procedures that will facilitate effective decisions for sustainable peace and development that can be adopted and implemented and at the same time respect the priorities of the country concerned.

The international community should draw from successful experiences - particularly those of local civil society - and work towards the formulation of more effective models for post-conflict stabilisation and transition. Such models need to emphasise non-discriminatory policies - including positive discrimination against fragile communities and compensation for past abuses - in all areas of public action, from access to education to a fairly monitored system of exploiting and trading natural resources. Security institutions and development agencies must thus work together in order to provide coordinated and comprehensive responses to common challenges.

Some of the questions that will be addressed during the Seminar include:

- How can global governance actors effectively contribute to conflict prevention through peacebuilding and development policies?
- How can inter-institutional and intra-institutional cooperation in this realm be enhanced, avoiding fragmented approaches?
- Is it possible to build on relevant cases and situations so that concepts can translate into models and tools?
- How can civil society contribute both to forging and implementing an ambitious yet precise agenda along these lines?