
Conference on
“Post-conflict peace building: How to gain sustainable peace?”
Lessons learnt and future challenges

Geneva, 11-14 October 2004

Venue: Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI) Geneva/Villa Barton
(Auditorium Jacques Freymond), 132 Rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva

Introduction

Post-conflict peace building is one of the principle concerns of the international community after the end of the Cold War. This conference aims at evaluating the post-conflict peace building efforts of the international community, and delineates future challenges for policy. Experts from international organisations, non-governmental organisations, governments, business and academia will be invited to write concise background papers focusing on conflict-relevant subjects on issues of security, economy, politics and society, and will be asked to present them in a series of round tables. The challenges of post-conflict peace building in these areas will then be exemplified with case studies on the Central Asian region (with focus on Afghanistan), South-Eastern Europe (the Balkans), and the Manu River region on the African continent (Liberia, Sierra Leone).

The conference is scheduled to take place 11-14 October 2004, and a conference report will come out in early 2005. The event is jointly organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, for which post-conflict peace building has always played a role in its worldwide activities, and the Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies (PSIS), an independent think-tank of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. The two institutions have agreed on a multi-disciplinary approach to achieve the objectives of the conference.

Context and objectives

Contrary to widespread expectations, the end of the Cold War has not led to a more peaceful world with greater stability and prosperity for everyone. On the contrary: since the end of superpower competition the world has seen a revival of nationalism, a renaissance of old forms of violent interaction (such as ethno-territorial conflicts), an intensification of existing conflicts and a gradual shift from interstate to more internal conflicts. Moreover, the negative sides of the globalization process – including the growing gap between rich and poor countries, the marginalisation and social exclusion of an increasing number of people, growing poverty, the dissolution of traditional social and economic structures and the fear of losing one’s cultural identity – all fuel the outbreak and favour the perpetuation of violence.

These developments have forced governments and international organisations into greater engagement in multilateral conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction. Moreover, the attacks in New York and Washington on 11 September, 2001, have placed renewed emphasis on post-conflict peace building, albeit under the banner of the international fight against terrorism. It is nonetheless evident from the growing number of United Nations peacekeeping operations, the new focus of various specialised agencies on conflict prevention and post-conflict peace building, as well as from numerous civil society initiatives from international non-governmental organisations, that the international community is facing up the challenge. But still, post-conflict management seems to produce more negative headlines than give ground for optimism: recent setbacks in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo highlight the need for continued analysis and critical examination of post-conflict peace building initiatives, as well as their underlying strategies and policies.

The overall aim of this conference is thus to evaluate the scope and effectiveness of policies and initiatives of post-conflict peace building at the dawn of the 21st century. More specifically, the conference aims at the following:

- to promote the dialogue between academic scholars, policy makers and practitioners,
- to create a common understanding as to what post-conflict peace building means by examining the factors and processes affecting post-conflict areas;
- to analyse the implications of post-conflict peace building for security, economy, politics and society in post-conflict areas in view of identifying the challenges for human security;
- to assess current policies of post-conflict peace building with regard to lessons learnt, applicability and best practices in Central Asia, Africa and South-Eastern Europe;
- to develop policy recommendations for state and non-state actors in view of improving their policies for post-conflict peace building and the promotion of human security.

Conference structure

Rapporteur of the Conference: Rolf Schwarz, PhD Candidate HEI

Monday, 11 October

18.30-21.00

Welcoming remarks of the conference organizers

- *Erfried Adam, Director, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Geneva Office*
- *Keith Krause, Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI); Director, Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies (PSIS), and Director, Small Arms Survey*

Opening Address

H. E. Michael Steiner, German Ambassador Geneva, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Kosovo and Head of UNMIK

Keynote Speech

The dynamics, dilemmas and lessons from post-conflict peace building

Jacques Paul Klein, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Liberia and Head of UNMIL

Reception

Tuesday, 12 October

MODULE 1: NO PEACE WITHOUT SECURITY, NO SECURITY WITHOUT PEACE

Chair: Hugo Slim, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

09.00-10.30 Presentation of Papers and Case Studies

I. Background papers

The implications of post-conflict peace building and the challenges for human security

Keith Krause, Professor Graduate Institute and Director of PSIS

Security first: The meaning and implications of stability and security for post conflict peace building in Africa

Festus B. Aboagye, Colonel (ret.) Ghanaian Army, Head Peace Missions Programme, Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria/South Africa

II. Case studies

Security sector reform and peacebuilding: Matters arising in the case of Liberia

Adedeji Ebo, Coordinator Africa Working Group, Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, Geneva

The trouble with burden-sharing and Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, with special emphasis on small arms issues

Eric Berman, Managing Director Small Arms Survey, Geneva

Security and Development: The new “twin brothers” in post-conflict peace building? How can civil military cooperation contribute to peace building? Experiences from the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) in Afghanistan

Herbert Sahlmann, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), formerly BMZ-representative in the German PRT Kunduz

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 General Discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch

MODULE 2: ECONOMY: FROM CONFLICT TO RECONSTRUCTION

Chair: Kathryn Jones, UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations New York, Africa Division

14.00-15.45 Presentation of Papers and Case Studies

I. Background papers

Framing Warlords and Blaming Victims: Representations of Conflict Economies and the Implications for Policy

Neil Cooper, Head of Politics and International Relations, University of Plymouth

Corporate social responsibility as a contribution of Transnational Corporations to post-conflict peace building: e.g. The Human Rights Component

Klaus Leisinger, Professor, President and Executive Director, Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development Basle

II. Case studies:

Resourcing the Recurrence of Intra-State Conflict: Parallel Economies and Their Implications for Peace Building

Achim Wennmann, Doctoral Candidate, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva

Addressing the key elements of violent interaction: conflict-aggravating and –prolonging factors in the Mano River region and ways to deal with them

Stefan Mair, Deputy Director German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), Berlin

“Peace without jobs?” - The importance of decent and productive employment for peace building, socio-economic reintegration of former combatants and other conflict-affected groups and for reconstruction

Eugenia Date-Bah, Director InFocus Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction, International Labour Organisation Geneva

Turning soldiers into workforce: Demobilisation and social reintegration programmes in the Balkans

Federico Soda, International Organisation for Migration, Sarajevo Office

15.45 – 16.15 Coffee Break

16.15 – 18.00 General Discussion

Wednesday, 13 October

MODULE 3: GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY BUILDING

Chair: Anita Bay Bundegaard, Special Advisor to the UNHCR; former Danish Minister for Development Co-Operation

09.00-10.30 Presentation of Papers and Case Studies

I. Background papers

Democracy building: Power sharing as a means of conflict resolution and sustainable peace building? A critical examination of European approaches to state building.

Michael Dauderstädt, Head of the International Policy Analysis Unit, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Bonn

Promoting Governance and Democracy in Post-Conflict Societies: Options and Pitfalls for External Actors

Tobias Debiel, Managing Director, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF, Institut für Entwicklung und Frieden), University of Duisburg-Essen

II. Case studies

Afghanistan: Post-conflict reconstruction in failed states: Ways of engagement for international organizations.

Adam Pain, Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, Norwich/UK

United Nations assistance programmes in promoting governance, democracy and regional institution building in the Mano River Region – a subregional approach

Kathryn Jones, UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations New York, Africa Division, Team Leader Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire

Foreign assistance in democracy promotion and institution building in the Balkans

Johan te Velde, Director for Democratization, OSCE Mission in Kosovo

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 General Discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch

MODULE 4: BUILDING A “NEW” SOCIETY

Chair: Matthias Stiefel, Executive Director WSP International, Geneva

14.00-15.30 Presentation of Papers and Case Studies

I. Background papers

Civil society and post-conflict peace building: What is the role and contribution of NGOs?

Béatrice Pouligny, Senior Research Fellow, Center for International Studies and Research (CERI), Sciences-Po. Paris

Rebuilding an inclusive political community after war – reparative justice and reconciliation

Rama Mani, Director, New Issues in Security Course, Faculty Member, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

II. Case studies

How to mobilize civil society for peace building in Afghanistan: The role of the media, local and international NGOs

Almut Wieland-Karimi, Resident Representative of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Afghanistan

Experience from the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia Herzegovina. How to build confidence in the rule of law?

Jakob Möller, Judge of the Chamber, Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia Herzegovina Sarajevo

Reintegrating society: Covering up or laying the ghosts of the past? Lessons from DDRR-programmes and reconciliation processes in West Africa to build stable post-conflict societies

Yasmin Louise Sooka, former Member of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission Sierra Leone and South Africa, Director of the Foundation for Human Rights (South Africa)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 18.00 General and Closing Discussion

19.30 Joint Dinner (Restaurant Hotel Epsom Manotel, Rue Richmond 18)

Welcoming Remarks

Prof. Philippe Burrin, Director Graduate Institute of International Studies Geneva (HEI)

Dinner Speech

Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the Council of Foundation, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Former President, International Committee of the Red Cross

Thursday, 14 October

09.00 - 12.00

Synopsis of the main results of the presentations and discussions: Conclusions and Policy
Recommendations for state and non-state actors

Co-Moderators: Prof. Keith Krause / Erfried Adam

12.00 Lunch (Optional)