

**GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP  
FOR THE  
PREVENTION  
OF ARMED  
CONFLICT**



**FROM REACTION TO  
PREVENTION:  
CIVIL SOCIETY FORGING  
PARTNERSHIPS TO  
PREVENT VIOLENT CONFLICT  
AND BUILD PEACE**

**A GLOBAL CONFERENCE AT THE  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
IN NEW YORK IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH THE UNITED NATIONS,  
19-21 JULY 2005**



**THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PREVENTION OF  
ARMED CONFLICT: AN INTEGRATED PROGRAMME  
OF RESEARCH, DISCUSSION AND NETWORK BUILDING**

**TOWARDS A GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY  
IN THE PREVENTION OF ARMED CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING**

# WHO ARE WE?

## CONTEXT: DEFINITIONS

### What is conflict?

“Conflict occurs when two or more ‘parties’ (individuals or groups) have – or believe they have – incompatible goals and this perception of incompatibility shapes their attitudes and behaviours toward each other.”

### What is conflict prevention?

“Conflict prevention aims both to prevent or impede violence and destructive conflict *and* to build a just and sustainable peace by transforming underlying ‘latent’ causes of conflict.”

### What is civil society?

“Civil society is essentially the *political* side of society, creating the social organisation to engage citizens with public life that is necessary for democracy.

... [This idea refers] to non-state and non-profit making sections of society, which includes, but is not limited to, those groups explicitly concerned about public matters.”

*The terms defined here are only a few of the many definitions of these subjects, and have been presented in the “Living Document” on Civil Society & Conflict Prevention” by Dr. Catherine Barnes (September 2003). The Global Partnership does not support one particular set of definitions.*

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is an international network of organisations working in conflict prevention and peacebuilding worldwide.

The Global Partnership has developed a programme, entitled ‘The Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict’, which is exploring the role of and strengthening networks of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the prevention of armed conflict. The programme aims to identify and implement mechanisms for interaction between the United Nations, governments and civil society in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

### Aims of the Global Partnership

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict was formed to build a new international consensus on the prevention of violent conflict and peacebuilding. It aims to support a shift from reaction to prevention through the following goals:

1. To create a sustainable network of individuals and groups committed to prevention and peacebuilding at global, regional, and national levels. This network will include multi-stakeholder partnerships involving governments, regional organisations and the United Nations in this partnership to create or improve mechanisms for interaction between these actors and civil society.
2. To articulate and work towards the implementation of a policy change agenda, as articulated in the series of Regional Action Agendas and in the Global Action Agenda, that will strengthen the effectiveness of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
3. To generate and mobilise diverse public constituencies around the world who are informed about the need for prevention and peacebuilding and the important role of civil society in achieving it and who actively support human security as an alternative to militarism.



# THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP'S TIMELY RESPONSE

In Recommendation 27 of his Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict (2001), UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan “urge[s] NGOs with an interest in conflict prevention to organise an international conference of local, national and international NGOs on their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with the United Nations in this field.”

In response to this, the worldwide conflict prevention community joined together to form the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, and to hold a ‘Global Conference on the Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict and Peacebuilding’ at UN Headquarters in New York, 19-21 July 2005. Actors from a variety of sectors and disciplines within the field of conflict prevention are involved, from the community to the international level.

There is no better time to build a multi-stakeholder network and create the desperately needed ‘Shift to Prevention’ promoted by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The Global Partnership’s emphasis is on liaising with like-minded governments, regional organisations and UN agencies at the national, regional and global level to make conflict prevention and peacebuilding a sustainable and achievable objective.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

19 October 2004

Dear Mr. van Tongeren,

Thank you for your letter of 30 September informing me about the ongoing activities leading to the Global Conference on the role of the Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict and Peace Building.

I am heartened to see that the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), together with a wide international network of NGOs, has already made good progress in the preparation of the integrated global programme of consultation and discussions that will culminate in the conference to be held in New York in 2005.

The United Nations system supports the objective of the conference to establish a global partnership so as to prevent armed conflict by engaging civil society, from the grassroots all the way to the global level. My report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict (A/55/985-S/2001/574) recognized the increasingly important role played by civil society organizations in the prevention of armed conflict and urged Non-Governmental Organizations with an interest in conflict prevention to organize an international conference of local, national and international NGOs on their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with the United Nations in this field. Member States followed by adopting General Assembly resolution 57/337, which invites civil society to continue to support efforts for the prevention of armed conflict.

For prevention strategies to become more effective, all actors - civil society, governments and UN agencies- have to work together. The 2005 Global Conference will present an opportunity to bring together these different actors in an innovative framework and will contribute to maintaining conflict prevention and peace-building at the top of the international political agenda.

I have asked Mr. Danilo Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to continue working with you in the months leading to the Conference and to discuss further UN support to the process, as well as to the publication “People Building Peace II”.

Yours sincerely,

Kofi A. Annan

Mr. Paul van Tongeren, Executive Director  
European Centre for Conflict Prevention  
The International Secretariat for the Global Partnership  
Utrecht

## CONTEXT: THE CHANGING NATURE OF CONFLICTS

Every day, the media broadcasts vivid images of violence from the ‘war on terrorism’, while at the same time, away from the cameras, thousands are being killed, displaced and traumatised by intractable conflicts lasting years and even decades. Responses to these conflicts are usually too little and too late, and the scars will take generations to heal.

Also under the radar of the mainstream media are millions of people worldwide who are quietly working for peace. These people are achieving results that give hope, and are helping to ensure a more peaceful future for us all.

As the nature of conflict has changed, in a shift from conflicts *between* states to conflicts *within* states, the governmental and civilian interest in civilian conflict prevention and peacebuilding should be, and is, growing enormously. The importance of civil society organisations in preventing conflicts before they start and transforming underlying causes of conflict is beginning to be recognised.

# THE NEED FOR THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

## CONTEXT: THE GROWTH OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The past decade has seen a huge proliferation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and an increase in their involvement and influence in major international conferences on global themes. The development of cautious relationships between NGOs and international governmental organisations, governments and businesses has contributed to this phenomenon.

The establishment of the UN-NGO Working Group of the UN Security Council in 1995 and the development of the Arria Formula in 1993, whereby informal consultations are used to break down barriers between governments and NGOs, are solid examples of how these relationships have developed.

“NGOs can contribute to the maintenance of peace and security by offering non-violent avenues for addressing the root causes of conflict at an early stage,” asserted Kofi Annan in his Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict (2001). However, the UN Secretary-General acknowledges that the role that civil society can play in the prevention of conflict is an issue that needs to be further explored.

The release of the Secretary-General’s Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict in 2001 fuelled momentum for investigating the roles that civil society plays in preventing armed conflicts and, especially, how it can cooperate more closely with governments and the UN in achieving conflict prevention and peacebuilding goals.

In 2003, the UN Secretary-General appointed the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations (chaired by former Brazilian President Cardoso) to formulate recommendations for enhancing relationships between the UN and civil society. On 7 June 2004, the Panel released a report entitled “We the Peoples: civil society, the United Nations and global governance,” whose key message was the fostering of multi-stakeholder relationships to create ‘global policy networks.’

Additionally, on 2 December 2004, the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change submitted its report to the UN Secretary General. It had a number of recommendations relevant to the field of conflict prevention, in particular the proposal for the creation of a position of Deputy Secretary General for Peace and Security and the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission. Furthermore, the Panel supports better mechanisms to enable systemic engagement between civil society and the General Assembly, greater civil society engagement in the work of the Security Council, and greater consultation with and involvement in peace processes of important voices from civil society in general. The Global Partnership is an ideal partner for the UN in all of these initiatives, as a functional network of civil society organisations around the world already working to enhance conflict prevention practices, and open to collaboration with like-minded organisations and individuals.

The Panel’s recommendations are a clear statement of the need for greater cooperation between the UN and civil society. As the UN Secretary-General stated in an address to the Security Council at the Open Debate of 22 June 2004, “[T]he partnership between the United Nations and civil society is ... not an option; it is a necessity.”

Ms. Brigitta Dahl,  
member of Panel of Eminent Persons,  
at the Dublin Conference



# THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP'S PROGRAMME

The Global Partnership aims to explore the role of civil society in the prevention of armed conflict throughout the world. Consequently, its civil society programme is characterised by a series of fifteen parallel regional processes worldwide, which are flexible enough to encompass regional differences, but sufficiently aligned to give coherence to the whole.

Each region has established, or is in the process of establishing, a Regional Steering Group, consisting of local and regional civil society organisations (CSOs), practitioners, and NGOs, with one organisation as the Regional Initiator, who ensures broad participation and leads the regional process.

These regional processes lead up to regional conferences and give each region the opportunity to enhance their capacity by sharing knowledge, and to consolidate their networks by establishing partnerships.

Each region will collect lessons learned and best practices that, combined with results of their regional conferences, will provide input for a Regional Action Agenda. Elements from the Regional Action Agendas will contribute to a Global Action Agenda that will be presented and discussed at the Global Conference in 2005.

## CONTEXT: THE INFLUENCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

In recent years, civil society actors such as women's groups, religious groups and youth have demonstrated that their influence can have valuable applications beyond where the influence of soldiers and diplomats ends.

Perhaps more importantly, political leaders around the world are increasingly aware of civil society's potential to anticipate and resolve its own tensions.

At the same time, this potential of civil society remains abstract in some areas, and outstanding questions about the accountability, legitimacy and transparency of CSOs are still being researched.



# TOWARDS A GLOBAL ACTION AGENDA



Dublin conference



Northeast Asia meeting



The International Steering Group at their meeting in New York, October 2004

The Global Partnership has been working towards a Global Action Agenda on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, which will be presented at the Global Conference on 19 – 21 July 2005. To be truly 'global,' the Agenda will have input from a great number of sources.

The Global Partnership's greatest resources and unique advantages lie in the capacity and knowledge of partner CSOs in every region of the world. Their first-hand experience in conflict prevention and their interaction with the UN, regional organisations and governments give them a wealth of knowledge and experience that drives the Global Partnership. Since 2002, lead organisations in each of the Partnership's 15 regions have coordinated regional processes to engage and consult regional CSOs on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. These processes will lead to the formulation of Regional Action Agendas (pages 5 and 8 have more information on this process).

The Global Partnership also aims to identify options for reform and to promote more effective cooperation between CSOs and the UN in conflict prevention, both in the field and at UN Headquarters. In this framework, a paper entitled *The United Nations, Civil Society and Preventing Armed Conflict* is being produced, which will contribute to the effectiveness of sustainable, multi-stakeholder relations between the UN and CSOs.

The Global Action Agenda will incorporate elements from the Global Partnership's papers, the report of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, international meetings and research, case studies and working papers, and above all, input from the Regional Action Agendas. The Global Action Agenda will be drafted by an International Steering Group Task Force, and go through several rounds of negotiations, discussions and adjustments as all partners and contacts in the process give their comments, and, hopefully, their endorsements prior to the Global Conference. This will enable the Conference to focus on the implementation of the Global Action Agenda.

## GROUP OF FRIENDS

From the beginning, the Global Partnership has believed in the necessity of taking a multi-stakeholder approach to achieving a paradigm shift from reaction to prevention in the way violent conflict is addressed, involving governments, the UN and CSOs. After visiting a large number of Permanent Missions to the UN, the Global Partnership has identified a strong government interest in working towards a shift to prevention. In December, the German and Swiss Permanent Missions invited around 30 other missions to meet to discuss possible cooperation in this field and the possibility of establishing a Group of Friends for the Prevention of Armed Conflict. In the coming period, more consultations with missions and UN representatives are planned to discuss the Global Action Agenda and recommendations for enhancing the UN's capacity in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

# THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE

## FROM REACTION TO PREVENTION: CIVIL SOCIETY FORGING PARTNERSHIPS TO PREVENT CONFLICT AND BUILD PEACE

UN General Assembly open session on the role of  
Civil Society in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding



The Global Conference on Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict and Peacebuilding, called 'From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Conflict and Build Peace' is to be held in New York at UN Headquarters on 19-21 July 2005. The aims of the Conference are to adopt a global policy change agenda to achieve a shift from reaction to prevention of violent conflict. It also aims to develop an implementation plan for the Global Action Agenda, with the commitment of civil society organisations, the United Nations, regional bodies and governments. In order to promote improved interaction between civil society and the UN, the conference will provide an exchange and networking opportunity between CSOs, the UN and governments.

There will be a number of plenary sessions with a variety of speakers, among them Nobel Peace Laureates, government representatives and former heads of state. During the opening session, the Global Action Agenda will be presented to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, along with a Directory of NGOs working for conflict prevention and peacebuilding worldwide.

Due to the large number of participants, estimated to be around 1000 by invitation only, much of the conference will be spent in parallel working groups with 20 to 25 participants, on such varied topics as women and peacebuilding, youth and peacebuilding, human security, the effect of the "war on terrorism" on the area of conflict prevention, early warning and early response, and a code of conduct for the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. There will also be a set of larger panel debates, with panel members ranging from UN officials to grass-roots peacebuilders.

## BEYOND THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN 2005

For three years, the Global Partnership has been working towards the Global Conference. However, the Partnership and its work do not end with the Conference. Key goals afterwards will be monitoring the implementation of the Global Action Agenda, and using the network to more effectively translate early warning into early action to prevent violence. The Partnership does not replace existing local or regional networks, but its global reach uniquely positions it to improve coordination and cooperation on prevention.

Core tasks for the Global Partnership will include realising a policy shift from reaction to prevention; strengthening the capacity of civil society; strengthening the regional and international network; promoting improved interaction with governments, regional organisations, UN and other sectors and networks; providing support; and enabling the exchange of information, analysis, lessons learned, best practices and evaluation.

Building capacity for peace is not done at a single conference, however important and beneficial it may be; it is done by rooting conflict prevention activities at the very core of policy-making tasks on a global level and between individuals on a personal level. The Global Partnership is the first of many essential steps on a long road to peace.

# THE REGIONAL PROCESS

The regional processes are the crucial element in the success of the Global Partnership's programme. At this time, seven Regional Conferences have taken place. More will follow, and information about them will be available on the Global Partnership's website ([www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net)).

## THE BALKANS

The Balkan Regional Conference, which was held on 4-6 November 2004 in Igalo, Montenegro, was the crowning event of a year-long process bringing together around 140 eminent civil society members from former Yugoslav republics, Albania, and Bulgaria, as well as representatives from the UN. It was organised by the Regional Initiator, the Nansen Dialogue Network in the Balkans, in cooperation with the Bulgarian School of Politics and the Albanian Peace and Disarmament Project.

United around the shared goal of sustainable peace in the Balkans, this array of non-

governmental and governmental representatives formulated the Balkan Regional Action Agenda, a joint platform on conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Balkans. It consists of recommendations and conclusions on various topics, including peace education, transitional processes and EU integration, dealing with the past, inter-ethnic dialogue and human rights. The Action Agenda will be distributed among governmental representatives, international organisations, donors and media. The recommendations, as a part of Regional Action Plan, will be sent to the Global Conference at UN Headquarters in New York.



The Balkans conference

## CENTRAL AND EASTERN AFRICA



The Nairobi conference

The Central and Eastern African Regional Conference brought together seventy-eight civil

society actors and academics, as well as UN and government representatives, in Nairobi, Kenya from 26-29 October 2004.

Conference participants concluded that civil society has a strong role to play in conflict prevention in the Great Lakes Region, as the complexity, scale and diversity of conflict are too great for any single entity to adequately deal with. Due to their proximity to the communities involved in and hit by conflict, civil society actors may have insights, or the trust of warring parties, that governments do not. Stronger ties and closer cooperation between governments and CSOs are therefore vital in the prevention of armed conflict in the region.

The Central and Eastern African Action Agenda is still in the process of being finalised and adopted, but with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region held just three weeks later, ten recommendations were addressed specifically to the participating governments of the Great Lakes Conference. Recommendations ranged from the creation of a specialised regional intergovernmental conflict prevention and peacebuilding agency to the establishment of a regional Peace Prize to raise the profile of and recognise people working for peace and their heroism. The Dar es Salaam Declaration, aimed at bringing about peace and security, democracy, good governance and development in the region, was signed at the conference.

## WEST AFRICA

The Regional Conference for Conflict Prevention and Good Governance Organisations and Practitioners in West Africa took place on 30 August – 2 September 2004 in Accra, Ghana. Around sixty participants from across West Africa presented and discussed issues, challenges and opportunities in conflict prevention in West Africa and the role of CSOs in ensuring individual and collective security in the region.

Participants of the conference gave their input in workshops that focused on the identification and review of existing collaborative initiatives amongst CSOs, between CSOs and governments,

and CSOs and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Participants also discussed strategies that can be used in an integrated civil society approach to conflict prevention. Each workshop was separated into thematic working groups addressing key issues in the region, such as elections, religion, human rights, small arms, gender, conflict prevention, media, youth and chieftaincy. The conference resulted in the Action Agenda for West Africa.

The Action Agenda focused on the role that CSOs can play in different phases of conflict – from the pre-crisis phase to peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. Participants came to the conclusion that CSOs can play

an important role in structural prevention before conflicts start, operational prevention during a conflict and structural prevention in peacebuilding.



Emanuel Bombande (WANEP), Regional Initiator

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Regional conference, Buenos Aires, June 2004

The regional process in Latin America and the Caribbean includes two regional conferences, the first of which took place in June 2004 in Buenos Aires, Argentina and

was declared to be of national interest by the Argentine Senate. Participants included CSO delegates from the four sub-regions, representatives from the North American process (Mexico and Canada), as well as representatives from the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Regional Conference programme included the presentation and discussion of recommendations from preparatory workshops, and a proposal for the electronic mapping of conflicts and peacebuilding in the region. There were also workshop discussions on the draft Regional Action Agenda, which included draft recommendations on the role of civil

society in the prevention of armed conflict. These recommendations were aimed at civil society, governments, the OAS and the UN and focused around networking, alliance-building, capacity-building, early warning and prevention tools and mechanisms, building a culture of peace, communication and awareness-raising, lobby, advocacy, public policy, research, result monitoring and evaluation.

The second Regional Conference to finalise the recommendations from the region for the Global Action Agenda, and to explore follow-up activities for the next two years, will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, on 28 February – 3 March 2005.

## WESTERN EUROPE (enlarged EU, Norway and Switzerland)

The Western European Regional Conference in Dublin in March 2004 was organised by the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, in cooperation with the Irish government, who held the European Union (EU) Presidency at the time. At the conference, the Dublin Action Agenda on the Prevention of Armed Conflict was adopted by the 230 participants of the conference and endorsed by 135 organisations afterwards.

The Dublin Action Agenda starts with ten 'Guiding Principles'. These Guiding Principles advocate, amongst other things, a shift to prevention, the human security paradigm, the responsibility to prevent and protect, and a new partnership between civil society, governments

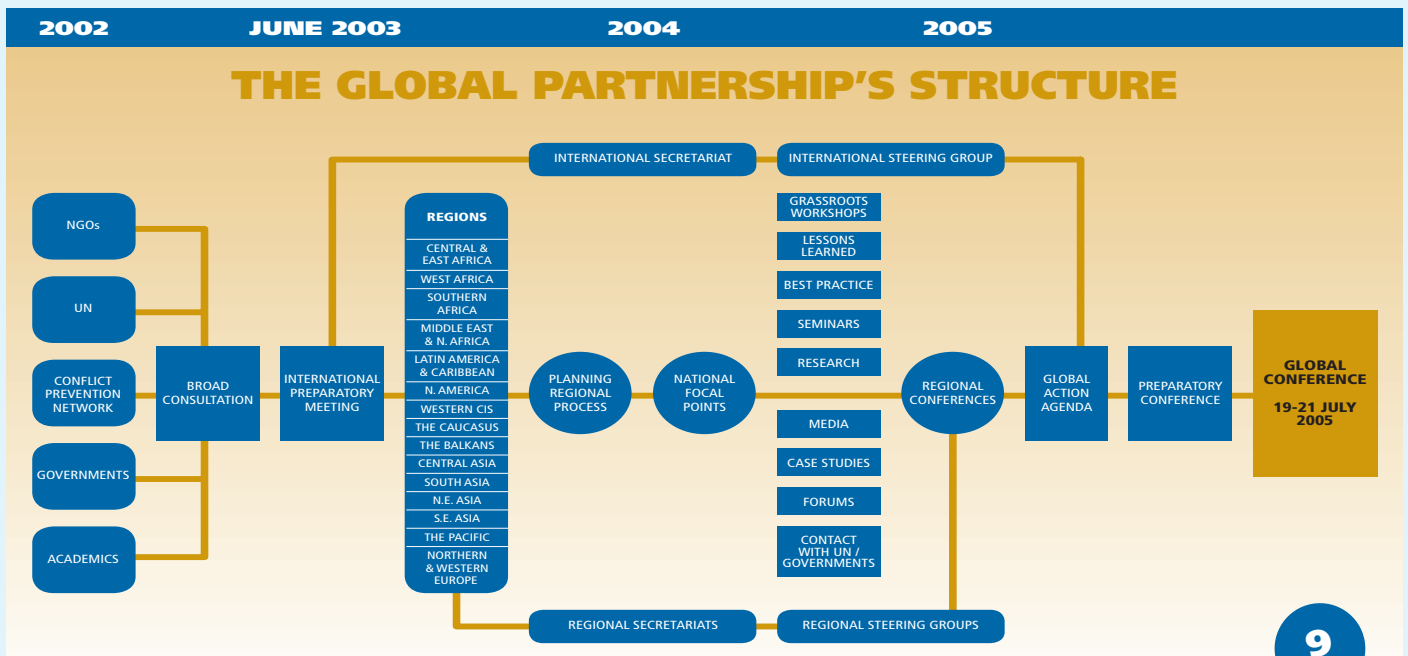
and inter-governmental organisations for effective conflict prevention. These Principles were followed by concrete recommendations on the activities and actions of CSOs, governments, the European Union and the United Nations.

The Irish EU Presidency submitted a review of the Conference, in which they highlight the examination of how the EU and CSOs can cooperate more effectively in preventing conflict. The Dublin Action Agenda was forwarded to eight governments with the request to present the recommendations at the EU Council meeting in June 2004. Following these events, the EU Council endorsed the Irish Presidency's report. Furthermore, the Spanish

delegate to the Security Council, Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo, discussed the Dublin Action Agenda at a Security Council meeting on 'Complex Crisis and UN response' (28 May 2004).



Paul van Tongeren at the Dublin conference, April 2004



# PEOPLE BUILDING PEACE II: SUCCESSFUL STORIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY

## RESEARCH

The Global Partnership is responding thoroughly and systematically to the UN Secretary-General's requests in his Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict where he invites CSOs "to articulate the roles and capacities of CSOs in the prevention of armed conflict – and to propose what they think they could or should become."

A series of issue papers has been written, including an overarching one on the role of Civil Society in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, and more specific ones on topics such as religion and peacebuilding, women in peacebuilding, development, and networking.

## SUPPORT

Twelve governments support the programme thus far: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Spain. A number of NGOs and institutions also support the programme: NCDO, World Vision, Cordaid and Novib/Oxfam the Netherlands, Boll Foundation, IFOR, IDRC and FES. Many other organisations are supporting the regional processes.

The Global Partnership has also received support in the form of letters from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan; EU Commissioner for External Relations, Christopher Patten; Executive Director of UNIFEM, Noeleen Heyzer; Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the U.N., Minister Aldo Mantovani, on behalf of the European Union; and Director of the Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships, Bruce Jenks, and Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Julia V. Taft, on behalf of the UNDP.

*People Building Peace II: Successful Stories of Civil Society*, published by Lynne Rienner Publishers and initiated by the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, is a book that will include sixty-five inspiring stories of civil society actors' successes all around the world. The cases presented reflect the broad variety of activities in conflict prevention and peacebuilding being initiated and sustained by varied groups, such as women, youth and faith-based organisations, in diverse countries, such as Liberia, Macedonia, Argentina, Nigeria, and Cambodia.

The book gives an overview of the current state of affairs, and highlights latest trends and developments in peacebuilding in relation to civil society. Each chapter includes inspiring examples of how people can and are making a difference in this field. The book will be one of the Global Partnership's main products, and will be presented at the Global Conference in July 2005.

### *Hello Peace – Israel*

Having dialled a wrong number, an Israeli woman spoke to a Palestinian man she didn't know for twenty minutes – a conversation that transformed the way they both thought about those on the opposing side of the conflict. It led to the Families Forum "Hello Peace" project, which allows Palestinians and Israelis to phone anonymously and speak to someone on "the other side." Since late 2002, nearly 500,000 conversations have taken place.

Where contacts between ordinary Israelis and Palestinians hardly exist, Hello Peace provides an opportunity for dialogue. The nature of the contact allows both sides to view each other as human beings rather than an impersonal mass, creating a basis of trust between them.

### *Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights – Nagaland, India*

After Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, the Indian government didn't uphold his promise of independence for the Nagas living in the northeast of the country. Around 200,000 have died in the ensuing insurgency, in clashes with both the Indian Army and between different Naga factions.

However, in the 1990s, church leaders became determined to pursue peace. They facilitated dialogue between the various rebel movements and the Indian government, and raised awareness of the plight of the Nagas and human rights abuses in the region. The lessons learned along the way by the churches and the community have given them a solid foundation to make significant contributions to the eventual settlement of the conflict.

## REGIONAL INITIATORS

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### International Steering Group

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## EVENTS

### February

- 1-4 Northeast Asia: Regional Conference in Tokyo, Japan
- 9 -18 Commission on Social Development Conference (Copenhagen +10), New York, USA
- 16-18 Southern Africa: Regional Conference
- 28-3 (March) Latin America and the Caribbean: second Regional Conference in Caracas, Venezuela
- All-Africa meeting: Inter-Regional Consultation, Nairobi, Kenya
- North Caucasus: NGO-conference on the sub-regional action plan
- Caucasus: Regional Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia

### March

- 1-11 Commission on the Status of Women Conference (Beijing +10), New York, USA
- 2 Regional Initiator reflections meeting, Caracas, Venezuela
- 7-11 Southeast Asia: Regional Conference, Manila, Philippines
- 20-22 International Steering Group meeting, Basque Country
- Central Asia: Regional Conference

### April

- 18-22 Pacific: Regional Conference, Fiji
- Pacific: National Consultations in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

### May

- Community of Democracies Ministerial Summit, Santiago, Chile

### June

- IANSA Global Week of Action Against Small Arms

### July

- 12-15 Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms, UN Headquarters, New York, USA
- 19-21 Global Conference, "From Reaction to Prevention" at UN Headquarters, New York, USA

### September

- 14-16 High-level plenary summit on Millennium Development Goals at 60th session of General Assembly, UN Headquarters, New York, USA





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**FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.GPPAC.NET](http://WWW.GPPAC.NET)**

At [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net) you will find all the Regional Action Agendas, research papers, latest calendar of events, contact details and much more.

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