

CORNERSTONE OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: THE REGIONAL PROCESS

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Comparatively speaking, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the lesser prone regions to develop inter-state conflict. However, recent prospective research shows a trend and an eventual increase in the next few years of intra-state and transnational conflicts in the region. The regional process of Latin America and the Caribbean has a general objective: to promote a culture of peace in the region that includes effective strategies of conflict prevention and peacebuilding based on active participation of civil society networks and organisations.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Initiator is CRIES, Regional Co-ordination for Economic and Social Research (www.cries.org), a twenty year-old regional network of Civil Society

Organisations (CSOs) and research centres with a significant record in participatory research on security and civil society issues. In their preparatory process, CRIES convened four sub-regional meetings: Central America (July 2003), Southern Cone (November 2003), Andes Region (December 2003) and the Caribbean (February 2004). An electronic forum held to discuss the background paper and regional project proposal for Phase II supplemented these sub-regional meetings.

During these forums, participants discussed key issues in conflict prevention and peacebuilding for the region, and made comments on the background paper. These have since been incorporated into the paper that includes an introduction to violence, peace and armed conflict in the



Regional conference Buenos Aires

region; cooperative, democratic and human security paradigms; regional and sub regional institutional security frameworks; civil society networks and organisations facing global and hemispheric security and peace issues; a preliminary guide to conflict prevention in the region.

Phase II of the regional process was kicked off with a Regional Steering Group meeting in Venezuela at the end of May. The regional process in Latin America and the Caribbean includes two regional conferences with another round of sub-regional workshops to ensure ownership from the diverse areas included in this large region. ➔

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF UN-CSO RELATIONS

In an open debate in the Security Council on the role of civil society in post-conflict peacebuilding on 22 June 2004, the Secretary-General stated that there should be “a two-way dialogue between the United Nations and civil society – not so that one can direct the other, but to ensure that our efforts complement one another.”

He continued, “... Many civil society organisations ... have shown that they can make a real contribution to the work of the United Nations in peace and security. I therefore have high hopes for the international conference on conflict prevention that civil society groups have decided to hold next year, in response to the recommendation in my 2001 Conflict Prevention Report ... The partnership between the United Nations and civil society is ... not an option; it is a necessity.”

PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS:

UN SHOULD OPEN ITSELF FURTHER TO INVOLVE CIVIL SOCIETY

The key messages of the Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons on Civil Society and UN Relationships (report released on 21 June 2004) focus on the creation of partnerships with civil society in order to reach common goals. Ms. Brigitta Dahl, member of the Panel, presented a summary of the recommendations at the Regional Conference in Dublin on 1 April 2004, immediately following the Panel's meeting in New York the day before.

Both Ms. Dahl's summary and the official report stated that global change on all levels of international relations have prompted the UN to take a step back and look at the reforms it needs to undergo to make its operations successful. Also, the number and influence of civil society on the UN and its work has increased rapidly in the last few decades, and the new UN-civil society relationship needs to be examined closer. To this end, the UN Secretary-General has

highlighted the need for the UN to engage closely with civil society and established the creation of the Panel, chaired by Fernando Cardoso.

The Panel formulated four paradigms on which it has based its proposals, the first of which is that the UN needs to “reinterpret multilateralism to mean multi-constituencies.” The Panel urges the UN to use its authority more strategically to bring all actors together that are necessary for solving critical issues.

These types of ‘global policy networks’ in which effective coalition-building between NGOs and like-minded governments have had good results (on issues such as the ban on landmines or small arms, and the ICC campaign) are “an important mode of multilateralism today,” states John Clark in his report on the Panel's key messages. “Yet the UN is often quite peripheral; it needs to adapt to this way of working.” ➔

➔ continued: *The regional process*

The first of two regional conferences took place on the 28th and 29th of June in Buenos Aires, Argentina and it 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 Organization of American States and UNPD. The Regional Conference programme

included: the presentation and discussion of the reports and recommendations from the preparatory phase sub-regional workshops, background paper and a proposal for electronic mapping of conflicts and peacebuilding in the region. There were also three workshop discussions on the draft Regional Action Agenda, which already “included draft recommendations on ‘The Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict’ with regard to CSOs,” States and Intergovernmental Organisations.

At the end of the meeting, consensus was reached in plenary on the changes and additions to the Regional Action Agenda. There was also a call for a task force to come together to work on Bolivia as an urgent case for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the region.

The second Regional Conference to finalise the recommendations from the region for the Global Action Agenda will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, February 2005.

THE REGIONAL PROCESS

The fundamental components of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict are the regional processes taking place worldwide. One organisation from each region was given the mandate from the region to be a Regional Initiator of the Global Partnership in order to steer the development of the process in that region. The initiating organisations are network organisations active in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding who engage at the local, regional and international levels, and have organisational capacity and experience.

Soon after the International Preparatory Meeting in June of 2003, the ECCP provided seed money to the Regional Initiators for a preparatory process in the regions. During this process, Initiators disseminated information about the Global Partnership throughout their region; sent out an open call to civil society organisation to join the process; formed Regional Steering Groups to have broader representation in steering the process; and, drew up funding proposals for the second phase of the process. Regions are now in Phase II of the regional process in which

each region will steer their own process including, but not limited to, activities such as research, interaction with governments, regional organisations and UN agencies, and Regional Conferences. These processes aim to collect recommendations from the region in the form of a Regional Action Agenda addressing the role of civil society in the prevention of armed conflict. The overarching themes from the Regional Action Agendas will be incorporated into a Global Action Agenda to be presented at the International Conference in New York in July 2005.

➔ continued: *UN should open itself further*



Ms. Dahl at the Dublin Conference

By appreciating the strength of partnerships, the UN can play a crucial role in creating ‘multi-stakeholder partnerships’ more systematically, which means that these partnerships can have a more strategic effect on the overall outcome of any given issue. Based on this second paradigm, the Panel recommends that the UN play a “more strategic convening role to catalyse new partnerships and incubate emerging ones.” In this way, the UN will also be closer to achieving its Millennium Development Goals.

The third paradigm addresses the need for a new set of approaches in UN field offices whereby staffing, skills-mix and information and communication strategies are rethought. The gap between the UN’s two main

occupations – as a forum for governments to establish new global policies, and as a set of operational agencies – is too wide for there to be enough strength through cohesion. Therefore, a two-way connection needs to be developed so that the “country-level operations emphasise the partnerships that are needed to realise globally agreed goals and that the local reality truly informs global policy-making.”

“By engaging civil society in policy and strategy-making at all levels in the UN, not just as partners in implementing programs, the UN could make important contributions to tackling democracy deficits and strengthening global governance.” This fourth paradigm refers to the fact that democracy has taken on a different form in recent times, with individuals being more participatory in issues that they are interested in, some of which are not on a local level: *where* we live is sometimes countered by *what* political issues we are interested in.

The UN has many tasks ahead of it in order to implement the Panel’s proposals. As far as the Global Partnership is concerned, one of the UN’s most important assignments is to appoint an Under Secretary-General to lead a new Office for Constituency Engagement and Partnership. In this way, the UN can actively steer its relations with civil society,

parliamentarians, local authorities, the private sector, and indigenous peoples.

The consequences of these proposals would mean that the UN would become a more “outward looking” organisation, one where the management focuses on global needs and challenges instead of its own resources and work-plans. Also, it would mean that “an overhaul in global governance [will give] a clearer role to civil society” whereby transparency and accountability to citizens (not governments) will be emphasised.

Most importantly, the implications of the Panel’s proposals are aligned with the objectives of the Global Partnership as well. The Global Partnership aims to create a network of conflict prevention actors; the Panel envisages a “deliberate shift in the UN’s institutional culture to become a ‘networking organisation’.” Just as the Global Partnership is focused on improving the interaction between civil society, the UN, regional organisations and governments, the Panel sees the UN laying an emphasis on building partnerships. Above all, the Global Partnership has as its main objective to create a paradigm shift from a ‘Culture of Reaction’ to a ‘Culture of Prevention’, and this stands at the very centre of the effects that the implementation of these proposals by the UN would have.

FUNDING & SUPPORT

Seven governments have thus far decided to support the programme: Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden. A number of NGOs and institutions also support the programme, such as NCDO, World Vision, Cordaid and Novib/Oxfam the Netherlands.

The Global Partnership 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; and Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the U.N., Minister Aldo Mantovani, on behalf of the European Union.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

South Asia: national meeting

Pacific: Fiji national meeting,
Regional Steering Group Meeting

7-8: **Southeast Asia:**

Regional Steering Group Meeting

9: **Balkans:** National conference Serbia

23-26: **Balkans, Caucasus & Western CIS:**
Conference on *Crossborder
Collaboration*

August

Southeast Asia: Regional Steering
Group Meeting

25-27: **West Africa:** Regional Conference,
Accra, Ghana

28-29: **Balkans:** Regional Steering Group
Meeting, Igalo, Montenegro

September

Middle East and North Africa:

1st sub-regional meetings

October

Central/Eastern Africa:

Regional Conference

South Asia: Regional Conference

Pacific: Regional Conference

Southeast Asia: Regional Conference

November

4-6: **Balkans:** Regional Conference,
Igalo, Montenegro

19-20: **Caucasus:** Regional Conference,
Tbilisi, Georgia

July 2005

19-21: **International Conference**
at UN Headquarters, New York,
U.S.A.

UN-CIVIL SOCIETY INTERACTION:

MOVING TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (NEW YORK, 19-21 JULY 2005)

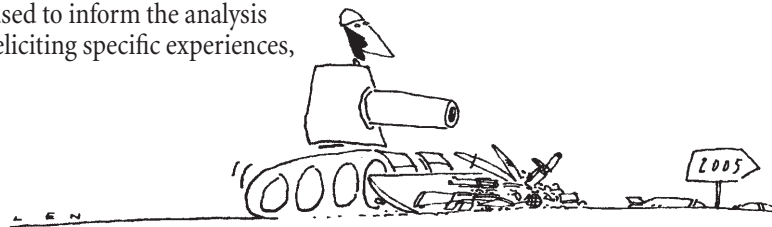
The Global Partnership aims to respond thoroughly and systematically to several recommendations in the Secretary-General's Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict (June 2001), one of which is "to further define and propose modalities for future interaction with the UN." The Western European Regional Process and the Conference in Dublin revealed that several Civil Society Organisations in the Global Partnership have a limited understanding of the UN in the field of Peace and Security. Many partners have had sporadic interaction with the UN's operational agencies in the field. They have not engaged effectively with decision-making processes for shaping mandates and policies 'upstream' at UN Headquarters or even in field operations, nor has the UN benefited fully from their knowledge, insights and capacities.

Therefore, a more systematic approach is needed (based partially on in-depth research) to maximise the opportunity presented by this process in developing more effective partnerships between the UN, CSOs and other actors in the prevention of armed conflict. The Global Partnership's secretariat intends to produce a Discussion Paper on UN, Conflict Prevention and Civil Society, a process that will be guided by Dr. Catherine Barnes, an independent consultant and Associate of Conciliation Resources (London-based NGO). This paper aims to give the members of the Global Partnership an overview of the issues and options the UN is facing and how the organisation can better achieve its objectives. This will be completed by creating a systematic framework of research that will map the role of the UN in peace, security and conflict prevention, and the opportunities for partnership between CSOs and the UN. Furthermore, the paper will show that the insights gained from practical experience in the field are used to inform the analysis and options by eliciting specific experiences,

ideas and recommendations from the Global Partnership on the role of the UN in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in their region. The paper will also document experiences of CSO interactions with the UN on a country or regional level.

A draft of the discussion paper will be used as the basis for discussion at a series of 'expert meetings' in Geneva and New York, and can be used in different regional processes where CSOs are in consultation with UN field operations. Based on the input from these discussions, the paper will be further developed to highlight both points of consensus and points of divergence. The paper serves as input for the Regional Conferences to be held throughout the world this year, and also for the International Conference on the Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict, at the UN in New York next year. The aim is to publish the paper simultaneously with the release of the report of UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Global Security Threats, Challenges and Change.

The International Conference aims to establish a functioning international network of civil society organisations around conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Furthermore, an important objective is to articulate a policy change agenda aimed at achieving a shift to prevention in how governments and the international system view and address conflict. The discussions on the format of the conference are still ongoing but effectively it will be a CSO conference organised in partnership with the UN, and the format is a combination of a working conference with the opportunity for participants to network and also to inspire one another in the work they are doing in conflict prevention.



THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ONLINE

www.conflictprevention-dialogue.org

On 19 July 2004 the website for the Global Partnership and its programme will be launched. The comprehensive website includes new functions, expanded

information and has been redesigned to make information easily accessible for visitors.

REGIONAL INITIATORS

Central and East Africa

Nairobi Peace Initiative-Africa
Ms. Florence Mpaayei
Email: fmpaayei@npi-africa.org

Southern Africa

Southern Africa Conflict Prevention Network
Ms. Yaliwe Clarke Kamuza or Ms. Theresa Chew
Email: sacpn@zamtel.zm

West Africa

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
Mr. Emanuel Bombande or
Ms. Victoria Kumbour
Email: ebombande@wanep.org or
vkumbour@wanep.org

Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Co-ordination for Economic
and Social Research
Mr. Andrés Serbin
Email: sanrafaelsrl@fibertel.com.ar or
info@cries.org

North America

Canadian Peacebuilding Co-ordinating
Committee
Mr. David Lord
Email: cpcc@web.ca

and

Interaction
Mr. Gottlieb Duwan
Email: gduwan@interaction.org

South Asia

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies
Mr. Sridhar Khatri
Email: edcrss@sri.lanka.net or sridhar@rcss.org

The Pacific

Citizen's Constitutional Forum
Ms. Jone Dakuvula
Email: jdakuvula@ccf.org.fj

Southeast Asia

Initiatives for International Dialogue
Mr. Augusto N. Miclat Jr.
Email gus@iidnet.org

Northeast Asia

Peace Boat
Mr. Tatsuya Yoshioka
Email: gppac@peaceboat.gr.jp

Central Asia

Foundation for Tolerance International
Ms. Raya Kadyrova
Email: fti@infotel.kg

Middle East and North Africa

(Coordinator of the Regional Steering Group)
Amman Center for Peace and Development
Mr. Mansour Abu Rashid
Email: apcd@index.com.jo

Western Commonwealth of Independent States

Nonviolence International
Mr. Andre Kamenshikov
Email: akamenshikov@mail.ru

The Caucasus

International Center on Conflict & Negotiation
Ms. Tina Gogueliani
Email: iccn@iccn.ge

The Balkans

Nansen Network in the Balkans
Ms. Tatjana Popović
Email: nansen@sezampro.yu

Northern and Western Europe

European Centre for Conflict Prevention
Mr. Paul van Tongeren
Email: info@conflict-prevention.net

NGO UN Conflict Prevention Working Group

Mr. Jack Patterson
Email: jpatterson@afsc.org

International Steering Group

European Centre for Conflict Prevention
Email: info@conflict-prevention.net

FROM DUBLIN TO NEW YORK: THE PROCESS TOWARDS A GLOBAL ACTION AGENDA

From 31 March till 2 April 2004, the first Regional Conference took place in Dublin, Ireland. It was the first in a series of regional activities and conferences that will take place throughout the world before the final Conference at UN Headquarters in New York, from 19 till 21 July 2005. The main result of the Dublin Conference was the development of the Regional Action Agenda, which started a worldwide process that will lead to a Global Action Agenda in 2005.

The basis of the discussions at each regional conference will be a combination of regional and international meetings and research, case studies and working papers. As a result of these discussions, Regional Action Agendas will be formulated, with both regional recommendations for change and overarching international ones. Issues for the Global Action Agenda will be extracted from the Regional Action Agendas and international research. The Agendas will function as an instrument to discuss what we would like to achieve within our field, clarifying mechanisms of cooperation with others such as governments, Regional Organisations and the UN; the Agendas will also be a tool for lobby and advocacy.

To guide this process, and to guarantee that the different Regional Action Agendas will actually lead to a Global Action Agenda, the International Steering Group is working together with an Action Agenda Task Force. This team will guide an inclusive process in which regional networks will formulate their specific Agendas on the Prevention of Armed Conflict. Furthermore, the team will extract overarching themes from the issue papers, cases studies, and regional conferences and will formulate a draft Global Action Agenda. This draft will be disseminated to the regions through regional networks. Through a consensus-building process – through meetings, email communication and an Internet forum – the final draft of the Global Action Agenda will be agreed upon before the International Conference in July 2005 where it is open for comments before being completely finalised.

An important section of the Global Action Agenda will be dedicated to the Guiding Principles, building on principles that were formulated in the Dublin Action Agenda. The ten Guiding Principles advocate, amongst others, a shift to prevention, the human security paradigm, the responsibility to prevent and protect, a new partnership

between civil society, governments and IGOs for effective conflict prevention.

Finally, at the International Conference in New York, the Global Action Agenda will be publicly presented and discussed. The main focus will be on the implementation of the Global Action Agenda, and ways to make the partnership between Civil Society and the United Nations in the field of Peace and Security more concrete.

The Dublin Action Agenda on the Prevention of Armed Conflict was adopted by the 230 participants of the conference and endorsed by 130 organisations afterwards.

The Irish Presidency submitted a review report in which they highlight the examination of how the EU and civil society organisations can cooperate more effectively in preventing conflict. In addition to this, the Dublin Action Agenda was forwarded to the governments of eight EU countries with the request to present the recommendations during the European Council meeting of 17-18 June. Following these events, the European Council endorsed the Presidency report on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention.

Furthermore, the Spanish delegate to the Security Council, Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo, referred to the Action Agenda and the Conference at a Security Council meeting on Complex Crisis and UN response (28 May 2004).

CONTACT

European Centre for Conflict Prevention

PO Box 14069
3508 SC Utrecht
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-30-242 7777
Fax: +31-30-236 9268
info@conflict-prevention.net
www.conflict-prevention.net

The European Centre for Conflict Prevention acts as the International Secretariat for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict as well as the secretariat for the International Steering Group.