



THEMATIC INPUTS

PEACE AND HUMAN SECURITY

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Statement

There is a strong link between peace, security and sustainable global development agenda. Violent conflict and the insecurity affect millions of people, families, communities and societies around the world. The nature of violent conflicts has changed in recent decades. Although interstate wars are declining, intrastate violent conflict and other armed conflict are increasing. There are also wars with no battlefields, no clear conflict zones and no ideology. Issues of peace and security are important for countries affected by war, but they are also important in other countries and contexts that are not considered conflict-affected. Human security cannot be left only to governments and UN agencies—civil society and people affected by violence and insecurity have a central role to play. Every single life matters, whether it is someone killed in a war, or a girl who is shot for demanding education. Insecurity and violence are a part of many people's daily lives and sustainable development must ensure peace and human security for all.

In this sense, reducing conflict is also about achieving social justice – it is not only societies that must be just – but a global sense of justice involves guaranteeing that people from all social groups can live in peace.

We have two proposals for the Bonn sustainable development Post-2015 conference:

1. Peace and human security should be included in the Post-2015 framework (not only mainstreamed but as one of the stand alone priorities)
2. The issues that are part of the peace and human security agenda are cross-cutting and should be integrated into other development priorities in the Post-2015 framework with the objective of making the framework peace promoting and conflict preventing

Peace and human security should be given attention in their own right within the international framework because of their central importance to sustainable development, but the issues identified that work in addressing conflict and promoting peace also need to be mainstreamed in all the other priority areas of the framework to ensure a conflict-sensitive approach to development Post-2015.

Approaching peace and human security Post-2015

Peace and security is not single dimensional, they are both complex and should be approached at the micro, mezzo and macro levels. This means including both negative and positive definitions of peace, where negative peace is the absence of violence and positive peace is the fulfillment of well-being, dignity, and social justice for all.

It will be important to frame the discussion on peace and human security Post-2015 with the following in mind:

- Any initiatives in the Post-2015 framework should do no harm, and should be conflict-sensitive
- Systemic structures that are enabling or disabling need to be part of the analysis on peace and human security.
- Approaches to security need to recognize the value of community participation and inclusiveness
- Ensure disaggregated data to have a better view of unequal progress across groups, given that inequality is one of the key drivers of conflict
- Collective accountability and responsibility is crucial to the framework
- Gender-based violence and gender inequality must be addressed
- Ensuring peace means promoting social cohesion and creating an environment in which people can live with freedom of their thoughts and beliefs.
- Peace and human security should not be confined to fragile and conflict environments.

Steps that should be taken

An approach to peace and human security should focus on addressing the issues that drive violent conflict and increase fragility. The issues to address include:

1. Human security (and the need for all social groups to feel safe)
2. People's access to justice and addressing impunity
3. Fair and equitable resource management
4. Accountable and transparent governance and tackling corruption (these apply at multiple levels, including in relation to the corporate sector)
5. Equal access to jobs and economic justice
6. Ensure people's political, social and economic participation
7. Tackling inequalities between groups – including between men and women
8. Addressing global factors that drive conflict – for example the arms trade (related to militarization), international corporate practices, sustainable natural resource management, etc.