



Terms of reference

Evaluation of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

Main facts

Tender launch date:	20 February 2019
Tender closure:	15 March 2019
Date of award of contract	1 April 2019
Draft evaluation report:	Mid-May 2019
Final evaluation report:	Mid-June 2019
Estimated level of effort:	Maximum of 10 days

Summary

This tender invites expressions of interest for the evaluation of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform – a knowledge hub and network that comprises more than 4'000 peacebuilding professionals working on building peace directly or indirectly. The evaluation builds on a previous evaluation conducted in 2014. It also occurs in the context of the conclusion of its 2015-2017 and 2018-2019 Programmes, discussions on the evolution of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, and the design of the 2020-2021 Programme. The evaluation will assess the following:

- The Platform's overall achievements since the last evaluation in 2014;
- The implementation of the 2015-2017 & 2018-2019 Programmes; and
- Opportunities for the future development of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.

The evaluation will assist the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the partners of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform in the development of a new framework agreement and a 2020-2021 Programme.

What is the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform?

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a knowledge hub that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide. The Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of issues and contexts related building peace. It also plays a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding activities in the field. The Platform's network comprises more than 4'000 peacebuilding professionals working on building peace

directly or indirectly. The Platform provides policy-relevant advice and services, ensures the continuous exchange of information through seminars, consultations, and conferences, and facilitates outcome-oriented dialogues on peacebuilding practice.

Founded in 2008 to identify Geneva's role in the then emerging United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the Platform evolved into a joint project of five institutions:

- The Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies,
- the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF);
- the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- Interpeace, and
- the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO).

The Platform is overseen by a Steering Committee (director-level) and a Management Committee (senior working-level). The Platform also has an Advisory Board that is composed of a representative group of peacebuilding stakeholders in International Geneva. The governance and functioning of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is regulated in a Memorandum of Understanding between the five partner institutions. The average annual budget of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform since 2015 is around CHF 400,000.

For more information see www.gppplatform.ch.

2. The 2015-2017 & 2018-2019 Programmes

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform focuses and organizes its work along work plans that are expressed in programme documents. These work plans are developed collaboratively within the Platform's Steering and Management Committees and in consultation with the Advisory Board.

The 2015-2017 programme built on the recommendation of the 2014 evaluation. The evaluation underlined that the Platform is highly relevant to International Geneva and global peacebuilding policy and operations. It highlighted that many actors value the Platform's ability to engage related, but disparate practice communities on a wide variety of peacebuilding topics. The Platform has also established itself as a primary reference point for engaging with the peacebuilding community in Geneva and as a hub for practical peacebuilding expertise and know-how that draws upon field experience and research.

The Platform focused its activities in the period 2015-2017 within two work streams with some activities being led by a specific partner.

- ***Networking traditional and non-traditional actors in peacebuilding***, including activities such as the Geneva Peace Talks (led by Interpeace); lunch-time updates (led by GCSP); the Geneva Peace Week, and the Annual Meeting.

- **Advancing innovative practice and thinking on peacebuilding** by focusing on several topics including peacebuilding, environmental rights and natural resource management (led by QUNO); and building peace in urban settings (Led by CCDP).

The 2018-2019 Programme recognized that the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is increasingly recognized as an entry-door into Geneva's peacebuilding world, and as an umbrella for activities on peacebuilding for Geneva-based actors. 2018 also marked the Platform's 10-year anniversary.

Overall the 2018-2019 Programme concentrated on four areas: Incubating new ideas and practice for peacebuilding; networking peacebuilding resources; convening on peacebuilding issues and contexts; and knowledge capture and management. Key activity highlights are:

- **Geneva Peace Week:** The Platform acts as an engine for the organization and development of an annual Geneva Peace Week in collaboration with other partners. The aim is to establish Geneva Peace Week within the global peacebuilding calendar and facilitate a gradual process to strengthen its partnerships and management.
- **Peace Talks Initiative:** The Platform will actively engage in developing the Initiative and act as co-organizer of the Geneva Peace Talks.
- **New annual retreat:** The Platform pilots a one-and-a-half day retreat for a brainstorm on 'What next in Peacebuilding' that is targeted at key peacebuilding stakeholders in Geneva including partners, Advisory Board members and guests.
- **Technical Working Groups (TWGs):** The Platform will strengthen the TWGs on urban safety and peacebuilding and on business and peace, and will advance these with a focus on the prevention of violent conflict as a cross cutting theme.
- **Network management:** The Platform will elaborate and implement a network development strategy to order and deepen the existing network.

Recognizing that the 2018-2019 programme will not yet be fully completed, this evaluation should assess the implementation of the programme up until the spring of 2019.

3. Objectives of the evaluation

Overall objective 1: Assess the Platform's overall achievements since the last evaluation in 2014

Relevance

1. How is the Platform strengthening international Geneva in the domain of peace and security? How have Platform activities been relevant to advancing the peacebuilding agenda, in particular within the UN?
2. How is the Platform's relevance perceived and supported by third parties (e.g. beneficiaries, other peacebuilding actors, the UN, the diplomatic community)?

Impact and results

3. What have been the most important impacts of the Platform's work?

4. What can be said about the results of the Platform in terms of the achievement of its core functions as
 - a. A hub for practical peacebuilding expertise and know-how that draws upon field experience and research;
 - b. A convener and networking space on peacebuilding issues fostering exchange across institutions and sectors and bridge building between Geneva, New York and peacebuilding actives in the field; and
 - c. A proactive incubator of new initiatives.
5. What can be said about the sustainability of the Platform's achievements?
6. Has the increase in resources since 2015 increased the impact of the Platform's work?

Overall objective 2: Assess the implementation of the 2015-2017 & 2018-2019 Programmes

Results

7. What are the most important results of the 2015-2017 & 2018-2019 Programmes?
8. Have the goals of the 2015-2017 & 2018-2019 Programmes been reached?
9. How are the strategy, activities, and outputs perceived by beneficiaries and external stakeholders?

Implementation

10. Have appropriate structures and priorities been set to promote the programme?
11. How is gender taken into consideration in the management of the Platform and in its activities and programs?
12. Does the Platform's planning and activities pay sufficient attention to peacebuilding expertise and views from practitioners or experts from specific peacebuilding contexts?

Overall objective 3: Assess opportunities for the future development of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

13. Mandate: Is the Platform's mandate "to facilitate the interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding issues and contexts" still adequate? Are there opportunities to strengthen the Platform's mandate?
14. Governance
Are the governance structures of the Platform adequate to allow an efficient and effective management of the Platform, and to achieve the Platform's mandate and goals?
15. Efficiency and effectiveness
 - a. Does the Platform make optimal use of financial and human resources to produce the expected outcomes? Are there any opportunities to strengthen the Platform's efficiency and effectiveness?
 - b. Does the Platform apply adequate financial management and control procedures?

16. Sustainability: What action is necessary to enhance the Platform's sustainability? Are there any fundraising opportunities the Platform should consider?

4. Deliverables and timelines

Under the mandate assigned to the evaluator the following deliverables are expected:

- Mission to Geneva in the spring of 2019
- Preliminary evaluation report due by mid-May 2019
- Final evaluation report, 20 pages with annexes as appropriate, due by mid-June 2019. The report should be written in English.

5. Methodology

The methodology for the evaluation is proposed to include the following elements:

- Study of relevant documents.
- Interviews and discussions with representatives of the Platform's Steering and Management Committees, its staff, and the Swiss Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Interviews with stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries of the Platform.
- Survey of the Platform's network members.
- A mission to Geneva (spring 2019).

6. Contractual arrangements and payment

This contract will be managed by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. After acceptance of the final evaluation, the Platform will issue payment based on the receipt of an invoice from the evaluator. Travel costs will be covered and arranged by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.

7. Requirements for the evaluators and exclusions

The evaluator must have expertise to cover all aspects of this evaluation. Specific requirements are a familiarity with peacebuilding topics, professional networks, international Geneva and other major multilateral hubs. The evaluator should be in a position to bring unbiased analyses of the Platform. Working language of the Platform is English. Reporting is required to be done in English.

The consultant should not have been involved in implementing any Platform activities. The evaluator is excluded from any projects or contracts with the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform for a period of 6 months after submission of the final report.

8. Submission of offers

If you are interested to conduct the evaluation of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, please submit a statement of interest (1-2 pages, including a brief explanation how the work is proposed to get done) and your CV to info@gpplatform.ch. This tender closes on 15 March 2019, CoB.