

GENEVA  
peacebuilding  
PLATFORM

## 2015-2017 Programme



The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a joint project of four institutions:



## Overview

This document sets out a new three-year programme that focuses the work of the Platform around fewer, more closely defined goals and activities. The document is built on consultations with the Platform's Steering and Management Committees and the Advisory Board, and builds on – and responds to – the findings of an independent evaluation conducted in 2014.

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.

Building on these achievements, the Platform is looking forward to strengthening the delivery on its mandate with a new three-year programme. The 2015-2017 Programme sets out an activities framework that builds on the Platform's spirit of collaboration. The 2015-2017 will be jointly implemented by the Platform's four partners and small coordination office, in collaboration with associate partners on specific activities. As part of the ownership of the four Platform partners in the 2015-2017 Programme, each partner leads an activity of this Programme.

### **Work stream 1: Networking traditional and non-traditional actors in peacebuilding**

- Geneva Peace Talks (Led by Interpeace)
- Lunch-time updates (Led by GCSP)
- Geneva Peace Week
- Annual Meeting of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

### **Work stream 2: Advancing innovative practice and thinking on peacebuilding**

- Peacebuilding, environmental rights and natural resource management (led by QUNO)
- Building peace in urban settings (Led by CCDP)
- In 2015, the Platform initiates special projects to strengthen leadership in peacebuilding and monitoring, evaluation and learning tools (Led by GCSP).
- Special projects on Results Based Management for Peace and Reinventing Peace (led by GCSP)

Beyond these workstreams and activities, the Platform also remains alert to respond to developments on evolving peacebuilding issues and practice.

### **Expected results**

- Consolidated network of practitioners in different institutions and sectors, especially at the city level and with the private sector, and in different practice communities.
- Strengthened relationship between the Platform and the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, as well relevant UN agencies and departments in New York and the field.
- Expanded space for dialogue about building peace and resolving conflict across different institutions and sectors.
- An enlarged understanding of promising practices in the broader peacebuilding field.

# 1. Work streams

## A. Networking traditional & non-traditional actors in peacebuilding

- This work stream recognizes the increasing diversity of actors in peacebuilding contexts. This is why the Platform believes it is important to bring closer together traditional and non-traditional actors in peacebuilding, but also bridge knowledge between those actors.
- Traditional actors include, for instance, UN departments and agencies, as well as the multitude of local, bilateral, or non-governmental actors operating in peacebuilding contexts. Non-traditional actors include companies, city administrations, emerging economies, and – broadly speaking – the diversity of voices from peacebuilding contexts.
- By linking traditional and non-traditional actors in peacebuilding, the Platform will continue playing a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations (UN) peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding actors in the field.
- Based on its existing networks and achievements, the Platform will focus on five specific activities under this work stream.

### Activity 1: Geneva Peace Talks (Led by Interpeace)

- The Geneva Peace Talks is an annual public event organized on the occasion of the International Day of Peace (21 September) by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Interpeace and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.
- The vision of the Peace Talks is to expand the space for dialogue about building peace and resolving conflict. Through individual Peace Talks, speakers from different sectors and industries share their personal stories, ideas and practical solutions to resolve conflict.
- The spirit of the Peace Talks is one of collaboration and reinforces that each and every person has a role to play in peace.

### Activity 2: Lunch-time updates (Led by GCSP)

- Lunch time updates are a series of occasional meetings that highlight challenges and opportunities for building peace in specific regions.
- The series will foster open exchange on challenges and opportunities for building peace in a specific region; and develop a better understanding about specific support needs and about the role of the UN and other intentional actors.
- Based on the existing work of the Platform (especially on the White Paper on Peacebuilding), pilot regions could be the Middle East, North Africa, or Central and South America.
- Events will be related to the visits of potential speakers to the four Platform partners. A summary of key issues (written or by video) will assure a track record of each event and facilitate connections between events.

### Activity 3: Geneva Peace Week

- The objective of the Geneva Peace Week is to open a space for exchange about peace across institutions and sectors.

- By synchronizing meetings on different topics related to the promotion of peace during one week, Geneva Peace Week maximizes synergies between organizations in Geneva and focuses on the cross-cutting nature of resolving conflict and building peace.
- Geneva's diversity of peace efforts and provides an opportunity to demystify peacebuilding practice for other policy communities in the fields of disaster risk reduction, human rights, migration, health, or humanitarian assistance, as well as the media.
- Geneva Peace Week consists of a mixture of public meetings, restricted expert meetings, as well as networking events.
- Geneva Peace Week has been piloted in 2014 under the patronage of the UNOG and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.

#### **Activity 4: Annual Meeting of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform**

- The Annual Meeting is the Platform's yearly flagship event and is an opportunity for all network members to come together and connect on peacebuilding issues across sectors and institutions.
- The Annual Meeting brings together a variety of actors and representatives from civil society, government, international organizations, business, and academia and opens a space for frank and open exchange outside of more formal policy forums.
- The Annual Meeting usually attracts between 200 and 400 network members and takes place around mid-November. Each year, the annual event is dedicated to a topic driving policy debates.

#### **Activity 5: Increase in social media presence and communication capability**

- Following the recommendation of an independent evaluation, the Platform will renew its web presence and increase its social media profile to facilitate its outreach and networking activities.
- By increasing communication via LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook, the Platform can expand its network of followers and use current technologies in support of creating a stronger network across traditional and non-traditional peacebuilding actors in peacebuilding.

### **B. Advancing innovative practice and thinking on peacebuilding**

- With increasing risks to peace and rapidly changing characteristics of – and responses to – violent and fragile contexts, there is a need to expand the evidence base on policies and practice in the broader peacebuilding field.
- This work stream will expand the evidence in two specific themes peacebuilding, environment and natural resource management; building peace in urban settings; leadership in peacebuilding; and monitoring, evaluation and learning in peacebuilding.
- This work stream builds on the accomplishments of the Platform's thematic work over the last three years and intends to consolidate the Platform's network at the city level and in the private sector.

### **Theme 1: Peacebuilding, environment and natural resource management (led by QUNO)**

- This theme advances governance and management practice surrounding natural resources and climate change challenges to help mitigate risk in fragile regions.
- Based on its existing efforts in this field, the Platform will continue facilitating the exchange between business, government, peacebuilding, development and academic actors, focusing on the support for natural resource management in specific settings.
- During the 2015-2017 Programme, the Platform will bring together different organizations in Geneva to advance practice at the interface between peacebuilding, climate change and natural resource governance. This effort builds on the Platform network among business and natural resource management experts constructed by over two years of work in this field.

### **Theme 2: Building peace in urban settings (led by CCDP)**

- Activities will evolve from a Technical Working Group (TWG) on the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding practice. The TWG brings together focal points on urban safety of cities with practitioners from the peacebuilding community in order to help craft solutions to the rapidly increasing risk of conflict and insecurity in urban settings.
- During an 18-month period starting in 2015, the objectives of the TWG are to network urban safety and peacebuilding practitioners, to expand the evidence base of practice at the nexus of urban safety and peacebuilding, and to contribute to developing an integrated approach on urban safety and peacebuilding. By achieving these objectives, the Technical Working Group contributes to the HABITAT III summit in 2016.
- The TWG is a collaborative effort between the Platform, UNOG and UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme.

### **Special projects (led by GCSP)**

- In 2015, the Platform will initiate several smaller special projects. This thematic efforts is made possible by an extraordinary contribution by the GCSP to the Platform.
- Special projects focus on strengthening leadership in peacebuilding and monitoring, evaluation and learning tools for the peacebuilding field.
- The focus on leadership is important, because advances in peacebuilding practice have frequently been contingent upon the leadership of individuals within a broader institutional framework. This efforts initiates analysis and debate about the role of leadership in international organizations, NOGs and national governments in advancing peacebuilding practice.
- The focus on monitoring, evaluation and learning in peacebuilding builds bridges across sectors and institutions peacebuilding and creates greater awareness about the needs of monitoring and evaluation in peacebuilding practice. Efforts will focus on network building and targeted technical inputs to strengthen evaluation, monitoring and learning in peacebuilding. This effort can draw on the results of the Platform's 2012-2014 Programme on this topic

# About The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

## What is the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform?

- A network of peacebuilding professionals connecting over 3,000 individuals and over 60 institutions.
- A hub for practical peacebuilding expertise and know-how that draws upon field experience and research.
- A reference point for engaging with the peacebuilding community in Geneva.

## What mandate does it have?

- Improve the practise of peacebuilding by facilitating the interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors in Geneva and worldwide.
- Advance new knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding issues and contexts.
- Build bridges between Geneva and other peacebuilding centres such as, the UN peacebuilding architecture in New York, as well as peacebuilding activities in the field.

## Who is behind the Platform?

- The Platform is a collaborative project of four partner institutions:
  - The Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies;
  - The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP);
  - Interpeace; and
  - The Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO).
- Through the Platform, these partner institutions combine their respective strengths in the peacebuilding field on education, dialogue, research, activism, and practice in the field.
- The four partner institutions guide the Platform's strategy and activities, in close collaboration with an Advisory Board representing key peacebuilding stakeholders in International Geneva.

## What are the Platform's aims?

- **Adding value** by generating substance, analysis or understanding on peacebuilding at the cross section of institutions, sectors, and disciplines.
- **Enabling frank and open exchange** by locating discussions outside official meetings on positions and above institutional and sectorial silos and 'turf wars'.
- **Listening to the voices of local peacebuilders** so that those building peace on a daily basis are heard in Geneva, New York, and other major policy centres.

## How does the Platform work?

- **Finding solutions from the bottom-up** by building strong partnerships with a range of actors at various levels tailored to a specific topic or context.
- **Network peacebuilding resources** in Geneva and worldwide by facilitating connections across institutions and sectors and by synthesising promising practice.
- **Ensuring continuous exchange** about peacebuilding issues, practice, and contexts through seminars, consultations, conferences, and multi-stakeholder processes.