

Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice

Report on the second meeting of the Technical Working Group Bogota, 21 September 2015

Background

The Technical Working Group brings together focal points on urban safety of cities with peacebuilding, peace mediation and conflict prevention practitioners in order to help craft solutions to the rapidly increasing risk of conflict and insecurity in urban settings. The Technical Working Group builds a network between urban safety and peacebuilding practitioners, develops a better understanding of practice at the interface between urban safety and peacebuilding, and contributes to developing an integrated approach to urban safety and peacebuilding. By achieving these objectives, the Technical Working Group feeds into major agenda-setting processes including the HABITAT III summit in 2016. The Technical Working Group is co-facilitated by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.

Aims and objectives of the 2nd meeting

The 2nd meeting of the Technical Working Groups brought together around 40 representatives of cities and peacebuilding organizations with the objective (a) to advance the gathering of promising practices at the interface of urban safety and peacebuilding, and (b) to discuss entry points for an integrated approach to urban safety and peacebuilding. The TWG meeting occurred as an integral part of the 2nd *Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC)*.

Focus 1: Exchange of promising practices (21 September 2015, 14.00-15.15)

The TWG convened a session to draw on the practical experience of senior city-level representatives and peacebuilding organizations and convey key practical lessons drawing on the personal experience of the participants. Speakers were invited to speak freely for 5-6 minutes in a TED-style format (and without Power-Point slides). Kick-off presenters included:

- Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo, Italy
- Ibeth Rodriguez, Under-Ministry of Prevention and Social Participation, Ministry of the Interior, Mexico
- Ana Teresa Bernal, High Advisor for rights of victims, peace and reconciliation of Bogotá
- Caroline Putman-Cramer, Head of Sector for the Americas, Focal point on Youth and Urban Violence, Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division, ICRC, Geneva
- Enrique Alfaro, Mayor of Guadalajara
- Luis Antonio Zapata Guerrero, Former Mayor of Corregidora, Mexico
- Daniela Arias Charcon, Deputy Mayor of Quito, Ecuador

Focus 2: Entry points for an integrated approach of urban safety and peacebuilding (21 September 2015, 15.30-16.45)

This TWG convened a session to discuss the key entry points for an integrated approach to urban safety and peacebuilding. It started out by developing an understanding of what such an integrated approach could look like from urban safety and peacebuilding perspectives, and invites discussion from participants with respect to an integrated approach in different

settings (e.g. conflict, post-conflict, criminal violence, etc). The session connects to the previous TWG meeting that highlighted that entry point can be about the *how* of urban safety and peacebuilding as well as about the specific *themes* that can illustrate the intersection and difference of urban safety and peacebuilding practice. Key points

Commonalities between urban safety and peacebuilding

- Common objective: Urban safety practice focuses on establishing safety at the community or local level in cities by addressing the fragmented human fabric in these urban territories. This connects to a significant practice trend in peacebuilding that prioritizes local action and bottom-up ways of working.
- Relationships and proximity: both practice communities place and emphasis to work on relationships between people to address violence and conflict. There is also the element of proximity which means to work as closely connected to the conflict cause and actors in conflict as possible.
- Focus on causes: Both communities focus on causes of conflict and not just the manifestations or symptoms. There is also the focus on the actors that are both part of the causes of the conflict and also their solution.
- Consensus and participatory approach to achieve sustainable outcomes - participatory process design and long term approaches. Resolving disputes takes time.

Differences between urban safety and peacebuilding

- Territorial focus: urban v. national focus. Peacebuilding has link to broader conflict dynamics.
- Constellation of practitioner communities: Urban safety has a stronger professional identity and is more homogenous - greater convergence of what are the tools to be used to make cities safe. Peacebuilding community more diffuse with less convergence on tools and approaches.
- Existing networks: City to city exchange much more advanced in urban safety than peacebuilding. Cities start having their own international relations.
- The role of violence and repression as part of the intervention: In integrated urban safety strategies high pressure policing can be a part of the integrated approach but is not the only tool used to achieve higher levels of safety. Great parts of the peacebuilding practice rejects the use of violence due to pacifist roots, yet there are also peacebuilding that understand the role of violence both in terms of affecting conflict dynamism and constellations that can assist a negotiated exit from violence in the long term.

Opportunities

- Many urban safety initiatives focus only at the local municipal level or at the city level - but often they are not connected - there is an opportunity for great knowledge exchange on architectures for peace.

List of participants

1. Luz Alcira Granada, Advocacy Director, World Vision, Colombia
2. Juma Assiago, Lead, Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC), Safer Cities Programme, Local Government and Decentralisation Unit, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi
3. Ana Teresa Bernal, High Advisor for rights of victims, peace and reconciliation of Bogotá
4. Nathalie Gendre, Project Manager, Ideaborn Foundation, Bogota, Colombia
5. Jaume Guardans, CEO, Ideaborn, Bogota
6. Oliver Jütersonke, Head of Research, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
7. Anja Heuft, Coordinator, Programa de apoyo a la construcción de la paz en Colombia (ProPAZ), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bogota, Colombia.
8. Sabine M. Palmreuther, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank, Washington DC
9. Bernardo Pérez, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Colombia
10. Caroline Putman-Cramer, Head of Sector for the Americas, Focal point on Youth & Urban Violence, Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division, ICRC, Geneva
11. Ibeth Rodriguez, Deputy General director for Training and Innovation, Under-Ministry of Prevention and Social Participation, Ministry of the Interior, Mexico
12. Jennifer Salahub, Safe and Inclusive Cities initiative, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa
13. Elis Schmeer, Coordinator, Fortes Project (integration of IDPs in the department of Caquetá), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bogota
14. Johanna Sztucki, Fach- und Methodenbereich, Sektorprogramm 'Förderung von Good Governance', Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn
15. Otto Argueta, Regional Director for Latin America, Interpeace, Guatemala
16. Franz Vanderschueren, Director, Urban Safety Programme, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Chile
17. Francesco Vincenti, Coordinador Asistencia Técnica Internacional, Laboratorio de Cohesión Social México - Unión Europea, Mexico City, Mexico
18. Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
19. Rafael Zevallos, Director Ejecutivo, Fundación Jesús Luz de Oportunidades, Panama
20. Antonio Zapata, Former Mayor of Corregidora and expert in urban safety.

Additional GNSC meeting participants joined the meeting including representatives from Durban, Johannesburg, Seoul, Abidjan, Ouagadougou, Quito, San Fernando, Corregidora, Nairobi, Montreal, Dakar, Quezon, Sao Paulo, and other cities.