

Summary of key points

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

5-6 November 2014, Room IX, United Nations Office at Geneva

Introduction

- This report accounts for the main points of discussion of the inception meeting to informal all experts contacted for this meeting and update UN Member States as well as UN agencies and departments on the progress of the TWG. The report also serves as a reference document as the process of the TWG moves forward. For the programme see Annex 1.
- The inception meeting of the Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding has been organized by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.
- The meeting focused at the expert level and targets between 15-20 participants (see Annex 2) from a group of organizations and cities that have responded to an expression of interest to participate in the Technical Working Group.
- The meeting had the overall objective to discuss technical and process related items of the Technical Working Group. Three specific objectives were:
 - (a) Discuss the ambition and scope of the Technical Working Group, especially with respect to its objectives, working modalities, and expected results.
 - (b) Discuss key methodological issues, especially with respect to the overall approach, the design of studies on cases and tools, and selection criteria and quality thresholds.
 - (c) Develop the key elements of a work plan for Technical Work Group, including timelines and milestones.

1. Key points

- Participants underlined the need and timeliness of the Technical Working Group (TWG) but that more work was needed to focus and resource its work. Specifically issues noted included the need for conceptual clarification and focusing on the need of new practice and analysis in specific city settings.
- The TWG will initiate evidence gathering in 4 steps:
 1. Clarify the meaning of 'the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding';
 2. Establish an annotated literature review and screening of existing practice;
 3. Draw together perspectives on scenarios to identify potential typologies of different contexts and responses; and
 4. Develop and online depository for tools and mechanisms.
- The first TWG meeting will take place in Corregidora, Mexico, 23-25 March 2015 and will be an opportunity to present preliminary findings from the evidence gathering process. The meeting will be planned in collaboration with the Municipality of Corregidora, the Mission of Mexico in Geneva, UNDP, and other partners.

- There has been an expression of interest by Beirut, Lebanon, to host the second TWG meeting in autumn.
- The organizer will follow on to all TWG network members with a report on the inception phase and an updated concept note and work plan before the end of the year.

2. Expectations in the TWG

Participants highlighted various expectations in the TWG. Key responses were:

- City case studies especially countries such as Lebanon, South Sudan, Mali, Afghanistan, and others.
- Knowledge exchange on practice at the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding and an enlarged evidence base in this field.
- Develop and disseminate knowledge tools that have methodological and policy, applications.
- Finding strategies that can help improve the sustainability of urban safety and peacebuilding y level, especially beyond election cycles.
- New partnerships and a wider access to unconventional expertise with respect to urban safety and peacebuilding.
- The outcome should be a better understanding of standards and a common approach on urban safety and peacebuilding.
- Identification of success stories of peacebuilding and urban safety programmes, including a cluster of about 20 cities.
- Develop lessons learned from “failures” following the “annual failure report” by Engineers Without Borders could be an inspiration.
- Identify strategic entry points for innovative programming in specific settings.
- A major outcome document that can be a “reference point” for agenda-setting.
- Establish credibility of working at the confluence on urban safety and peacebuilding with governments, city administrations, international organizations and business.
- Think about how the participating organizations can draw on the resources created by the TWG themselves.

3. Observations on the concept note

- Revise and make more consistent key terms used, including for instance “nexus,” “confluence,” “overlap,” “integrated approach,” “complementarity,” “local” - what do these terms really mean.
- Emphasize the strategic context: We are looking for new practices for new situations emphasising the changing nature and responses to conflict and political transformations in a variety of new context.
- Approaches that are locked in a specific professional silo are still very common and sometimes powerful, yet not necessarily effective in operational terms. The TWG can emphasize efficiency gains by working above and across different professional silos.
- Importance of a two-way conversation: urban violence to peacebuilding and vice versa. A clearer understanding of the respective issues for each constituency should be identified.

- Specify the depth and breadth of the TWG. What is an adequate focus? What level do we address? For whom does the TWG create value?
- Emphasise the urgency of change at the grassroots level and the need for long term and sustainable solutions for urban violence and peacebuilding. A specific issue to address are sustainable funding mechanisms.
- Emphasise more the link to global agenda settings processes: the 10-year review of the UN peacebuilding architecture, the review of the Global Convention on Drugs, the post 2015 development framework, the review of peace operations, the World Humanitarian Summit, and the review of Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Furthermore, the Bogota meeting of initiatives such as United Cities, Metropolis in cooperation with UNHABITAT in February 2015 provides an opportunity to connect with more Mayors.

4. Methodological issues

- How to create something that is not too context-specific but can have broader applicability to other practitioners?
- Need to recognize difficulties arising from the “confluence” of two practitioner communities on peacebuilding and urban safety).
- The TWG needs to address the fast changing nature of urbanization. Need for flexibility and informality.
- As the TWG moves forward, there may be interest to form sub-groups working on specific issues in greater detail.
- Set realistic and achievable goals with respect to the intellectual and analytic scope of the TWG and in terms of the relationship between ambition and funding.
- It is important to take stock of progress on a regular basis and find the right participation mechanisms for such reviews. The ZGW should adopt an iterative way of working.
- Comparative case-studies appear difficult due to diversity of the TWG – a mixed methods approach including documentation, and analysis may be favourable.
- A draft collecting thoughts on possibilities for concrete projects to be funded could be developed by March 2015.

5. Key elements for work-plan

- **Expanding the evidence base:** Activities with respect to expanding the evidence base on the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding.
 5. *Clarify the meaning of ‘the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding’:* the Organizers will collect perspectives on the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding drawing on practical and academic experience in the TWG. This process will involve the identification of key guiding questions that can then be answered by TWG members. A synthesis of responses will be presented in the first meeting of the TWG in March 2015.
 6. *Annotated literature review:* The organizers will collect 15-20 key pieces of existing literature and establish an annotated literature review to avoid any

possible duplication and establish a baseline of practice. The annotated literature review will be presented in the first meeting of the TWG in March 2015.

7. *Perspectives on scenarios*: Organizers will gather perspectives from TWG members on scenarios of work at the confluence of peacebuilding and urban safety. This material can lead up to a typology that distinguishes, for instance, between different types of cities (Juba, Mogadishu, Timbuktu vs. Raqqa, Bogota and L.A.) and types of violence (large scale, small scale, public, domestic, gender-based, organized, spontaneous).
8. *Online depository*: As part of the evidence gathering process, the organizers will establish an online depository of existing best practice documents, on tools and mechanisms, and cross-cutting themes. Ory will be structured along the goals of the TWG

The key findings of this evidence gathering process could be presented at the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the HABITAT III conference to take place in April 2015, possibly during a side-event.

- ***First TWG meeting, Corregidora, Mexico, 23-25 March 2015***: An invitation to hold the Spring 2015 meeting in Corregidora, Mexico, was made by the Mayor. The city would cover expenses in Corregidora. The Mexican Permanent Mission offered to support the organization and communication in Geneva. This may provide an opportunity to do a field study in Corregidora and to interact with Crime Observatories to be established in collaboration between UNHABITAT and the Government of Mexico.
- ***Expression of interest for second TWG meeting from Beirut, Lebanon for Autumn 2015***: Expression of interest noted from Beirut, Lebanon. World Vision will inquire with the Mayor of Beirut.
- ***Expression of interest to draft specific papers an input for the TWG***: Various participants proposed drafting input papers:
 - Jaume Guardans (ideaborn-foundation) on *Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary crime prevention*
 - Rory Robertshaw (Issue Urban) on *urban infrastructure projects as a source of conflict, with reference to South Africa as a case-study*
 - David Connolly (The Hague Institute for Global Justice) on *urban safety and conflict prevention*
- ***Executive course for city leaders***: The Graduate Institutes' CCDP and UNHABITAT are to explore the feasibility of Executive Courses for city leaders per, drawing on and disseminating the work of the TWG. This could be offered in Geneva (at the Graduate Institute's Executive Education). Key target audience could be existing coordinators for safer cities in many municipal authorities. These Executive Courses could be connected to existing World Bank e-learning tools on urban violence.
- ***Fundraising***: Availability of financial resources will be investigated, in particular for ensuring support to participants from developing countries, research funding and coordination cost.

Annex 1: Programme

Wednesday, 5 November

- 14.00-15.00 Welcome, *tour de table*, review and discuss the existing state of play
Charlotte L. Warakulle, Chief of Section, Political Affairs and Partnerships Section, Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva
George Deikun, Director, UN Habitat Geneva Office
Juma Assiago, HSO/Lead, Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC), Safer Cities Programme, Local Government and Decentralisation Unit, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi
Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
- 15.30-17.30 Discussion of existing knowledge on the overlap and difference with respect to urban safety and peacebuilding approaches
Kick-off presenters: **Anna Alvazzi del Frate**, Research Director, Small Arms Survey, Geneva; **Antonio Zapata**, Mayor of the Municipality of Corregidora, Mexico
Facilitation: Achim Wennmann

Thursday, 6 November 2014

- 9.00-12.30 Methodology: Approaches, case studies, studies on tools, selection criteria
Identification of elements for a work plan
Kick-off: **Oliver Jütersonke**, Head of Research, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; **Sara Sekkenes**, Adviser, Conflict Prevention - Partnerships, BPPS, UNDP, Geneva
Facilitation: Achim Wennmann
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch (UN cafeteria)
- 14.00-16.00 Drawing together key elements for the work plan
Kick-off from the rapporteur: **Sven Gusmann**, Political Affairs and Partnerships Section, Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva
Facilitation: Achim Wennmann
- 16.00-17.00 Debriefing to UN Member States and end of inception meeting

Annex 2: List of Participants

1. Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Research Director, Small Arms Survey, Geneva;
2. Lorena Alvaeado Palomera, Municipality of Corregidora, Mexico
3. Juma Assiago, HSO/Lead, Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC), Safer Cities Programme, Local Government and Decentralisation Unit, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya
4. Karim Bayoud, World Vision Lebanon, Beirut
5. Jovana Carapic, Research Assistant, Small Arms Survey, Geneva
6. David Connolly, Head of the Conflict Prevention Program, The Hague Institute for Global Justice, The Hague
7. Rosa Margarita De Alba Gonzalez, Municipality of Corregidora, Mexico
8. George Deikun, Director, UN Habitat Geneva Office
9. Jaume Guardans, President of ideaborn-foundation and Senior Expert, Barcelona, Spain.
10. Sven Gusmann, Political Affairs and Partnerships Section, Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (Rapporteur)
11. Hjalmar Jorge Joffre-Eichhorn, Technical Advisor & Co-Founder of AHRDO, Kabul
12. Oliver Jütersonke, Head of Research, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva;
13. Maria de la Paloma Posada Lombana, Municipality of Corregidora, Mexico
14. Rory Robertshaw, Managing Director, Issue Urban, Cambridge
15. Diego Bernardo Ríos Hoyo, Centro de Atención Municipal, Corregidora, Querétaro, Mexico
16. Jennifer Salahub, Senior Program Officer, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada
17. Sara Sekkenes, Adviser, Conflict Prevention - Partnerships, BPPS, UNDP, Geneva
18. Stavroz Stravou, Senior Development Specialist, World Bank, Washington DC
19. Charlotte L. Warakaulle, Chief of Section, Political Affairs and Partnerships Section, Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva
20. Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
21. Luis Antonio Zapata Guerrero, Mayor of the Municipality of Corregidora, Mexico