

# **Report on the inception phase Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice**

Geneva and Nairobi, 12 December 2014

## **Summary**

- The inception phase include an expression of interest with over 50 organizations and cities, a briefing for UN Members States and an inception meeting in Geneva.
- The inception phase confirmed the need and interest in Technical Working Group (TWG) on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice. This need and interest was evidence by the response of 31 cities and organizations to an expression of interest and the participants of an inception meeting.
- The inception phase confirmed that there will be a sufficient level of practice and substance cities and organizations are willing to contribute to the TWG. There is also a need for conceptual clarification and for new practice and analysis in specific city settings
- The TWG will initiate evidence gathering in 4 steps: (a) clarify the meaning of ‘the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding’; (b) establish an annotated literature review and screening of existing practice; (c) draw together perspectives on scenarios to identify potential typologies of different contexts and responses; and (d) develop and online depository for tools and mechanisms.
- The first TWG meeting will take place in Corregidora, Mexico, 23-25 March 2015 and will focus on the review of the evidence gathering process.

## **1. About the Technical Working Group**

- The TWG brings together focal points on urban safety of cities with practitioners from the community of peacebuilding, peace mediation and conflict prevention in order to help craft solutions to the rapidly increasing risk of conflict and insecurity in urban settings.
- During a 2-year period, the objectives of the Technical Working Group 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 develop an integrated approach on urban safety and peacebuilding. By achieving these objectives, the Technical Working Group contributes to major agenda-setting processes including the HABITAT III summit in 2016; the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and the implementation of the Post-2015 Dialogue and Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Technical Working Group meets under the auspices of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and facilitated by UN-Habitat’s Safer Cities Programme and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. The Technical Working Group also works in the context of the progress on city initiatives within the framework of the Global Network of Safer Cities (GNSC).

## **2. Expression of interest**

- UNOG, UNHABITAT, and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform contacted over 50 organizations and cities to explore the nature of potential inputs into the TWG.

- The expressions of interest generated 31 responses representing a broad diversity of different kind of practical experiences (see Annex 1).
- The expressions of interests confirmed (a) a significant interest to participate in the TWG, (b) a willingness to share substance and experience related to urban violence and peacebuilding, and (c) the need to mobilize travel support for participants from developing countries.
- All responses and were collected in a document summarizing the expressions of interest with specific information about potential substantive inputs, a short description of the organization or city, and suggested experts that could participate in the TWG.

### **3. Briefing for UN Member States, 31 October 2014, at 10:00, Palais des Nations**

- The briefing represented an opportunity to inform and update UN Member States about the TWG.
- Member States attending the briefing included Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Spain and Switzerland. Furthermore, the OIC and ILO were present.
- The briefing underlined potential connections of the work of the Technical Working Group with respect to youth unemployment and disaster resilience. Representatives from several Member States made concrete proposals to involve actors from their countries in the work of the Technical Working Group or to serve as pilot countries for any potential programmes resulting from the work of this group.
- Beyond the briefing all UN Mission and Heads of Agency received a report about the meeting by UNOG.

### **4. Inception meeting, Geneva 5-6 November 2014**

#### ***Objectives***

- The meeting brought together 21 experts representing organizations and cities that have responded to an expression of interest to participate in the TWG.
- 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.

#### ***Results***

- Participants underlined the need and timeliness of the TWG but that more work was needed to focus and resource its work. Specific issues included the need for conceptual clarification and for 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 an 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.

## 5. List of input documents

### **Reports**

- *Report on the Inception Meeting*, 5-6 November 2014.
- *Summary of expressions of interest to participate in the Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice*, Geneva, 4 November 2014
- Concept note: *Technical Working Group on the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding practice*, Geneva and Nairobi, 24 September 2014.

### **Background documents**

- UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. *City Labs for safer Cities: Towards an Integrated Approach to Urban Safety and Peacebuilding*. Consultation Document. Nairobi and Geneva, 25 March 2014.
- Jennifer Milliken (2014): *Building Peace in Urban Setting: Lessons from the Ground and Recommendations for Collaboration*. Platform Paper No.11 (Report on the Annual Meeting 2013).
- Oliver Jütersonke and Keith Krause (2013) *Peacebuilding and the City: Setting the Scene*. Platform Brief No.9.

## 6. Contact points

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- Ms. Charlotte L. Warakaulle, Chief of Section, Political Affairs and Partnerships Section, Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva, [cwarakaulle@unog.ch](mailto:cwarakaulle@unog.ch).
- Dr. Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Geneva, [achim.wennmann@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:achim.wennmann@graduateinstitute.ch).

## **Annex 1: List of responses to expressions of interest**

1. Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO), Kabul, Afghanistan
2. Alliance for Peacebuilding, Washington D.C., USA
3. Asia Pacific Centre for the Prevention of Crime, Griffith University, Australia
4. The Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) constitutes the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
5. Centro de Seguridad Urbana y Prevencion (CESUP), Mexico City, Mexico
6. Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva, Switzerland
7. São Paulo City Hall, Brazil
8. Bogotá City Hall, Colombia
9. Municipality of Corregidora, Mexico
10. Cure Violence, Chicago, USA
11. *ideaborn*-foundation, Barcelona, Spain
12. International Centre and Network for Information on Crime - Tanzania (ICNIC-T)
13. Igarapé Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
14. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (Pretoria Office), South Africa
15. The Institute of Criminal Justice and Security (ICJS) of The University of the West Indies (UWI), Kingston, Jamaica
16. International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, Canada
17. Interpeace, Geneva, Switzerland
18. Pereira Passos Institute of the Municipal Government of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
19. Issue Urban, Cambridge, United Kingdom
20. Commune de Treichville, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
21. London First and the Institute for Statecraft, London
22. International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris, France
23. Directorate of the Municipal Police of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
24. Municipality of Peñalolén, Santiago de Chile, Chile
25. Municipality of Rosario, Argentina
26. MONUSCO-Stabilization Support Unit and the City of Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo
27. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York/Geneva
28. Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU), Cape Town, South Africa
29. World Vision Lebanon, Beirut, Lebanon
30. World Bank
31. The Hague Institute for Global Justice, The Hague