



QUNO
Quaker United Nations Office



Peaceful, just and inclusive societies: where are we?

On the afternoon of Thursday, June 9th, 2016, the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and the International Peace Institute (IPI) hosted an informal discussion to bring together civil society representatives working on different aspects of the peaceful, just and inclusive societies agenda, to take stock of current initiatives, identify gaps, and consider possibilities for collaboration.

The session was held under the Chatham House Rule for the general discussion. Views expressed in this summary were raised by participants.

Background

In September 2015 Member States came together around a new, aspirational and universal vision for people and the planet, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are comprehensive and indivisible, a core new feature of the Agenda as a whole is the focus on “peaceful, just and inclusive societies” as one of the five areas of critical importance highlighted in the Preamble. Subsequent developments within the UN system (such as the April commitment to peacebuilding and prevention from the Chief Executives’ Board) and beyond have affirmed this area as critical for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, as a whole.

Nine months later, implementation is well on its way. Member states are focused on the HLPF meetings in July, which will include the presentation of the first round of national reviews from 22 countries. National and regional consultations continue, and groups have formed around particular themes (such as violence against children, or governance) or focused on specific areas of implementation (such as indicator development).

But what does all this activity add up to as a whole? Who is doing what, and are we moving towards a coherent vision of peaceful, just and inclusive societies as the on-ramp to the 2030 Agenda? How can we use the opportunity provided by this new universal platform to move forward across to ensure that freedom from violence and access to justice are seen as basic services, that governance is effective and accountable and that social, political and economic inclusion are achieved, in all societies from the least developed to the most?

Opening Discussion

The objective of the meeting is to provide a space for civil society actors working on the peace issues within the 2030 Agenda to come together; to take stock of current initiatives, identify gaps, and consider possibilities for collaboration.

As a result of the 2030 Agenda, freedom from violence and access to justice have become basic services to be provided by the state and international community. The inclusion of peace as a horizontal axis that cuts across all the agenda is a true innovation. Governance and inclusion are key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda goes beyond peace, justice and inclusion *within* countries, and also addresses what happens *amongst* countries—financial flows, global governance, international justice, and small arms flows. We are also seeing collaboration amongst actors that have traditionally remained within their own field—such as between humanitarian and peacebuilding actors, as illustrated by the recent [Peace Promise](#) produced ahead of the World Humanitarian Summit. The GA/SC joint resolutions on the peacebuilding architecture also include a comprehensive approach that links peace and development, though its new concept of “sustaining peace.”

Many see the 2030 Agenda as a political rather than a technical achievement; not a detailed recipe book, but a political document, that includes ‘hooks’ that can provide a foundation for work towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies. In regards to the 2030 Agenda, one participant pointed out that “we use it or we lose it.”

Upcoming processes

There are a number of major processes ahead of us in 2016: the ECOSOC dialogues, the operationalization of the Sustaining Peace concept, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the PGA High Level Debates, and the UN High Level Summit on Refugees and Migration.

- *Follow Up and Review of the 2030 Agenda*
 - The process to produce a draft resolution on follow up and review, led by Belize and Denmark, is nearly complete. The resolution will provide a useful additional road map for the formal process, and in particular outline more detail of the modalities of the High Level Political Forum
- *High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)*
 - The resolution details the themes to be covered in the remaining annual cycle of the HLPF and the sets of goals that will be reviewed each year.
 - Reviews will be produced at a national, regional and global level. The first 22 voluntary national reviews will be presented in July. The national review processes, and the development of national 2030 Agenda implementation plans offer important opportunities for civil society input at the national level – the same is true at the regional level, although the regional and sub-regional modalities are less clear at present.
 - HLPF meetings will be informed by an annual SDG Progress Report and the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report
 - The current expectation is that the HLPF will address Goal 16 in 2019, by which time some experience on implementation will have accrued. It was noted that even though Goal 16 is not formally on the agenda for the next three years, there will be many opportunities for discussion of the peaceful societies agenda, given the cross-cutting nature of the issues, and it will be important to maintain engagement.
- *QCPR*: the upcoming negotiations around the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (the process by which the GA sets system wide policy orientation for development cooperation) will provide an important opportunity to ensure that the principles and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda are carried through to the next level
- *Major events – such as the UN High Level Summit on Refugees and Migrants*
 - Major UN summits and thematic debates provide useful entry points to affirm the peaceful societies mandate of the 2030 Agenda
 - The upcoming UN High Level Summit on Refugees and Migrants taking place in September is one particular opportunity, as the World Humanitarian Summit has already emphasized the importance of addressing root causes and conflict prevention in addressing the refugee crisis
- *Don't forget financing for development and the AAAA follow up process*

- The peaceful societies approach is only fleetingly mentioned in the AAAA outcome document. It will be important to ensure continuing engagement if financial support is to be sustained and increased.

Breaking down the silos

- This will be a major challenge for the UN system. Many branches of the UN (such as the UN Development Group and the Peacebuilding Commission) focus their work on developing countries, but the most transformative element is that it is a universal agenda. It is particularly important to the political acceptance of the peaceful societies thread that the universal framing is affirmed. Where in the UN is the home for a truly universal approach? The national reviews may provide one avenue for this.
- There is a need for traditional development actors within the UN to reach out in a way that wasn't seen as necessary before, including to peacebuilding and governance actors. There is currently a shift in mindset.
- We've already made a lot of progress and need to appreciate how far we've come already. Ten years ago, development and peace and security agencies would rarely speak to one another. We have to give this process time.
- In April, a statement of commitment came out from the UN Chief Executives Board, a body that includes every UN agency and beyond (including the World Bank) entitled "Bringing the UN system together to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding within the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." This is a commitment across the UN system, similar to the commitment made amongst Member States when adopting the 2030 Agenda.

Updates by participants

This section is not intended to be in any way definitive or authoritative. It briefly makes reference, according to our notes, of activities and initiatives mentioned by meeting participants. Please reach out directly to the relevant organization with any questions.

Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University

- Recent paper on lessons learned from the MDGs and what elements could be transferred to the new agenda
- Ongoing mapping process of who is doing what relating to Goal 16
- Carrying out a relationship study of how Goal 16 interacts with other goals
- Working on getting a group of countries together to see who is working on implementing part or all of Goal 16, what's working and what isn't, and where countries need help

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

- New Deal emerged from finance ministers from conflict-affected and fragile countries, sharing concerns over having struggled to achieve the MDGs, this has become the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (includes G7+ and civil society), supporting G7+ civil society to implement New Deal in their countries
- Some countries have created national plans around the PSGs, and now have to reframe everything around the SDGs. The New Deal and PSGs were actually ahead of the game
- Side event planned on this issue, might merge with UNDP

World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

- In a recent survey amongst UNAs, Goal 16 was identified as the most important goal for most UNAs across the board
- WFUNA has set up the “16 Plus Forum” with a core group of Member States, UN staff and civil society to look at the interlinkages across the goals and push the momentum around Goal 16
- During the HLPF, will organize side events on partnerships, on non-traditional stakeholders and on youth and security
- The *TAP Network* has produced a detailed and practical [Goal 16 advocacy toolkit](#) for use by civil society organizations at a national level

Saferworld

- Working with other CSOs to establish a global dashboard looking at Goal 16 indicators, to be launched during the HLPF and built upon over the next few years. Dashboard will draw from official and non-official data sources
- Have coordinated three meetings in past few months, with Member States and civil society organizations, on what is currently being done and what are the gaps.
- Meeting in March in Europe on global partnerships and how different global initiatives can help support implementation of Goal 16 at the national level
- Individual initiatives at national level too, e.g. Kenya

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

- Adopting an integrated approach that helps connect the dots. Produced a [report](#) on preventing gender-based violence through arms control (links to Goal 16.4)
- Women’s perspective: gender equality is the number one predictor of peace and peace helps prevent violence against women
- Working on creating spaces to bring people together around women, peace and security financing
- Workshop in July at HLPF on WPS—mapping financial flows available for gender equality and peace, and identifying good practices at global and local levels that could be strengthened through better partnerships

Global Initiative Against Transnational Crime

- Has been facilitating the “development dialogue” for past 3 years, a series of predominantly OECD states looking at transnational organized crime as a development issue
- Evidence-based [report](#) trying to move transnational organized crime (TOC) out of the security space and into the development space
- Created a series of [tools](#) to help development actors to recognize, respond to and analyze TOC (matrixes and indicators on the environment, health, migration, urbanization...)
- Upcoming joint project with the Institute for Security Studies (a Pan-African NGO) to create five regional organized crime observatories in Africa, including the creation of an index on organized crime that measures transnational crime and its impact, and will look at corruption and inequality

International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

- Recently launched a series of conversations with various UN agencies, Member States and international organizations. Consultations are taking place in Europe and in New York
- Trying to understand what the need out there is, from Member States and others. These findings will determine IDLO’s work priorities moving forward. Trying to be aware of where each state is at this moment to tailor support on the basis of their specific needs, at the regional level first and then at the national level

Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP)

- Network of 106 peacebuilding organizations at community and policy levels, based in Washington DC
- Been working with Victor Ochen, special representative on Goal 16 to identify how we can capture stories around Goal 16 at a community level and how could we connect this to the global and technical conversation around indicators
- Happy to help coordinate in any way that's useful, as part of AfP's mandate is to bridge different sectors related to peacebuilding

Small Arms Survey

- Trying to help states understand there are already mechanisms and a politically binding partnership in place on arms flows (Arms Trade Treaty)
- Currently creating a space and platform for states to collaborate on this partnership
- Two [publications](#)
- Contributing to Saferworld's dashboard
- Participating in a side event at the HLPF

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

- Links up with national networks of prevention and peacebuilding organizations around the world
- Looking for ways to support current initiatives. If there are ways that GPPAC's membership could support existing initiatives, happy to facilitate that relationship

World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP)

- Focus on global governance issues
- Looking to support current initiatives

Peace Direct

- Runs [Insight on Conflict](#)—a website mapping local peacebuilding capacity in conflict-affected countries, and hoping to expand to all conflict countries
- Recently started a new program, Local Voices for Peace—convening local activists to make sure their voices become integrated in high-level conversations. Doing this in Northern Nigeria, Pakistan, Lebanon, and hoping to do this in 10 countries in the future. Moving forward, hoping to bring these grassroots voices to the UN as well
- All of us need to emphasize the local perspective in this conversation, and need to elevate work at the grassroots level in NY

Global Center on Cooperative Security

- Recently been identifying ways to bring CVE into the development conversation
- Two recent reports: [policy brief](#) on the links between CVE and development assistance, and a [report](#) on how CVE is a tool within the SDG toolbox

ATD Fourth World

- Involved at grassroots level, connecting Goal 1 and Goal 16 to eradicate extreme poverty
- Developing a “merging of knowledge” methodology aimed at creating the right conditions for people living in poverty, policymakers, practitioners, academics can come together around issues of common concern

World Vision

- Part of several of the networks, including TAP and Together 2030. Working in over 100 countries with national offices

- Campaign on ending violence against children (biggest link with Goal 16)
- Work on embedding inclusive conflict analysis in Development and Humanitarian Action

IPI

- Convening events on the links between the 2030 Agenda and 19 September Summit on large movements of peoples;
- Connecting policy with practice by doing case studies on early implementation of the SDGs;
- Focusing on the implementation of SDG targets that need particular attention given their transboundary nature;

QUNO

- Convened discussions with 22 first reporting states on reflecting peace issues
- Convening ‘big tent’ civil society meetings around peaceful, just and inclusive societies
- Making the links to other major UN processes, including follow up to the “sustaining peace” resolutions, and the new UN prevention agenda

Updates from other CSOs (not present at the meeting):

Igarape

- Working with government and non-governmental partners on implementation, financing and monitoring of Goal 16
- Focus on data-collection (especially homicide, conflict and terrorist violence) and Goal 11 (tracking fragility and resilience in over 2,000 cities with populations of 250k or more)
- Building visual platforms to improve transparency and reporting related to violence, access to services, inequality, urbanization and more to trigger public discussions on states’ progress with the SDGs

Global Financial Integrity (GFI)

- The Financial Transparency Coalition works in the area of financial transparency/illicit flows and the TAP Network is focused on Goal 16 topics.
- The intense focus on domestic resource mobilization will be an ongoing area of interest during the SDG period. GFI’s work, and that of the FTC, is focused on this area.
- GFI hopes to start an 18-month project in Africa that links DRM issues to government laws/regulations through close collaboration with CSOs based in Africa

Questions that came up throughout the meeting

- How do we create partnerships without adding layers of bureaucracy?
- What will happen with the regional targets—targets that can’t be achieved at a national level (like transnational organized crime and illicit arms flows)?
- How to take forward this useful information exchange and potential collaboration?

Participants

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