



“Inclusivity in Rebuilding States: Focusing on Inclusivity of Peace Negotiations and its Impact on Post-Conflict Peace-building”

Seminar
Thursday, June 6, 2013
9:30am - 1:00pm

Draft Concept Note

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations will host a seminar entitled **“Inclusivity in Rebuilding States: Focusing on Inclusivity of Peace Negotiations and its Impact on Post-Conflict Peace-building”** at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

There is a growing consensus that inclusive processes—in the political, economic, and social dimensions—are crucial in rebuilding post-conflict states. The report of the Secretary-General on “Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict”, issued in October 2012, emphasized the importance of inclusivity as a key component for the success of peacebuilding activities: “While inclusive political settlements may take longer to negotiate, they are more sustainable. An inclusive process builds confidence among participating parties that their core objectives can be achieved through negotiation rather than violence. It is also more likely to address the root causes of conflict and increases the legitimacy and ownership of a political settlement. Inclusivity in this regard refers to the extent and manner in which the views and needs of parties to conflict and other stakeholders are represented, heard and integrated into a peace process.”

The United Nations Guidance for Effective Mediation, which was issued in June 2012 as an annex to the report of the Secretary-General on “Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention, and resolution,” also underscored that inclusivity is one of the key fundamentals for effective

mediation: “An inclusive process is more likely to identify and address the root causes of conflict and ensure that the needs of the affected sectors of the population are addressed...In addition, it reduces the likelihood of excluded actors undermining the process.”

However, several critical questions remain to be discussed: To what extent should—and can—former wartime enemies be included in the political process of creating new state institutions? Are there any conditions under which they should be excluded from peace negotiations? What could be the role of international organizations, such as the United Nations, in advancing an inclusive process to rebuild states that have suffered from wars or political crises?

The purpose of this seminar is to provide an opportunity for UN member state representatives, United Nations officials, academic experts, and NGOs to share past experiences of the challenges on inclusivity in peace negotiations and its impacts on post-conflict peace-building, and to discuss those lessons for future international efforts in rebuilding states.

The seminar will include two sessions. The first session will feature a main speech by **Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno**, former Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and current director of the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University. **Mr. Guéhenno**, who has extensive experience in the fields of UN peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building, will present a historical perspective of inclusivity in peace negotiations and its impact on post-conflict peacebuilding, as well as his own views on current challenges. The presentation will be followed by a substantial discussion with participants of the seminar.

The second session will focus on “Lessons Learned and Their Applications.” The session will include a panel discussion by **Mr. Scott Smith**, Deputy Director for the Afghanistan Project at the US Institute of Peace, **Mr. Christopher Coleman**, Head of the Mali/Sahel Unit in the UN Department of Political Affairs and former member of the UN’s mediation team for the South-North Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan in 2005, and **Mr. Guéhenno**. Following their presentations, the panelists will then engage with participants on how to understand lessons from past experiences and on ways to apply such lessons to current and future peace-negotiations and peace-building efforts.