

: Programme

Berlin Summer Dialogue 2018 **Strengthening Local Peacebuilding –** **Establishing the Basis for Sustaining Peace**

29-30 May 2018, Berlin
Berlin Town Hall

Conference language
German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

In cooperation with the
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



: Tuesday, 29 May 2018

Public Evening Event

Building Peace through Media Engagement?

The role of local media in armed conflict

Berlin Town Hall, Louise-Schroeder-Saal

17.30 hrs (Registration starts at 17.00 hrs)

BACKGROUND

Around 45 per cent of the world's people have no access to a free press, according to the latest World Press Freedom Index. Free speech is particularly constrained in authoritarian regimes and intra-state conflicts, where journalists face considerable risks to their personal safety. In addition, there are limited financial resources available to support independent journalism.

The media have a responsibility, however, to report sensitively on conflicts and diverse social groups. The spread of disinformation or “fake news” can escalate conflicts, so it is important to raise media professionals' awareness of conflict-sensitive, peace-oriented journalism. Its aim should not be to steer the public in a particular direction but to foster mutual understanding and facilitate dialogue in accordance with the universal principles of journalism. Local media are often an important source of information for the public in conflict settings. In many instances, they are the first to spot emerging conflicts or abuses and their reporting helps to shape opinion. The local media can also foster social cohesion by giving all groups within society a voice.

What are the challenges facing the local media in conflict regions? What are the opportunities for – and limits to – peace-oriented reporting during conflict? How do economic restraints influence conflict-sensitive journalism? And which forms of external support may be beneficial?

PROGRAMME

- 17.00 hrs Registration
- Chair
- Ute Schaeffer**
Deputy Director
DW Academy, Bonn
- 17.30 hrs Welcome
- Christian Rickerts**
Secretary of State
Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises, Berlin
- 17.35 hrs Opening Speech
- Dr Elke Löbel**
Director for displacement and migration; crisis prevention and management,
Commissioner for refugee policy
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn
- 17:45 hrs Round table discussion
- Nicolas Boissez**
Head of Communication and External Relations
Fondation Hironnelle, Lausanne
- Rev Geraldine Fobang**
Station Manager, CBS Radio Buea
President, CCMN - Cameroon Community Media Network, Buea
- Dr William Tayeebwa**
Senior Lecturer
Department of Journalism and Communication
Makerere University, Kampala
- followed by Plenary discussion
- 19:00 hrs Reception
hosted by the Governing Mayor of Berlin

: Wednesday, 30 May 2018

Expert Conference

Strengthening Local Peacebuilding – Establishing the Basis for Sustaining Peace

Berlin Town Hall, Louise-Schroeder-Saal

BACKGROUND

In any process whose purpose is to transform violent conflict, the public's attention tends to focus on international peace and donor conferences, international organisations' mediation and peace missions, and national-level negotiations. Existing or nascent grassroots structures and initiatives which aim to support peacebuilding from within society often go unnoticed.

This is surprising, given that the significance of local engagement as the basis for sustaining peace was recognised long ago, with a substantial body of evidence to support it. Accordingly, since the 1990s, more efforts have been made to strengthen local peace structures through national-level decision-making or peace agreements (e.g. in South Africa). These efforts have attracted growing interest from policy-makers and scholars since the turn of the millennium.

Local peace committees have a key role to play in this context. They can be organised in various forms: some are officially part of the national peace architecture, with a formal mandate conferred from the top, while others evolve from individual engagement at the local level, independently of the national peace process. It is important to recognise this distinction. For international actors, the challenge is to figure out how local peacebuilding structures can be supported without undermining the ownership and hence the credibility of local stakeholders.

The Berlin Summer Dialogue 2018 will start by reviewing the forms and substance of local peacebuilding; it will also consider the opportunities and challenges for local peace committees. The second and third session will then analyse the composition of these committees and how communities engage with them. In the past, interest mainly focused on the representation of the various conflict parties within these structures, whereas nowadays, the question of ensuring adequate participation by all stakeholder groups is attracting growing attention.

The discussion will focus particularly on women and young people, who are still underrepresented in peace processes despite having their own specific experiences of conflict and their own ideas of what it takes to build a peaceful society. Their participation is essential if there is to be any prospect of dismantling entrenched power structures in societies and achieving nonviolent inter-community relations. The Berlin Summer Dialogues will therefore look at what can be done to achieve more active engagement by women and young people in local peacebuilding and which specific contributions they can make to sustaining peace.

Local peace committees are an important element of national infrastructures for peace. But how can their experiences and demands be channelled into national and international processes? How is their work influenced by the wider conditions at the national and international level? And which forms of external support are beneficial to local peace engagement over the long term? The final discussion session at the Berlin Summer Dialogue 2018 will explore answers to these questions.

WELCOME AND OPENING

09.00 hrs	Registration and coffee Chair Dr Michèle Roth Executive Director Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
9.30 hrs	Welcome Professor Lothar Brock Chairman of the Advisory Board Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn/Frankfurt
9.45 hrs	Opening Speech Dr Thomas Helfen Head of the division “Peace and Security; Disaster Risk Management” Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin

SESSION I

LOCAL PEACE ENGAGEMENT – FORMS AND FUNCTIONS

Practitioners and scholars agree that a sustainable peace in conflict countries can only be achieved with local engagement. But what do they mean by “local”? Which forms and structures of local peacebuilding exist? Where do their specific strengths lie – and what are the practical pitfalls? How can external stakeholders engage with local peace structures?

10.00 hrs	Introduction Dr Andries A. Odendaal Independent Consultant Cape Town Dieudonné Kibinakanwa Legal Representative Peace and Reconciliation Ministry under the Cross (MIPAREC) Legal Representative Great Lakes Peacebuilding Institute (GLPI) Burundi and the African Great Lakes Region, Gitega
Followed by	Q&A

SESSION II**WOMEN IN PEACE PROCESSES – HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL FOR SUSTAINING PEACE**

The United Nations has been calling for more women's participation in peace processes for many years. In reality, however, women are often still massively underrepresented, despite often being the victims of displacement and particular violence. Peace processes in which women play a key role have shown themselves to be more sustainable over the long term. That being the case, what needs to be done to make local peace structures more conducive to women's participation? How can women be empowered to actively engage in building peace at the local level and what role should they play in this context? What kind of support do they expect from external actors?

Chair

Julie Brethfeld

Representative of the Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) at the
Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt), Bonn

11.15 hrs

Round table discussion

Dr Sophia Close

Senior Adviser on Gender and Peacebuilding
Conciliation Resources, London

Professor Jurma Aming Tikmasan

Board Member
Nisa Ul Haqq fi Bangsamoro (Women working for Justice in the Bangsamoro)
Dean, College of Fisheries
Mindanao State University, Tawi-Tawi

Dr Simone Wisotzki

Member of the Executive Board
Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), Frankfurt/Main

12.00 hrs

Plenary discussion

12.30 hrs

Lunch break

SESSION III

A LOST GENERATION? YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGING LOCALLY FOR PEACE

Children and young people are particularly affected by protracted armed conflict. Their childhood is marred by violence, hunger or undernourishment and a lack of access to education. Poor prospects and inexperience with peaceful conflict resolution leave a lasting imprint on the generation which will have a crucial role to play in rebuilding society and sustaining peace. And yet young people rarely have a voice in peace processes. In Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, adopted in 2015, the United Nations calls for greater participation by young people in issues of peace and security. What can be done to implement the resolution at the local level? How can young people be reached by local peace committees and how can they themselves contribute to the committees' work? What form of external support can facilitate this process?

Chair

Professor Tobias Debiel

Director

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University of Duisburg-Essen

Member of the Executive Committee

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

13.45 hrs

Round table discussion

Lorraine Degruson

Leading Coordinator

United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), The Hague

Martine Kessy Ekomo-Soignet

Founder and Executive Director of URU

Local Correspondent for the Central African Republic

Peace Direct, Bangui

Dr William Tsuma

Peace and Development Advisor UN Zimbabwe

Governance Adviser UNDP Zimbabwe

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), Harare

14.30 hrs

Plenary discussion

15.00 hrs

Coffee break

SESSION IV**BUILDING PEACE AT ALL LEVELS – LOCAL PEACE PROCESSES IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

Sustaining peace is a long and complex process, often beginning only when a national peace deal or permanent ceasefire is agreed. Peacemaking (from the top down) and peacebuilding (from the bottom up) interact in complex ways. How do these processes influence each other? What can be done to ensure that their interaction is positive, not mutually obstructive? And how can national and international actors support and strengthen local peacebuilding?

Chair

Angelika Spelten

Institute for Development and Peace (INEF),
University of Duisburg-Essen
Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt), Bonn

15.30 hrs

Round table discussion

Most Reverend Professor Emmanuel Asante

Chairman
National Peace Council Ghana, Accra

Dr Wolfgang Heinrich

Consultant for
Conflict Transformation and Conflict Sensitive Development Work, Bad Herrenalb

Paul van Tongeren

Honorary Chair
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), The Hague

16.15 hrs

Plenary discussion

16.45 hrs

Wrap-up and Farewell

Dr Michèle Roth

Executive Director
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn