

: Programme

Draft: 13 June 2019

Berlin Summer Dialogue 2019 **Post-Conflict Reconstruction:** **A Window of Opportunity?** **The role of external actors in the MENA region**

18-19 June 2019

Berlin Town Hall, Louise-Schroeder-Hall

Conference languages

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

In cooperation with the

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



#BSD19

BACKGROUND

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been convulsed by multiple wars and armed conflicts for decades. Syria and Yemen are currently in the grip of brutal wars, with catastrophic impacts on their populations. Various recent conflicts have caused lasting damage in Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon as well.

Although it is the civilian populations that bear the brunt of these complex conflicts, instability in the conflict countries also has major spillover effects in neighbouring states in the region – and beyond. For that reason, international efforts in acute conflict situations generally focus on short-term stabilisation and the facilitation of humanitarian relief.

There is no doubt that from a humanitarian perspective, short-term measures to stem the violence, along with rapid reconstruction of key infrastructure, are vitally important. However, they risk perpetuating the original home-grown causes of conflict, such as inequality and exclusion of certain social groups, and may thus obstruct the formation of viable structures that sustain peace. Done properly, however, reconstruction offers a window of opportunity for the sustainable transformation of social, political and economic structures as a basis for lasting peace.

The Berlin Summer Dialogue will therefore look beyond daily politics and consider how the international community's engagement in the MENA region can have a sustained peacebuilding effect within these societies. What factors should international actors consider in order to avoid unintentionally entrenching existing lines of conflict or creating new ones through their short-term crisis response? Which specific priorities should they set for their contribution to the reconstruction of economic and social structures that sustain peaceful development? And what can be done to provide constructive support for discourses about a much-needed reform of the social contract in the MENA countries?

The Berlin Summer Dialogue will bring practitioners from politics and civil society together with researchers to explore these questions, drawing on lessons learned from earlier international engagement in reconstruction within the region and beyond.

: Tuesday, 18 June 2019

PUBLIC EVENING EVENT

CONFLICT LINES IN THE MENA REGION – OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have been convulsed by multiple conflicts for decades. At present, a durable and sustainable peace seems almost impossible to reach. The conflicts have reversed much of the development progress achieved, in some cases setting it back several decades. It is not only the divisions between various religious or ethnic groups that are a factor in these conflicts, but also that the existing social contracts no longer seem viable. In parallel, many of the recent conflicts have escalated into proxy wars in which various major and regional powers are vying for position. Bearing in mind the multitude of conflict lines in the MENA region, external actors should give very careful thought to the potential impacts of their own engagement when planning their interventions. How can short-term humanitarian relief and support for reconstruction contribute to building structures that sustain peace?

- 17:00 hrs Registration
- Chair
- Ute Lange**
Moderator/Trainer/Communication Coach
i3kommunikation, Bonn
- 17:30 hrs Welcome
- State Secretary Sawsan Chebli**
State of Berlin Delegate to the Federation
State Secretary for Civic Engagement and Intercultural Affairs, Berlin
- 17:35 hrs Opening speech
- Professor Claudia Warning**
Director-General for the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Southeast and Eastern Europe
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn/Berlin
- 17:45 hrs Roundtable discussion
- Ekkehard Brose**
Special Envoy for Crisis Prevention and Stabilization
Foreign Office, Berlin
- Dr Joost Hiltermann**
Programme Director of the Middle East and North Africa
International Crisis Group, Brussels
- Rasha Jarhum**
Co-founder and Director
Peace Track Initiative, Ottawa
- Professor Claudia Warning**
Director-General for the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Southeast and Eastern Europe
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn/Berlin
- 19:00 hrs Reception hosted by the Governing Mayor of Berlin

: Wednesday, 19 June 2019

CONFERENCE

- 08:30 hrs Registration
- Chair
- Ute Lange**
Moderator/Trainer/Communication Coach
i3kommunikation, Bonn
- 9:00 hrs Opening speech
- Renate Hendricks**
Chairperson of the Executive Committee
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

SESSION I

DO NO HARM! GETTING RECONSTRUCTION WRONG – LESSONS FROM PEACE AND CONFLICT RESEARCH

- 9:15 hrs Interview
- Professor Sultan Barakat**
Director
Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action Programme
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Doha
- Saša Hezir**
Deputy Director
Institute for State Effectiveness, Washington, D.C.
- 9:45 hrs Plenary discussion
- 10:15 hrs Coffee break

SESSION II**THE TRANSITION FROM A WAR TO A PEACE ECONOMY: WHAT ROLE FOR EXTERNAL ACTORS?**

Conflict in the MENA region is causing colossal economic losses. The region has also seen the emergence of war economies, which generate substantial profits from the continued hostilities and poor governance. How can inclusive and sustainable economic development be incentivised? What can be done to prevent war economy profiteers from acting as spoilers here? And what is the diaspora's role in economic development?

10:45 hrs Roundtable discussion

Dr Reinoud Leenders

Reader in International Relations and Middle East Studies
War Studies Department, King's College, London

Francesca Recanatini

Lead Public Sector Specialist
World Bank, Washington, D.C.

11:30 hrs Plenary discussion

INTERLUDE**RECONSTRUCTION: LESSONS FROM BEIRUT**

12:00 hrs Short interview

Dr Aseel Sawalha

Associate Professor of Anthropology
Fordham University, New York City

12:30 hrs Lunch

SESSION III

INVESTING IN SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE – RECOGNISING AND SUPPORTING PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS

Years of conflict have devastated not only the economic but also the social infrastructure in many MENA countries. Large numbers of people have been displaced within their own country or have fled abroad. In many areas, the education and health systems need to be reconstructed from the ground up. How can external actors facilitate the transition from emergency relief to long-term and inclusive social infrastructures that sustain peace? What can be done to reintegrate returnees into society?

13:45 hrs Roundtable discussion

Samah Halwany

Independent consultant on social development for peacebuilding in conflict and post-crisis contexts, Beirut

Dr Ulrike Hopp-Nishanka

Senior Policy Advisor on Peacebuilding and Reconstruction in the MENA Region
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin

Azzam Moustafa

Peace and Conflict Consultant, Cologne

14:30 hrs Plenary discussion

15:00 hrs Coffee break

SESSION IV

SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETIES – MAKING IT WORK

The research shows that the internal causes of conflict within the MENA region lie mainly in its outdated social contracts, which are characterised by corruption, poor governance and social exclusion. So what might the development of peaceful societies look like in the long term? That being the aim, what kind of roadmap should be set by local stakeholders? And what can external actors do to support them through appropriate peace and development policies?

15:30 hrs Roundtable discussion

Rejna Alaaldin

Founder of KLS and Iraq Legal Advocate
MADRE, Erbil

Thomas Claes

Project Director “For Socially Just Development in the MENA Region”
Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, Tunis

Rawan Khalfallah

Project Manager Assistant and Peacebuilder
Together we build it, Tripoli

Professor Bernhard Trautner

Senior Researcher
German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn

16:15 hrs Plenary discussion

16:45 hrs Concluding interview

Dr Michèle Roth

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