



INNOVATION *in* PARTNERSHIPS

Making a Business Case for Peace



United Nations Office
for Partnerships



United Nations
Peacebuilding



PERMANENT MISSION OF
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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International Peace Institute
777 United Nations Plaza, 12th floor
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BACKGROUND

Overview:

Today's conversation focuses on a business case for peace, but in doing so the definition of peace used may be broader than how is traditionally thought of in the popular discourse. It's easy to understand peace as an absence of violence. However, as UN activities from peacebuilding to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have acknowledged, achieving that endpoint and maintaining that absence requires work across diverse areas including supporting governance, inclusive economic growth, and accountable institutions. This means that many activities not traditionally seen as peacebuilding are in fact necessary for achieving long-term peace. A broader understanding of what constitutes peace—as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda and Sustaining Peace Resolutions—can help build cross-sectoral partnerships.

Drivers of peace:

Tolstoy said that "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." The same is true of peace: while the individual drivers of conflict vary from situation to situation, peaceful societies tend to be similar in broad strokes. Societies are much more likely to be peaceful when they enjoy high GDP per capita,¹ governments that are seen as inclusive of all groups in society and accountable to the

¹ Susan Rice, Corinne Graff, and Susan Lewis, "Poverty and Civil War: What Policymakers Need to Know" (Washington, D.C: Brookings Institution, 2006),

populace,² and the government provides sufficient policing and security services alongside public goods such as education and health care.³ These different elements of resilience are mutually supporting, and in peaceful countries they tend to all go together.⁴ Without these foundational elements, even a short-term break in armed conflict may not result in sustainable peace.

When considering initiatives that support peace, the scope of activities that are directly related to peace are much broader than only activities that obviously and directly touch the conflict or conflict actors. Today's discussion is based around five specific issue areas that show links between development and peace. These five issue areas were chosen because in each of these areas the cross-sectoral discussion has reached a point where it is possible to make the "business case for peace." Below is a short description of each issue area:

Table 1 – Food Security/Fisheries

Fisheries are both a source of and a solution to conflict; unfortunately, the risk of fisheries conflict is increasing while the ability of fish to provide food security and resilience is declining. Growing demand for seafood, coupled with mismanagement of finite fish stocks, has increased competition for fish. A global commitment to manage fisheries for long-term use coupled with an end to rampant illegal fishing around the world would ensure fisheries can help reduce the root causes of conflict by providing stable employment and food security. The table discussion will include best practices on building fisheries infrastructure and private sector partnership development around cold storage and fisheries development.

Table 2 – Mobile Technology for Inclusivity & Peace

Penetration of mobile and digital technologies is exponentially increasing, with estimates that in 2017 more than two-thirds of the world's population had cellular phones. This table will consider the connection between mobile and digital technologies and peace, through two broad questions: How can increasing access to credit for small businesses directly be used to support peace and inclusivity? How can developing mobile-enabled technologies such as digital cash and mobile penetration be used to reduce poverty and the data generated can be used to support peace?

Table 3 - Migration

Migration is a source of economic growth, innovation and development. It propels millions of people to seek new opportunities and nourishes bonds between countries and societies. There is little evidence that migration in and of itself is a cause of violence. However, rapid migration combined with the recent trends toward urbanization creates pressures which can strain states' abilities to provide policing and social services to migrants. This, in turn, can create instability in host countries which can be galvanized for increased violence and leaves migrants vulnerable to abuse. The recent

² Robert Muggah et al., "Governance for Peace: Securing the Social Contract" (New York, N.Y.: UN Development Program, 2012).

³ David Cortright, Conor Seyle, and Kristen Wall, *Governance for Peace: How Inclusive, Participatory and Accountable Institutions Promote Peace and Prosperity* (Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY, USA: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

⁴ James D. Fearon, "Governance and Civil War Onset," World Development Report 2011 Background Paper (The World Bank, 2010).

increase of migration flows in several parts of the world can pose a challenge to state capacity. Developing public-private partnerships to more effectively manage the challenges of migration can support peace. The table on migration will begin to develop a partnerships and sustainable solutions for job creation and re-integration of Venezuelan migrants with value-add private sector partnerships for the supply chain of agricultural products and to link farmers with buyers with fair pricing and leveraged distribution leading to jobs and food security.

Table 4 – Blended Finance

A lack of economic opportunity is a major driver of armed conflict in many parts of the world, and one constraint preventing the development of healthy economies in regions with armed conflict is a lack of access to capital. International development agencies exist in part to address this challenge, and increasingly are exploring blended finance models as tools for improving economic development in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Partnerships between public-sector development agencies and private-sector investors can use the expertise from both sectors to more quickly and efficiently develop conflict sensitive resources for economic development. Participants at the Blended Finance table will discuss three active, early- to mid-stage blended finance initiatives that provide businesses and government participants with concrete opportunities to make the business case for peace.

Tables 5 & 6 - SDG 16: Measuring Peace

Although peace is acknowledged as a central touchstone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is most directly captured in SDG 16, the “peaceful, just, and inclusive societies” goal. This goal includes several targets assessing core elements of peace including the prevalence of violence and governance. Assessing national performance on these issues may pose a challenge, however, in that many states face challenges in effectively measuring these elements. This table will discuss initiatives to create private sector partnerships around accessing data to increase capacity to measure indicators for SDG 16.