



PREVIEW

ENGAGEMENT OF ARMED GROUPS IN PEACE PROCESSES

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 December 2005

WILTON PARK CONFERENCE WPSO5/34
in association with Conciliation Resources

Context:

Over the last two decades, whether in the context of a peace process or a humanitarian initiative, armed groups have become key actors in efforts to ease suffering and rebuild conflict-torn societies. Despite their participation in numerous peace processes there is deep controversy about appropriate responses to their actions and this has given rise to some complex policy questions.

Methodology and Aims:

This conference, which includes perspectives from a cross section of stakeholders, aims to:

- create a forum for frank discussion under the Chatham House Rule in a discreet residential environment, to increase the understanding of participants of the aspirations and concerns of each other and thereby the scope for common action
- identify through a pooling of ideas and experience the key challenges and the most realistic ways of dealing with them
- foster and create personal contacts which can prove important for taking forward future action

Sponsored by: Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United States Agency for International Development and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Africa Directorate and Conflict Issues Group.

Speakers invited and themes proposed (* speaker confirmed)

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER

1500-1530		Welcome and Introduction to Wilton Park Julia PURCELL Associate Director, Wilton Park
		CONCILIATION RESOURCES-INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK - Celia McKEON * Conciliation Resources/Accord Programme Manager, UK
1530-1700	1	ENGAGING ARMED GROUPS IN PEACE PROCESSES Vidar HELGESEN State Secretary Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Questions & discussion</i>
1745-1915	2	IS THERE A CASE FOR ENGAGEMENT? Panel: Ambassador Thomas GREMINGER , Head of Peace Policy, Political Division IV, Human Security, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

US Speaker
to be confirmed

Questions & discussion

1915 Reception followed by Dinner

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

0915-1045 3 **UNDERSTANDING ARMED GROUPS' CHOICES**

Nhial DENG

Sudan – Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement

Rene V. SARMIENTO

Philippines - Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process

Questions & discussion

1115-1245 4 **DISCUSSION GROUPS**

- Media & Intelligence- **Bruce CLARK**, International Security Editor, Economist
- Capacities for Engagement-**Alastair CROOKE**, Director, Conflicts Forum
- Improving our Analysis-**Sue WILLIAMS**, Consultant

1530-1700 5 **CONSTRUCTING A PEACE PROCESS**

***Betty BIGOMBE**

World Bank

***Martin GRIFFITHS**

Executive Director, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Switzerland

Questions & discussion

1730-1900 6 **DISCUSSION GROUPS**

- The Impact of Proscription & Terror Listing - ***Rob RICIGLIANO**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, US
- Seeking Rebel Accountability on Human Rights Standards in peace talks- ***Pablo POLICZER**, Armed Groups Project, UBC, Canada
- Humanitarian Engagement with Peace Talks-***Elisabeth REUSSE-DECREY**, Geneva Call, Switzerland
- Community Based Approaches to Armed Groups- ***Conciliation Resources**

2000 Dinner

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

0900-1100 7 **ROLES & TACTICS OF THIRD PARTY ENGAGEMENT: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES?**

Panel:

Julian HOTTINGER- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

***Deborah GOODWIN** - Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, UK

***Mark BOWDEN**-United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs

1130-1245 8 **KEY POINTS FROM DISCUSSION GROUPS**

1245-1345 9 **CLOSING SESSION: MOVING FORWARD: WHAT NEXT?**

Javier SOLANA

Secretary General of the Council of the European Union and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This conference is open to those with expertise to share or an interest in the theme; our aim is to have a broad spread of nationalities and institutions represented. The contribution to costs of up to £950, to help cover all accommodation and meals, attendance at all sessions, and transport from and to Gatwick airport at the beginning and end of the conference, is sought from participants.

Enquiries about participation and local travel to: **Alison Jones**, Conference Administrator, Wilton Park, Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex. BN44 3DZ Telephone: +44 (0)1903 817714 Fax: +44 (0)1903 817162.
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