

“Integration and Fragmentation in Transitions from Conflict”

Monrovia, Liberia. 31 March 2016

Background

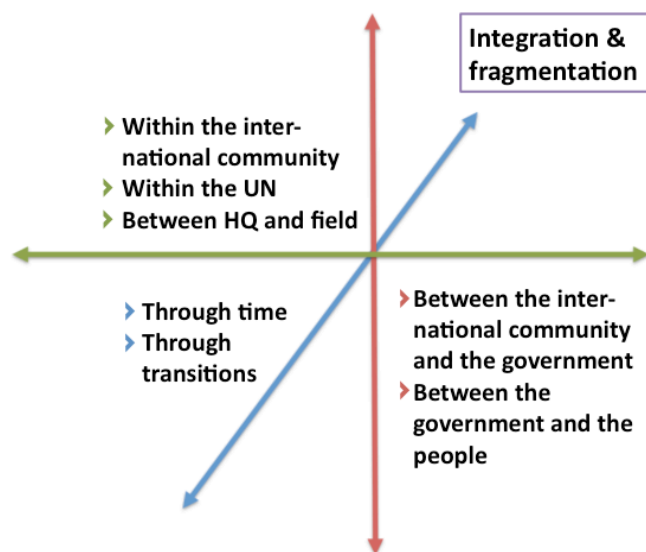
The president of the General Assembly (PGA) will hold a high level thematic debate (HLTD) on UN, peace and security on 10-11 May 2016, following the three recent reviews (peace operations, peacebuilding architecture and resolution 1325 on women, peace and security). The HLTD represents a unique opportunity to identify synergies among the three reviews, and to advance the peace and security agenda through collective Member State deliberation and to identify priorities for future UN reform.

The office of the PGA has welcomed the initiative taken by a global network of think tanks to organise a number of regional consultations in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East that can prepare, inform and feed into the discussions at the HLTD.

Thematic discussion of fragmentation and integration

With funding from the Danish and Norwegian governments, the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF) and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) is organising a seminar - hosted by the Government of Liberia and United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) - on integration and fragmentation in conflict-related transition settings. For the purpose of this consultation, integration and fragmentation is understood (and depicted in the figure on this page) as a three dimensional vector, consisting of a vertical concern (between the international community, the government and people), a horizontal concern (between all involved actors) and a continuum concern (through time and transitions) spanning all efforts to sustain peace acknowledging the cyclical nature of conflict.

The recent reviews have identified the fragmentation of the UN as a key barrier for better UN performance in supporting fragile and conflict-affected countries in transitioning into sustainable peace. They have also highlighted issues related to ensuring integration and coherence between government plans and strategies, UN assistance efforts and the broader engagement of the international system. They finally point to current fragmentation issues



relating to sources and channels of funding. These three dimensions of fragmentation are therefore the focus of this consultation.

This focus also corresponds with the guiding questions provided by the PGA's office, including, amongst others: a people-centred approach; inclusive national ownership; the utility of compacts; building partnerships with International Financial Institutions; and building partnerships with regional organisations.

The seminar will thus focus on the practical challenges of ensuring a cohesive, consistent and integrated compact-like engagement between the international community and host nation that supports inclusive national and local ownership.

The case: Integration and fragmentation challenges in Liberia

Liberia will host this consultation because of the particular relevance of integration and fragmentation issues throughout Liberia's post-conflict history. Liberia's decade long transition from violent conflict to fragile stability, tested by the Ebola crisis, provides a useful longitudinal case for exploring the challenges related to fragmentation and the opportunities for integration. The Liberia case comprises several compact-like strategic frameworks as listed in the text box on this page.

The Liberia Consultation will provide an opportunity for the participants gathered together to assess the various initiatives undertaken over the 10 years to date to pursue integration and coherence, both vertically and horizontally. The consultation will further consider and analyse the challenges and constraints that limited the ability of the Government of Liberia and the international actors to achieve greater integration and coherence. These discussions will unfold in the context of fragmentation issues and integration potentials identified in the three reviews. The aim is to generate a set of evidenced-based recommendations for the HLTD to consider, with a view to addressing the structural impediments to integration and coherence in future UN reform initiatives.

Compact-like frameworks in Liberia

- UN peacekeeping mission (Several RBB Frameworks, a Mandate Implementation Plan and an Integrated Strategic Framework),
- One UN program (with the UN Development Assistance Framework and Costed Action Plan),
- Peacebuilding Commission's Statement of Mutual Commitment,
- Peacebuilding Fund's Peacebuilding Priority Plan,
- World Bank's Poverty Reduction Strategies,
- African Development Bank Country Strategies,
- EU Instrument for Stability's Peacebuilding Partnership,
- The European Development Fund program,
- The New Deal
- The government's own strategies and plans, including Lift Liberia, the Liberia Peacebuilding Programme, the National Reconciliation Roadmap, Liberia RISING 2030 and the accompanying Agenda for Transformation
- Etc.

Outcome

The seminar organises presentations and discussions around three main themes:

1. “Compact-like” partnerships (between the international community and Liberia, within the international community and between the Liberian government and the people of Liberia)
2. Integration and fragmentation within the government, the UN system and within the international partners system
3. Financing issues including for transition

The outcome will be a short and concise paper presenting evidenced-based recommendations from the Liberia experience with the aim of informing and advancing Member State discussions at the HLTD.

Participants:

The seminar will welcome decision-makers, practitioners and academics from within and beyond Liberia as well as representatives and decision-makers from relevant global institutions, including:

- GoL Peacebuilding Office,
- GoL Ministry of Finance/Planning,
- GoL Ministry of Justice,
- GoL Ministry of Defence,
- GoL Ministry of Interior,
- GoL Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- Liberian Civil Service Commission,
- Liberian Independent Human Rights Commission,
- The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP),
- Civil Society from Liberia,
- Office of the President of the General Assembly,
- UNMIL,
- Bilateral partners,
- UN Resident Coordinators Office,
- UN Peacebuilding Commission,
- UN Peacebuilding Fund,
- World Bank, including its Statebuilding and Peacebuilding Fund,
- EU External Action Service
- Other relevant EU entities including the EU Instrument for Stability,
- African Union,
- ECOWAS,
- African Development Bank,
- g7+ Secretariat,
- NUPI,
- DIIS,
- Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation,
- ACCORD,
- Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Centre,
- Other think tanks and academia,
- UN Brussels liaison office