



UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development



Dialogue in the Social Integration Process: Participation by, for and with PEOPLE

UN-DESA is addressing the issue of social integration, informed by the language and intent of the World Summit for Social Development. An approach of dialogue in the process of social integration (D-SIP) is being developed through action research and participatory dialogue with UN entities and civil society practitioners.

Rationale and Objective

The **World Summit for Social Development** was held in 1995 to forge agreement on social challenges and responses to them. It chose social integration as one of three compelling themes, together with poverty eradication and employment creation. The **Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action** forged a distinct connection between social integration and peace. This connection was reinforced five years later by the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly that resolved to strengthen the effectiveness of organizations and mechanisms working for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts, and to increase the capability of relevant United Nations bodies to promote social integration in post conflict situations.

The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) is exploring social dimensions of peacebuilding. One contribution to that effort is ***Dialogue in the Social Integration Process: participation by, for and with People (D-SIP)*** - a model of social integration designed to support continuing strengthening of peaceful social relations.

What is D-SIP Framework?

Dialogue in the Social Integration Process: Participation by, for and with People (D-SIP) is a process of social integration based on reflective and participatory dialogue to achieve collective and locally owned decision-making among stakeholders. It aims to facilitate cultivation and analysis of peaceful social relations by guiding stakeholders towards mutual accommodations based on rights and responsibilities. D-SIP is not a ready-made package tool, but an open-ended framework with many points of entry, by which stakeholders deconstruct and reconstruct their own unique D-SIP framework tailored to their particular situations. In this way, D-SIP envisions to empower stakeholders to build knowledge, capacity and social institutions to form, expand and strengthen peaceful social relations, and to negotiate ways to create practical, effective means to promote peace.

In D-SIP, social relations form the unit of analysis and action. Relationships between and within groups and individuals are seen as the fundamental building blocks of a functioning society.

Three formative stages of social relations are addressed in D-SIP as follows:

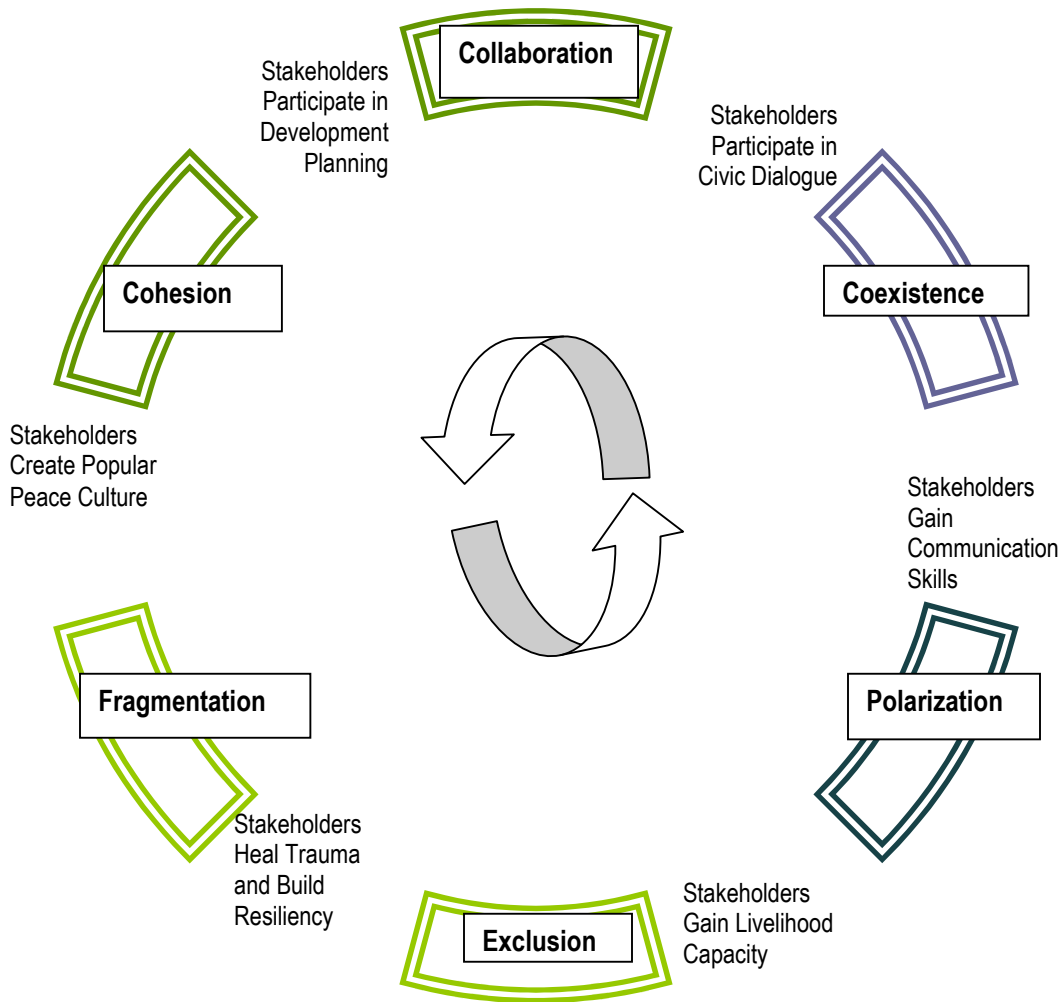
- **Fragmentation** - arises in situations of abuse, armed conflict, and social breakdown i.e. *social relations disintegrate (most profoundly at the psychological level)*;
- **Exclusion** - arises in contexts of neglect or oppression, i.e. *social relations are asymmetric (excluded people lack livelihood)*;
- **Polarization** - arises when groups mobilize based on differences, i.e. *social relations are hostile (religious/ethnic identities may be at stake)*;

Three expansive stages of social relations are included as follows:

- **Coexistence** - arises with tolerance of difference i.e. *social relations revolve on civic dialogue*;
- **Collaboration** - arises with a widening sense of socio-economic justice i.e. *social relations lead to participatory development planning, and*
- **Cohesion** - arises with peace-culture i.e. *social relations support discovery/creation of shared meaning and values.*

Through an analysis of elements of social relations, various stakeholders can visualize the dynamics of peace and conflict in a give situation. They can identify where they are now, and where they wish to be.

**Dialogue in the Social Integration Process:
PARTICIPATION *by, for and with* PEOPLE**



When stakeholders successfully transform social relations **WITHIN** in any stages, they open opportunities to transform **BETWEEN** the stages.

Application

In D-SIP, social transformation revolves on stakeholders using one or more forms of dialogue to come together to identify need and intention. *Dialogue forms* – participatory and reflective – include such procedures as *crisis counseling, action research, mediation, civic dialogue, scenario-building and peace journalism* among many others.

Depending on the need and intention, various activities in dialogue forms can be practiced. For example:

- ❑ Heal *fragmented* relations in crisis situations through **crisis counseling**;
- ❑ Mend *excluded* relations in wealth and power asymmetries by **action research**;
- ❑ Reconcile *polarized* relations in protracted conflict by **mediation and reconciliation**;
- ❑ Strengthen *coexisting* relations with tolerance for diversity by **civic dialogue**;
- ❑ Expand *collaborative* relations in socio-economic planning through **town hall meetings**;
- ❑ Create *cohesive* relations in peace culture by dramatic narrative and journalism.

The D-SIP model is designed to ensure that social transformation is explored in three domains – namely, psycho-cultural, socio-economic and socio-political:

<i>Domains:</i>	<i>Psycho-cultural</i>	<i>Socio-economic</i>	<i>Socio-political</i>
Stages of social relations	Fragmentation ↓ Cohesion	Exclusion ↓ Collaboration	Polarization ↓ Coexistence

For further information

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The complete text on *Dialogue in the Social Integration Process: Participation by, for and with People (D-SIP)* is available at:

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