

Agenda

Business and the United Nations Peace and Security Agenda

Consultation for the High-level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace and Security

Organized by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
in collaboration with the World Economic Forum

Monday, 4 April 2016, 10.00-15.00

Maison de la Paix (Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2), Room S9.

Rationale

The private sector has a role to play in the peace and security agenda of the United Nations. Yet many modalities for a more proactive role remain undefined both on the side of business and of the United Nations. The rationale for a proactive role for business seems clear: Rising geopolitical tensions and increasingly chronic instability in many established and emerging markets increase the stakes in the business community that the United Nations lives up to its purpose to maintain international peace and security. At the same time, there can be much potential to leverage the political power of business to diffuse tension and prevent conflict. While this rationale takes many diplomats and business people outside their comfort zone, rising conflict risk and challenged conflict resolutions and prevention mechanisms underline the urgency to forge new partnerships that can proactively prevent conflict. Such partnership can build on two decades of collaboration on normative and funding issues and focuses on practical solutions to enhance peace and security in an era that desperately needs them.

Background

This consultation is part of the preparatory process of a High-level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly focused on UN, Peace and Security that will take place in New York on 10-11 May 2016. The Debate will provide a platform to reflect on concrete ways to draw out synergies from the most recent UN peace and security reviews that have focused on peace operations, peacebuilding, and women, peace and security. The High-Level Debate is also an opportunity to guide the next Secretary-General in this and other equally vital tasks. For more information about the High-level Thematic Debate see: <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/hltd-peace-and-security/>

Participation from private sector representatives in the Geneva consultation is an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the current state of preparations and modalities of attendance of the High-level Thematic Debate.

Programme

10.00 *Welcome and introduction*

Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

Anja Kasperson, Head of International Security, World Economic Forum, Geneva

Tomas Anker, Ambassador, Chef de Cabinet, Office of the President of the General Assembly, New York

10.15 *Session 1*

What could be the role of business to address the key strengths and weaknesses of the UN's collective security architecture?

What are the risks and opportunities of partnering with business in the UN's peace and security agenda?

Kick-off presenters

Anja Kasperson, Head of International Security, World Economic Forum, Geneva

Achim Wennmann, Senior Researcher, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

11.15 *Session 2*

What are potential channels for a more proactive role of business in the UN's peace and security agenda?

What may such an agenda require from business? And what from the United Nations?

Kick-off presenters

David Jensen, Head of Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding, United Nations Environment Programme, Geneva

Gerald Pachoud, Managing Director, Pluto & Associates, Geneva

12.15 *Light networking lunch* offered by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

13.00 *Session 3*

What are the entry points to shape a new partnership with business on the UN's peace and security agenda?

Can exchanges on 'a new prevention agenda', 'conflict analysis', 'conflict-sensitive business', 'do-no-harm', or 'non-securitized risk management' foster such new partnership?

Kick-off presenter

Claude Voillat, Economic Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva

14.30 *Wrap-up and outlook to High-Level Thematic Debate*

15.00 *End and networking time*

List of Participants

1. Tomas Anker, Ambassador, Chef de Cabinet, Office of the President of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York
2. Julie Barretta, Programme Specialist, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Bern
3. Eric Biesel, Consultant; Former Director, Member of the Executive Committee, Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services, Geneva
4. Alan Bryden, Assistant Director and Head of the Public-Private Partnerships Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Geneva
5. Caty Clément, Senior Programme Advisor and Senior Fellow, Leadership, Crisis and Conflict Management Programme; Course Co-Director, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
6. Sherine El Taraboulsi, Research Fellow from the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
7. Madeleine Evans, Events and Communications Manager, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Geneva
8. Romy Faulkner, Attachée, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva
9. Rémy Friedmann, Desk Human Security and Business, Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Bern
10. Catrin Fröhlich, Programme Manager, Business, PeaceNexus Foundation, Prangins
11. Andreas Graf, Program Officer, Business & Peace, Swisspeace, Bern
12. Diane Hendrick, Representative for Peace and Disarmament, QUNO, Geneva
13. David Jensen, Head of Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding, United Nations Environment Programme, Geneva
14. Anja Kaspersen, Head of International Security, World Economic Forum, Geneva
15. Jan Klawitter, Government Relations, Anglo American, London
16. Gerald Pachoud, Managing Director, Pluto & Associates, Geneva; Former Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary General Peacebuilding Support Office, United Nations, New York
17. Hannah Peters, Program Officer, Human Rights and Development, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Geneva
18. Chris Rotas, Head of Donor Relations & Fundraising, Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva
19. James Sinclair, Consultant, FSI Worldwide, Dubai
20. Vincent Subilia, Deputy Director, Head of International Affairs, Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Geneva
21. Filippo Veglio, Managing Director, Global & Social Impact, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Geneva
22. Claude Voillat, Economic Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva
23. Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform; Senior Researcher, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva