

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, 10.00-16.00, Maison de la Paix (Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2), Room S8.

Attendance by invitation only

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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.

Guiding questions

- 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?
- What are potential modalities 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?
- 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?

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

A detailed programme will be send to confirmed participants prior to the event.