

## **Consultations in Latin America: High Level Thematic Debate on International Peace and Security**

Brasília, 25 February 2015 (10am-4pm)  
Igarapé Institute, NUPI, Pandiá Calógeras Institute and IISS

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **Setting the agenda on peace and security**

The global peace and security environment is volatile and uncertain. New emerging threats are complex and interconnected. The frequency and intensity of armed conflicts is climbing after decades of decline. Organized crime and trafficking are undermining stability. Hard-won peace dividends in post-war settings are being rolled back. These concerns are not restricted to one part of the world, but are genuinely international in scope. It is critical for UN member states to evaluate the overall peace and security environment and priorities for the coming years.

The Igarapé Institute is co-hosting an informal consultation with NUPI (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs), Pandiá Calógeras Institute and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) to review key priorities on international peace and security from Latin America. The President of the 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Monges Lykketoft, is extremely interested in following our discussion. The one-day session will focus on recent high level reviews of peace operations; peacebuilding; and women, peace and security. The objective is to identify synergies among these agendas and provide concrete and integrated recommendations for consideration at the UNGA High Level Debate on UN, Peace and Security (10-11 May). For more on the UNGA Debate, consult: [www.un.org/pga/70/hltd-peace-and-security/](http://www.un.org/pga/70/hltd-peace-and-security/).

A priority of the President for the 70th Session of the UNGA is to identify ways to strengthen the United Nations architecture of peace and security by emphasizing political solutions, preventive approaches and empowering women and youth. The UNGA will build on the results of the High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (and the UN Secretary-General report), the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, and the Global Study on Security Council Resolution 1325.

Governments and civil societies across Latin America were actively involved in regional consultations on all key issues relating to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and women, peace and security. Thus, there are significant opportunities for Latin America to expand its engagement in international peace and security. This is important given the comparatively weak representation and inclusion of rising and emerging powers in the decision-making structures of the UN.

Priorities in the region include expanding regional efforts to ensure peace and stability in its own neighborhood, as well as promoting south-south cooperation related to peacebuilding. Latin American institutions are increasingly involved in providing troop and civilian support and training to UN-mandated peace missions. Three countries have already launched National Action Plans on Res.1325 and others (such as Brazil) are following the suit. Taken together, these efforts highlight how the region has built its own approach and is assuming its responsibilities to achieve global peace and security.