



Draft Concept Note
CREATING SPACE FOR PEACE:

**DDR High-level Roundtable: tenth anniversary of the Integrated DDR Standards
and the experience in Côte d'Ivoire**

19 June, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Although the United Nations has been mandated to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) since 1990, standardized guidance on DDR did not emerge until 2006, with the publication of the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS). Providing foundational principles and guidelines for the implementation of DDR worldwide, the IDDRS emphasize the “people centred”, “flexible, accountable and transparent”, “integrated”, “well planned” and “nationally owned” approaches for United Nations DDR programmes. The nature of armed conflict and non-state armed groups has changed considerably, resulting in equally significant evolution in the practice of DDR, especially in the area of Community Violence Reduction (CVR). Thus, the Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR is planning a revision of the IDDRS to ensure its relevance in the design and implementation of contemporary and future DDR programmes.

While maintaining its core purpose, the evolution of DDR has been shaped by practitioners on the ground, not just from the United Nations but also from individual conflict-affected nations who have adopted the IDDRS principles and approaches as a path to peace. A recent example is Côte d'Ivoire, where the Government led the DDR programme from 2012 to 2015. This large-scale demobilization effort involved more than 70,000 combatants and clearly demonstrated the country's commitment to stabilization and recovery. The Ivorian case illustrates national ownership and leadership, as well as collaboration with the United Nations. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire, together with support from UNOCI, adapted the IDDRS principles and developed a number of innovations; in particular, the introduction of the “resocialization” concept put a deliberate focus on the psychological and social well-being of former combatants. Peace operations, including in Côte d'Ivoire, and countries, such as the Central African Republic and Mali, took a step forward in shifting DDR programming from an “individual centred” to a “community centred” approach.

Purpose: This event aims to mark the tenth anniversary of the IDDRS, taking stock of the achievements, gaps and challenges in implementing the IDDRS. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on the Ivorian experience. Discussions will also underscore the innovative approaches developed by DDR practitioners, including those in Mali, to adapt practices to the evolving and challenging contexts in which DDR programmes are being mandated. In addition, emphasis will be put on the current challenges in implementing the reintegration phase of the of DDR, in particular the mobilization of voluntary funding in support to the economic reintegration of ex-combatants well as the often neglected social, psychosocial and political dimensions of reintegration.

Hosts: The Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations and the DDR Section of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Programme and format: The event is composed of two sessions. The first will consist of a high-level panel discussion reflecting on the genesis and future of the IDDRS. This discussion will be followed by a presentation of the DDR programme in Côte d'Ivoire, including the resocialization concept. In addition, the President of the National DDR Commission in Mali will explain how the IDDRS principles are being adjusted in the planning of the DDR process in his country, while United Nations representatives from Mine Action, UNDP and SSR will give an overview of their contributions to DDR in various peace operations. The discussion will also inform the envisaged IDDRS revision and the development of new guidance under the IAWG on DDR, which is co-chaired by DPKO and UNDP.

Venue: Conference room 3, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Participants: High level UN representatives from entities across the UN System who are involved in assisting conflict affected counties, high level Member State representation, NGOs and academics working in the conflict management field.