

## **Fragility Forum 2020- Session Proposal**

Session Proposal Form

Washington, DC | March 2-4, 2020 Deadline: November 29, 2019 - 11:59 PM EDT Important Note on Visas and Logistical Support: The WBG will not cover event-related expenses, travel or accommodation and will not provide visa letters to come to the United States. Logistical arrangements are the sole responsibility of the proposal submitters. Reminder: Sessions will be assessed for value-addition and relevance; partnerships across humanitarian, development and peace sectors; innovation; as well as the diversity of perspectives and points of view presented, and of course format.

### **Session Title: (10 words max)**

Local and National Capacities for Peace (LNCP)- A Pan African Network

### **Sub-theme:**

Integrated approaches across humanitarian, development and Peace sectors

### **Region/Country(ies) of Focus: (drop down menu)**

Africa

### **Session Description: (300 words max)**

Africa is currently experiencing exponential population, rapid urbanisation into unplanned cities, and climate change which is driving millions people into urban areas in search of livelihoods and services that are increasingly scarce or absent. Therefore, our prognosis indicates that competition over scarce resources, coupled with political competition, and exploitation of identity (ethnic, racial, religious etc.) will result in urban social unrest which, if left unresolved, will deteriorate into civil wars threatening national and regional peace and security – the consequences of which will be devastating to the ongoing efforts to integrate and institutionalise peacebuilding into government policies and development initiatives particularly in post-conflict countries.

It is therefore critical to effectively prevent the escalation of disputes deteriorating into violent conflict than to deal with the aftermath. Intervening at the local and national levels to ensure that conflicts are managed through dialogue and mediation by local and national actors will be necessary.

With an increasing shift within the UN to a 'whole-of-system' approach, the focus of peacebuilding will move beyond a 'technical narrow focus on project-based activities in post conflict situations and move towards an approach that recognises that peace applies to all phases – prior to outbreak, during the conflict, and after it has abated.' Therefore, strengthening local and national capacities for conflict prevention and peacebuilding is timely as it recognises 'the importance of inclusivity and a people-centred approach'; the centrality of national and inclusive ownership'; and the need for strategic partnerships that bring together actors 'from across governments, the UN System, regional

organisations, civil society, private sector, and international financial institutions, to ensure their work is coordinated, complimentary and mutually reinforcing.’<sup>1</sup>

ACCORD has built a network of partners over its 27 year history of working across Africa. We are currently consolidating this into a network of local and national capacities in conflict management. We will share our current understanding of the conflict environment in Africa, our prognosis of the immediate future and our model and experiences with the participants.

**What outcomes do you expect from this session: (300 words max)**

- \*Reflections on our model;
- \*Learnings from other regions of the world;
- \*Networking opportunities to strengthen the network;

**Please explain how your proposal can influence practitioners and policy makers at an operational level: (300 words max)**

The network, through ACCORD’s continuous support will work on resolving and managing conflict through several activities that will directly influence practitioners and policy makers. These include;

- Building confidence and assisting to develop on strategies to sustain dialogue
- Tracking, assessment, and analyses of conflict through publications
- Identification and mapping out of stakeholders
- Provision of conflict resolution services, such as, facilitation, negotiation, mediation and consensus building
- Support and training in facilitation, research and policy development
- Opportunities to have their articles published in ACCORD’s established publications library; which include publications such as Conflict Trend.
- As well as opportunities to discuss current topics in their respective countries to be presented on the ACCORD website/platform.

**Have you presented on this topic elsewhere: (Yes/No option)?**

Yes

**If yes explain where, when and to whom: (50 words max)**

Our analysis and our short term prognosis was shared over the last three years in many multi-lateral fora, including the UN, AU, RECs, EU, and individual governments in Africa and Europe. It was also shared with several multi-lateral institutions, think tanks, NGOs and CBOs across Africa and globally.

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<sup>1</sup> The High-Level Dialogue on ‘Building sustainable peace for all: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace (UNGA 2017, cited in ODI Report, ‘The capacities of UN agencies, funds and programmes to sustain peace: An Independent Review, August 2017)

**Session Format:**

**I suggest one of the first 3 and more inclined towards the first one.**

- Debate/Presentation/Panel followed by Q&A sessions (max 90 min): Presentations include one to three experts offering deep dives into targeted topics, sharing different perspectives and opinions, making for a lively conversation. Presentations can be based on work in progress, research findings or experimental work. Only a limited number of presentations will be accepted, in order to foster greater engagement among participants. Alternative formats are encouraged
- Round table (max 90 min): interactive format allowing for an extended discussion among a cohort of colleagues, giving and receiving targeted feedback, engaging in in-depth discussions and meeting colleagues with similar interests. for the hands-on exploration of case studies.
- Solution Lab (max 90 min): Hands-on, action-oriented sessions intended to engage participants in thoughtful discussions, provide opportunities for feedback or advice, and incubate new projects and ideas. Sessions could take the form of a workshop, a brainstorming discussion, a how-to session on a specific topic.
- Fishbowls (max 60 min): Moderated session during which 5 or 6 people sit inside a circle and converse. Other participants watch the “fishbowl” and can join the conversation if the session is “open”.
- Training (max 120 min): Session during which participants focus on learning a new technical skill or tool.
- Workshop (max 90 min): Guided by a facilitator, attendees use their experience and expertise to solve a problem or generate best practices.
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**Proposed Speakers and (if relevant) moderator: (Include names and organizations):**

**Speakers:**

Mr.Vasu Gounden, ACCORD (And Moderator)

Dr. Aleu Garang, Director of Mediation Support Unit, IGAD

Mr. Oscar Fernandez Taranco, ASG Peacebuilding Support, UN

Ms.Yvette Ngandu, Senior Officer: Early Warning and Conflict Prevention (APRM)

Ambassador Baudouin Hamuli Kabarhuza, Director of Political Affairs and Early Warning Mechanism,ECCAS.