

INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY FIFTH CORE GROUP MEETING

MEETING REPORT

November 14, 2008

SUMMARY

Upon invitation of Core Group members Gidon Bromberg (Israel) and Mahmoud Labadi (Palestine), the group held their fifth meeting in Jerusalem and Ramallah on 9-11 November 2008.

Task Force members discussed their program of work for 2009-2010. Agreement was reached on the convening of a first Global Summit on Conflict and Security on 10 October 2010 (10.10.10), with the goal to reframe traditional security and development thinking to include conflict prevention, and on – in advance of the first Global Summit - a preparatory convening of key stakeholders in October 2009. It was further agreed that the establishment of the International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security to oversee progress towards early and effective conflict prevention will be one of the key outputs of the Global Summit. Agreement was also reached on next Task Force meeting dates and venues.

Task Force members had the opportunity to see and hear about the efforts of Israeli and Palestinian civil society organizations on the ground trying to foster peaceful relations through various community projects and other cooperative mechanisms. The Core Group held discussions with representatives of the Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum, had the opportunity to visit Wadi Fukin, a Palestinian village participating in the Friends of the Middle East's "Good Water Neighbour's Project", and took part in a study tour of the new settlements in Jerusalem.

Task Force members also met with Palestinian leaders, including members of the Palestinian Foreign Relations Commission at an event hosted by Foreign Relations Commissioner Mr. Abdallah Frangi, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and former Prime Minister and current chief Palestinian negotiator with the Israeli side, Mr. Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala).

OUTCOMES AND ACTION ITEMS

Global Summit and International Panel

- It was agreed that the first Global Summit will take place from 10-12 October, 2010 with the goal to reframe traditional security and development thinking to include conflict prevention. It was agreed that the Task Force's two current donor governments, Germany and Switzerland, should have the first refusal to host and/or sponsor the first Global Summit.

- It was agreed that like-minded governments should be attracted as key stakeholders in the Global Summit process, which will result in the International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security. The Panel initiative is already (morally) supported by various foreign ministries, and the secretariat will explore the possibility of partnering with governments in sponsoring the Global Summit.
- It was agreed that the Panel's establishment should be mandated by the first Global Summit. This will provide the Panel with legitimacy through a broad international endorsement of its role.
- At the same time, the endorsement of the Global Summit's initiative to reframe traditional security and development thinking to include conflict prevention by a number of eminent persons, including the Task Force High-Level Advisory Board who will form the nucleus of this group, in advance of the first Global Summit will lend to it political weight and media attention. Those names that have been identified as potential Panelists at previous Task Force meetings should be sent invitations to become key participants and supporters of the Global Summit. A preparatory meeting for this group and other key stakeholders will take place in October 2009, so that they can be part of the Global Summit's agenda-setting process. South Africa and El Salvador are under consideration as potential venue locations for this preparatory meeting. The secretariat will compare the costs of different venues, taking into account accommodation and travel prices.
- Task Force Core Group meetings in 2009 will also serve as part of a regional advocacy and consultative process leading towards the Global Summit and Panel. The possibility and necessity of holding additional regional consultation meetings in 2009 and early 2010 will be discussed at the core Core Group meeting in January 2009.
- It was agreed that following a review of the funding situation in mid-January 2009, Task Force core Core Group members will discuss sending invitations to potential Panel members.
- It was suggested that Task Force members consider adopting a catchier name for the Global Summit process. "Smart Power Initiative: Preventing Violent Conflict (in the 21st Century)" was suggested. However, it was not agreed if this title would refer to the process leading to the Global Summit, and/or the Global Summit itself, and/or the Panel.

Research

The paper "Smart Power: Saving Money, Saving lives" will take account of input from Task Force members, and will be published in January 2009.

Fundraising

The Task Force secretariat will have a clearer picture of its 2009-2010 funding situation by early December, when grant applications to the governments of Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium should be decided upon. The Task Force core Core Group will meet in Brussels in mid-January 2009 to discuss the Task Force's program of action based on the outcomes of these applications.

In the interim, the Task Force will also pursue funding opportunities with other possible donors, including the European Commission and the government of Qatar.

Next Steps for Task Force Members

- Review the list of potential Panelists to invite to lend their support for convening the Global Summit and endorse the initiative. Please forward any objections and additional suggestions to the current list to the secretariat no later than **Friday, November 28th, 2008**.
- Provide feedback on the suggestion of the use of “Smart Power Initiative: Preventing Violent Conflict (in the 21st Century)”, and whether it is an apt title for all or any of the processes surrounding the Global Summit, Panel, and Task Force work towards them. Task Force members’ feedback will be reviewed at the core Core Group meeting in Brussels in January 2009. Kindly submit comment to the secretariat no later than **Friday, November 28th, 2008**.
- Actively look for funding possibilities for the Task Force. Please forward opportunities and suggestions to the secretariat.

Next Meeting Dates

1. A core Core Group meeting will be held in Brussels in mid-January 2009 (dates to be coordinated among core Core Group members).
2. In Jerusalem, it was proposed to hold the next Task Force Core Group meeting in Oxford, United Kingdom, 23-24 April 2009 (arrivals on the 22 April 2009). However, due to the unavailability of the proposed venue in Oxford on the agreed dates, the Secretariat proposes holding the meeting on 23-24 April 2009 in Brussels.
3. The first preparatory meeting for the Global Summit will be held in mid-October 2009 (exact dates to be discussed at the core Core Group meeting in January 2009). This meeting will convene Task Force Core Group and High-Level Advisory Board members, along with potential Panelists and key stakeholders, including government representatives, to agree on the substance of the Global Summit based on background work that the Task Force will undertake over the coming months. The venue will be decided at the core Core Group meeting in January 2009.