**KEY TERMS: peacebuilding and related approaches**

**Capacity Building:** seeks to develop and reinforce human, institutional, or community performance, skills, knowledge, and attitudes on a sustainable basis. It is both an approach and a set of activities linked to nationally driven reform processes that involve internal and external actors. Oriented to building a network of partners at various levels of society with a shared vision and commitment to change, Capacity Building is a highly participatory and long-term process, especially in transitional contexts (e.g., moving from post-conflict reconstruction to development). It is related to empowerment and local ownership. There are five different types of capacity-building activities: 1) funding; 2) formal training in and development of professional capacities (technical skills and know-how; managerial, financial, fundraising and administrative skills; monitoring and evaluation); 3) technical support (advisory services and specialised expertise); 4) support for establishing national and regional platforms and consortiums; and 5) support for the inclusion of civil society in international forums and exchanges.

**Civil Society:** a diverse range of interest groups that stand between the private sphere and the public sphere of state and government. A pluralistic civil society representing a variety of interests is seen to guarantee a culture of tolerance and compromise, mitigate political conflict and contribute to political consensus. Civil society is important to counter-balance the state, control and monitor the activities of government and prevent abuses of power by state institutions. A precondition for this is that members of a society understand themselves as citizens who take responsibility, engage and develop activity in local communities, associations and/or the public sphere. Volunteerism is considered a defining feature of civil society organisations, which can also be referred to as non-governmental organisations (NGOs, including international NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), non-profit organisations or charitable organisations.

Examples of civil society organisations (CSOs) include: trade unions, business associations (e.g., chambers of commerce or professional associations), religious-based organisations, women’s groups, sports clubs, student organisations, activist organisations, policy groups, political parties, academia, cooperatives, consumer organisations, rights and advocacy groups, support groups and so on.

**Civilian Conflict Management:** a collective term for non-military measures seeking to contain and/or transform conflict systems over the short, medium and long term.

**Conflict Management:** Activities designed to limit, mitigate and contain open conflict. Specifically refers to actions aiming to control and handle a conflict in order to limit its negative effects and bring it to an end and to prevent the vertical (i.e. intensification of violence) or horizontal (territorial spread) escalation of existing violent conflict. Refers to actions on all levels and tracks (see below). Includes both military and non-military undertakings. One component is crisis management, which is active from the beginning of high tension to the cessation of violent conflict and crisis situations.

**Conflict Prevention (or Crisis Prevention):** activities undertaken in particularly vulnerable places and at especially unstable times aiming to identify situations that could produce violent conflict, reduce overt tensions, prevent existing tensions from escalating into violence and remove sources of danger before violence results. It may include confidence-building and security-building measures, early warning and/or preventive peacekeeping. Mainly refers to short-to-medium term activities occurring before the outbreak of open violent conflict.

**Conflict Resolution:** process-related activities dealing with, and aiming to overcome, the deep-rooted causes of conflict, including the structural, behavioural or attitudinal aspects of a conflict. Generally short-to-medium term in duration, such processes focus more on relationships between the conflict parties or key stakeholders, than on the content of a specific outcome.

**Conflict Settlement:** the achievement of an agreement between the conflict parties on a political level which enables them to end an armed conflict but which does not necessarily fundamentally alter the underlying causes of the conflict. It is usually content-oriented and restricted to the Track 1 level.

**Conflict Transformation:** a generic, comprehensive term referring to actions and processes seeking to alter the various characteristics and manifestations of violent conflict by addressing the root causes of a particular conflict over the long term. It aims to transform negative destructive conflict into positive constructive conflict and deals with structural, behavioural and attitudinal aspects of conflict. The term refers to both the process and the completion of the process. As such, it incorporates the activities of processes such as conflict prevention and conflict resolution and goes farther than conflict settlement or conflict management.

**Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR):** a technical, but highly political process that entails removing the physical means of violent conflict from former belligerents (disarmament: collection and disposal of weapons and ammunition, etc.), disbanding armed groups (demobilization) and reintegrating former combatants into civil society and/or the state security forces. Reintegration also requires attention to livelihoods and education. DDR aims to ensure that a resurgence or renewal of armed conflict will not occur. The success of a DDR process depends on a minimum of three factors: 1) the violent conflict is over or nearly over, and a significant deterrent force is in place (e.g., UN peacekeepers); 2) all ex-combatants are included in and cooperating with the process, as well as building trust among one another; and 3) sufficient funding.

**Inside Mediators:** situated within a conflict, these are trusted individuals (NGO leaders, traditional or religious authorities, former politicians, respected academics, community leaders, opinion makers and/or social activists) who play the role of third-party interveners or mediators. In particular, they serve as intermediaries, helping to exchange information and messages or testing the ground for (in)formal talks. Insider mediators are characterised by their in-depth knowledge of the conflict situation, cultural sensitivity and close relationships to the parties and, in some cases, their normative authority. Typically unofficial, the quality of their mediation is crucial: not only may it open doors for formal mediation, but it can also complement official negotiation processes.

**Key Stakeholders:** two or more groups of actors engaged in a violent conflict that claim the representative support of substantial social or political constituencies, from which they derive the legitimacy for using force. Such groups frequently have varying degrees of internal coherence and/or fragmentation. Also known as conflict parties or conflicting parties.

**Locally led peacebuilding:** based on the understanding that local people and organisations know best how to deal with their conflicts. Locally led peacebuilding is designed to enable, facilitate and empower local people to devise programmes of action that work towards two primary goals: 1) stopping violence and destructive conflict; and 2) building just and sustainable peace. Putting the needs, interests and knowledge of local people first, locally led peacebuilding is in stark contrast to prevailing approaches, which are guided and defined by external views of what is needed in a local context.

**Mediation (or Third-Party Mediation):** a political process in which conflict parties (or key stakeholders) in intrastate or ethnopolitical conflicts agree to accept one or more third-party actors who are not involved in the conflict (wholly impartial to it), enjoy the trust of the disputants and are considered potentially supportive in overcoming deadlocks triggered by a stalemate in the conflict. Mediation may be official or unofficial, but the boundary lines between them tend to be blurred. In general, mediation has a structure, timetable and dynamics that negotiation often lacks. The process is private, confidential and voluntary. It employs various techniques to open or improve dialogue between conflict parties in order to help them reach concrete agreements about disputed matters.

**Negotiation:** official political process in which conflict parties intend to reach a cease-fire or peace agreement. Aimed at compromise, at the same time each party involved in the negotiation also tries to gain advantage for their own interests by the end of the process.

**Peacebuilding:** a broad, generic term to cover all medium to long-term activities intended to encourage and promote peaceful relations and overcome violence. A long-term process seeking to positively alter structural contradictions, root causes of violence, improve relations between conflict parties and facilitate overall constructive changes in attitudes. It also may refer to activities that create framework conditions suitable for peaceful and equitable development; e.g. economic development, social justice, reconciliation, empowerment of disadvantaged/strategic groups and humanitarian support. It applies to all stages and levels of conflict, but mainly operates at Tracks 2 and 3 levels.

**Peacekeeping:** the activities of a third-party military force to separate the armed forces (both state and non-state) of conflicting parties and reduce violence, normally at the request of these parties as part of a cease-fire agreement. Often called ‘Blue Berets’, peacekeepers generally work under UN authority and operational control, but remain members of their own military or police forces. Peacekeeping is now also associated with civilian tasks, such as monitoring, observing, policing and supporting humanitarian intervention. It may involve restoring the status quo, even if this preserves the underlying factors that create conflict and structural violence. Peacekeeping can be used both before the outbreak of open conflict as a means of conflict prevention or after violence has ceased.

**Peacemaking:** track 1 intervention consisting mainly of negotiation and mediation after the outbreak of open violent conflict. Such efforts aim to move towards an official agreement to end violence. It is a process that usually strives for a political settlement with legitimate or de facto leaders. It is normally result-oriented, but also may seek to change the attitudes of the main protagonists.

**Peace Consolidation:** refers to post-conflict civilian and military efforts, by both external and internal actors, intended to prevent the recurrence of conflict and create conditions for durable peace and sustainable development. It is therefore similar, though not completely synonymous, with post-conflict peacebuilding. A relatively new term.

**Problem-solving Workshop:** informal, confidential dialogue workshops between conflict parties that seek to find a solution to the problem while taking account of the conflict parties’ basic needs for security, identity and participation. These workshops are usually held over a period of several days, and take place on a regular basis over a number of years. Facilitated by skilled practitioners, they are attended by mid-level opinion leaders and decision makers from both sides of a conflict. The aim is to teach the parties about conflict dynamics in general and their conflict in particular, to forge understanding between the parties, enable more complex thinking about the conflict, improve attitudes toward the other side, and, if possible, to develop joint projects that will contribute to reconciliation.

**Reconciliation:** processes and activities designed to re-establish normalised and peaceful relations between former conflict parties.

**Security Sector Reform (SSR):** the process of reforming or rebuilding a state’s security sector; i.e., the military, police, intelligence service, judiciary and prison system. An essential element of good governance, SSR aims at the professional, effective and efficient provision of state and human security. In states experiencing violent conflict, or in post-conflict and transitional states, the security sector can be a source of widespread insecurity and therefore an obstacle to the promotion of sustainable development, democracy and peace.

**Track 1:** official, high-level negotiations between conflict parties. Generally implemented with the support of external state actors. Mainly seeks some form of conflict settlement or official peace agreement.

**Track 1.5:** informal dialogue and problem-solving formats with high ranking politicians and decision-makers. Involves Track 1 participants, but employs Track 2 approaches. Also aims to bridge the gap between official government peace efforts and civil society.

**Track 2:** unofficial dialogue and problem-solving activities taking place in parallel with the formal, government processes of communication and negotiation. Track 2 activities are designed to foster understanding between conflicting parties and encourage new thinking about future relationships after the conflict. Such activities can inform and contribute to thinking and initiatives at the formal level. They do not normally involve the top leadership of the parties in conflict as they are not able to enter into the kind of open discussion implied by Track 2 processes, but they often involve high-ranking, influential leaders and civil society actors who can interact more freely but, at the same time, have influence back in their own communities. It also refers to building cooperation and infrastructural connections between hostile parties so that they become more mutually dependent and cannot revert to war in the future.

**Track 3:** normally focused at the grassroots or local level, these are activities directed towards conflict transformation and peacebuilding; e.g. institution and capacity building, training and peace education. It encourages interaction and understanding between hostile or formerly hostile local communities and involves awareness-raising and empowerment within those communities. Development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, post-conflict rehabilitation, reconciliation and ‘dealing with the past’ can play an important role at Track 3 level.

**KEY PRINCIPLES**

**Do No Harm:** a principle for the planning, evaluation and adaptation of international aid and crisis/ conflict management. It is based on the understanding that external assistance or intervention always becomes part of the context and therefore has side effects—both positive and negative. Do No Harm seeks to identify ways in which outside assistance given in conflict situations can be provided so that, instead of making conflict worse, it helps local people disengage from violence and develop nonviolent approaches to settling conflicts within their societies. It indicates that peace and conflict related work should be shaped in ways that are sensitive to conflict, with specific attention to minimizing negative effects.

**Human Security:** protection from physical and/or psychological force (freedom from fear) and protection from hardship and deprivation (freedom from want). The concept of human security is distinct from more traditional notions of national security, which are based on military capacities. Human security focuses political attention on the well-being of citizens and individuals rather than the state. This is a people-centred view of security that is expanded by a development component, including reference to a diverse range of indicators and concerns; e.g., economic development, health care, education, livelihoods, and so on. Proponents of human security regard this broader notion of security as essential for local, national, regional and global stability.

**Local Ownership:** refers to both the objective and processes of the gradual takeover of responsibility by local actors, whether at the community, county or state level. As a prerequisite for sustaining peacebuilding (and development), it is a key ingredient in the exit strategy of a peacekeeping mission. It is also a key ingredient in a range of other peace and conflict-related activities. Local Ownership is a results-oriented, principled and normative concept demanding and valuing the involvement of local actors early on. It respects the right to self determination, as well as the capacities and potential of local actors. This is a key principle of locally led peacebuilding.

**Resolution 1325: Women, Peace and Security:** passed unanimously by the UN Security Council on October 31, 2000. Paragraph 1 of Resolution 1325 states that there must be: ‘increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict’. In particular, Resolution 1325 demands equal rights for women and their intensified participation in peacebuilding, conflict settlement and conflict resolution, including gender mainstreaming in all activities and phases of peacekeeping and peacemaking (negotiation) measures. It also calls for the prevention of gender-based violence and the protection of the rights and needs of women and girls during and after armed conflicts. Resolution 1325 is supported by additional Security Council resolutions: 1820, 1888 and 1889.

**Responsibility to Protect (R2P):** aiming to prevent the most serious violations of human rights, this UN initiative is anchored in the concluding document of the world summit held in 2005. According to R2P, every state is responsible for the protection of its population. If it is incapable or unwilling to do so, the international community (i.e., the UN Security Council and the General Assembly) should, where necessary, take measures to protect the civilian population through coercive actions. These include economic sanctions and, in the last resort, military intervention. R2P is based on the idea that sovereignty is not a privilege but a responsibility. States, regional organisations and international institutions, along with civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international NGOs all have a role to play in R2P process, although coercive sanctions may only be decided and implemented by the UN. The Responsibility to Protect focuses on preventing or stopping four specific crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing; i.e., crimes of mass atrocities.

(Compiled by Dr. Kate McGuinness)