



Concept Note

**High-Level Event: Virtual discussion on the Peace, Development and Security Nexus
Geneva Conference
Virtual format
Tuesday 24th November 2020, 07:30 – 08:45 (Geneva Time)**

Background

The relationship between Humanitarian activity, Development and Security, as part of Peace action, has been long acknowledged. In Afghanistan, where security has been separately funded, trained and mentored by International Military, there has been a tendency for security objectives to be delinked from humanitarian and development activity and outcomes. The commencement of Afghan Peace Negotiations and the final four years of the 'Decade of Transformation' demands that extra effort be made to better align security outcomes to contribute to humanitarian, development and peace-building activity. Moreover, security is dependent on significant external funding and must, increasingly, take its place in a balanced, affordable and sustainable funding architecture; humanitarian and development activity that serves to increase security through addressing cross-cutting human security priorities can assist in that process.

Objectives

The key objectives of this High-Level Meeting are to:

- Explore and stimulate discussion as to how the humanitarian activity, development and security relationship can be coordinated to deliver supporting outcomes for sustainable peace;
- Provide a basis for ongoing conversation and innovation following the Conference; and
- Inform 'One UN' opportunities, alignment and outcomes.

Venue and Format

Occurring ahead of main Conference on 24th November, this High-Level meeting will be 75 minutes in duration. The format will be fully virtual with all participants joining from various locations. The flexibility afforded by a virtual event allows participation for those who would have routinely struggled to attend in person. The event will focus on substantive discussion with no chair/co-chair involvement. Following on from a short welcome, UNAMA will hand over to the moderator who will introduce opening remarks from a senior GIRoA representative, which will then be followed by a scene-setting presentation prior to a moderated panel discussion. The moderator will then sum up and, reflecting on the conversation, ask for closing thoughts from a senior GIRoA representative. If time allows, there will then be a short question and answer session.

Participation. The panel will be designed to represent a variety of views on the humanitarian, development, peace and security dimensions. Potential keynote speakers, moderator, and panel members have been identified to be selected and confirmed:

- **Moderator:** Mr. Sergio Jaramillo Caro, former High Commissioner for Peace of Colombia and Senior Advisor at the European Institute of Peace.
- **Opening Remarks:** Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, National Security Adviser.
- **Scene setting presentation:** Highlights from a forthcoming Afghan Security Sector study sponsored by US Institute for Peace (USIP), presented by subject matter experts and co-authors, Ms. Annie Pforzheim, Mr. Jason Howk and Mr. Andrew Hyde.
- **Panel (to be confirmed):** Mr. Rein Paulsen, Head of the Coordination and Response Division, UN OCHA; Mr. Sayed Aqa, Vice President Islamic Development Bank; Mr. Mark Bowden, Senior Research Associate with the Humanitarian Policy Group and former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan; Prof. Azza Karam, Secretary General, Religions for Peace; Ambassador Sheherazade Hirji, Agha Khan Development Network; Dr. John Manza, NATO HQ, Assistant Secretary General Operations.
- **Closing Thoughts:** Mr. Sadat Mansoor Naderi, State Minister for Peace.

Attendance. Invitations will be extended to senior officials from GIRoA, regional countries, donors, NATO, World Bank, and the UN who may contribute to questions and answers but also, critically, conduct follow-up activity after the event.

Draft Programme: (75 minutes) * All GVA time.

- From 07:20: Participants join the virtual platform.
- 07:30-07:32: Welcome, and introductions (2 minutes).
- 07:32-07:34: Introductory comments by the moderator (2 minutes).
- 07:34-07:41: Opening remarks (7 minutes).
- 07:41-07:51: Scene setter presentation (10 minutes).
- 07:51-08:31: Panel discussion (40 minutes).
- 08:31-08:38: Closing thoughts (7 minutes).
- 08:38-08:45: Question and Answer (7 minutes).
- 08:45: Wrap up and close.
- (09:00: Main Conference opening address).

Platform. A link will be provided to all participants/attendees.

Key Messages

- **We have a unique opportunity.** This is the moment to genuinely recognize the critical link between development and security. There are many mutually supporting aspects of both areas.
- **Development is critical to improving security.** So many development areas directly contribute to the creation and maintenance of security, stability and prosperity; whether that is a vibrant economy enabled by improved trade and regional cooperation through to improved opportunities for education, inclusivity and employment and the delivery of cross-community programmes such as the disposal of Explosive Remnants of War.
- **Effective and visible development contributes to security.** Careful selection, expeditious investment (including Foreign Direct Investment and revitalizing the Private Sector) and tangible improvement in areas such as critical national infrastructure, border management, migration and broader efforts that address 'human security' provide a

framework for development that, delivered at pace, has the ability to change lives for the better at individual, community and group levels, transcending security concerns.

- **Security as an element of a national development strategy.** Looking beyond this pledging period, security can no longer be regarded as a discrete activity; it must be taken into account as an element of a balanced, sustainable and affordable cross-government funding architecture. It should not be anticipated that peace will deliver immediate economic dividends – there will be a ‘cost’ to deliver peace that must be supported by the International Community.