FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

PEACE, SECURITY AND CONFLICT PREVENTION IN THE POST-2015 FRAMEWORK

POSITION ON A GOAL ON PEACEFUL SOCIETIES IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

UNA-SA is calling for all civil society to advocate for the inclusion of a peace goal in the upcoming post-2015 agenda. We are further urging the government of South Africa to strongly support this in the conversations on post-2015 and to encourage partner governments to do the same.

We have known about the link between peace, security and development for years. It was former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's report in 2005, "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" which said:

"We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights."

War, violence and high levels of crime affect over 1.5 billion people around the world—it destroys communities; disrupts social cohesion; imposes economic burdens on countries that can ill afford them; extinguishes any hope of eliminating poverty; and unravels years, even decades, of social and economic progress in a brief span of time. By 2015, more than 50 percent of the total population in extreme poverty will reside in places affected by conflict and chronic violence.

It's in Africa that this problem is most pronounced. The majority of the 1.5 billion people living in fragile states across the world are in Africa, with one in four African countries presently suffering from the effects of armed conflict. The devastating impact of conflict on development has been demonstrated by the struggles that countries like the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone have experienced in realizing their development goals.

In South Africa, persistently high levels of crime and violence, including murder, crimes against women and children, gang violence, xenophobia and violent protest, have hampered development and human security. Crime has a devastating impact on all sectors of society but particularly the poorest communities, where access to services, education, health and entrepreneurship are all undermined by fear of violence.

There can be no development without the presence of peace, stability and security. In the same vein, poverty can be a precursor and breeding ground of instability. Often, insecurity and conflict have roots in social and economic deprivation and inequality.

Until recently, the link between peace, security and development has been largely neglected. It was wrongfully excluded from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While the MDGs helped to galvanize development efforts and guide global and national development priorities, only 3 of the 8 goals have been achieved prior to the final deadline of 2015. Progress has been uneven, within and across countries. Those in conflict or emerging from conflict significantly lag behind in more MDGs; only

20% of fragile and conflict-affected countries have met the poverty target, because the MDGs did not take into consideration the different development requirements in conflict-affected countries.

Now with the failure to achieve most MDGs in violence and conflict-affected countries, it is important we begin speaking of peace and security as a 4th pillar to development. We are happy to see the link has now been recognized in a number of UN reports on the post-2015 development agenda. The African continent has added its voice to this growing consensus through the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which recognised that peace and security is "essential for the achievement of the continent's development aspirations, particularly for countries affected by conflict and those emerging from conflict."

This notion has long been a feature of South Africa's foreign policy and approach to development. The White Paper on South Africa's Foreign Policy, "Building a better world: The diplomacy of Ubuntu", affirms that "peace, stability and security are essential preconditions for development." South Africa's foreign policy has consistently recognized that its national interests are intrinsically linked to Africa's stability, unity and prosperity, and has therefore been actively involved since 1994 in supporting peacebuilding on the continent. This has included major peacekeeping contributions in Africa; a strong focus on post-conflict reconstruction and development; mediation efforts by high-profile South African leaders; and taking a leading role in strengthening the conflict management capacity of regional institutions such as SADC and the AU.

Domestic policy has recognized this link since 1996, when the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) was identified as one of six pillars of the country's National Growth and Development Strategy, a far-sighted move that recognized the vital role safety plays in development.

The inclusion of peace, security and conflict prevention in the post-2015 development agenda is therefore clearly in keeping with South Africa's current development approach. As President Jacob Zuma remarked at the 68th UN General Assembly:

"Development and security are two sides of the same coin. The best way to ensure both is through good governance and the promotion of democratic values in all societies."

If we want to stop the cycle of war and insecurity as an obstacle for development, we need to learn from and incorporate the lessons of the MDGs in the new framework. If we do not, then by 2030, we will see the same, or even worse, results as the world's poorest are expected to be even more concentrated in countries affected by conflict and instability.

UNA-SA therefore supports the inclusion in the Zero Draft of Goal 16. *"Achieve Peaceful and Inclusive societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions".* We feel the movement to less measurable targets is not constructive and call for more realistic targets. We support targets that recognize the importance of the perception of the individual, to live a life free from fears and therefore, propose the inclusion of such a target on fear perceptions. Our recommended targets are as below:

Goal: Achieve Peaceful Societies, freedom from violence and good governance

Targets:

1. By 2030, reduce by X% the number of violent deaths per 100,000 and reduce the number of people from all social groups affected, by all forms of violence.

2. By 2030, significantly reduce international stresses that drive violence and conflict, including illicit trade in arms and conflict commodities, and the violent impact of drugs and human trafficking.

3. Reduce by X% the annual production of small arms and light weapons

4. By 2030, there is an increase in the capacity of sub-national and local governments fostering peaceful societies.

5. By 2030, there is an increase in the capacity and access to non-violent, peaceful, inclusive and constructive mechanisms to mediate and reconcile tensions, grievances and disputes within society.

6. By 2030, there is an increase by X% of people from all social groups feeling safer and having more confidence and trust in the security forces, the police, and other legitimate security provisions.

7. By 2020 increase the distribution of information and education on a culture of non-violence and peace by X.

8. By 2030, ensure an increase of legal empowerment and effective remedies to injustice in all social groups with access to, and trust in, effective, accountable and impartial justice provision.

9. Ensure, by 2030, that there is an increase amongst all social groups to enjoying legal identity, freedom of speech, expression and association, peaceful protest, civic engagement, and accessing to independent information.

10. Monitor and gradually reduce perceptions of fear by all social groups.

11. By 2030, there is an increase in access, participation, and representation in decision-making processes at all levels with particular attention to women and children, young people, the poor, the most marginalized and people in vulnerable situations.

12. Reduce by X% bribery and corruption and ensure that all those involved, at a local, national, regional, and international are held accountable.

13. By 2030, there is an increase to the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of public institutions at all levels, and ensure that both public and private institutions are responsive and accountable to citizens.