



Enabling People to Build Peace

Annual Report

2009 - 2010



of enabling people to build peace

A large group of people, mostly men, are seated on colorful plastic chairs (red, green, blue, and white) arranged in a semi-circle on a dirt ground. They are gathered under the shade of a massive, ancient-looking tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage. In the background, there are several small, simple buildings with thatched roofs, suggesting a rural village setting. The scene is bright and sunny, with dappled light filtering through the leaves of the tree.

INTERPEACE ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

Interpeace reinforces the capacities of societies to overcome deep divisions and address conflict in non-violent ways. Interpeace has been enabling societies around the world to build lasting peace for 15 years.

A photograph of three men in conversation. The man on the left is wearing a white thobe and a red and white checkered ghutra with a black and gold patterned band. The man in the center is wearing a grey button-down shirt and a white kumma. The man on the right is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt with white stripes on the sleeve and a camouflage baseball cap. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame.

INTERPEACE IS DEDICATED TO BUILDING LASTING PEACE

Through the power of partnerships and participation, the strength of informed dialogue and the art of listening, we focus on building trust and ensuring peace is locally-owned.



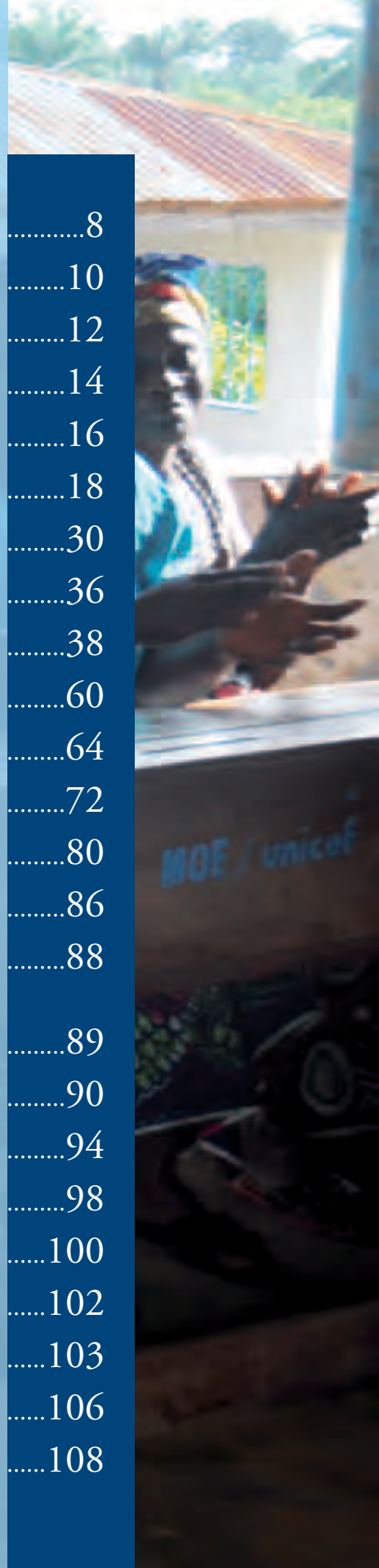
Interpeace is an international peacebuilding organization, supporting locally-led peacebuilding initiatives in over 16 fragile and conflict affected countries and territories in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Central America.

Created by the United Nations in 1994 to assist war-torn societies in building sustainable peace, Interpeace became independent in 2000. Today, Interpeace has a unique operational partnership with the UN and continues in its peacebuilding work to be guided by innovation, partnership and learning.

PHOTO CREDIT: ABBAS DULLEH FOR P4DP/JPU/INTERPEACE

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INTERPEACE SUPPORTS PEACEBUILDING AROUND THE WORLD AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS



1 GUATEMALA

Supporting security sector reform. The programme established mechanisms for civil society participation in security sector reform and development of laws. The consortium of seven NGOs brought together and supported by Interpeace since 2004 is now independent. They continue to engage with the government on this issue.

2 YOUTH GANGS

Addressing youth violence at the regional and national level. In partnership with the Central American Integration System (SICA), we are developing a preventative approach to youth gangs and youth violence across Central America and at the national level in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

3 HAITI

Developing a strategy to support the reconstruction of the country. A strategy has been developed to enable marginalized youth to take an active part in the reconstruction process and to prevent potential conflict between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities. Fundraising is now taking place.

4 GUINEA-BISSAU

Bridging the gap within society. The project has completed consultations on challenges to peace throughout the country involving 3,000 people. Findings are now being shared with key stakeholders and the public.

5 LIBERIA

Peace for Liberians by Liberians. 10,800 people from all levels of society and every county across the nation have been involved in identifying the main obstacles to lasting peace. A follow-up strategy is now in development with key stakeholders. The programme is recognized by the United Nations (UN) Peacebuilding Fund as a successful model for local reconciliation.

6 RWANDA

Reinforcing lasting peace. Building on nine years of nationwide peacebuilding work, the programme is now addressing additional drivers of social cohesion and public participation in decision-making.

7 BURUNDI

An innovative approach to achieving solutions for peace. By taking international best practice and combining them with the solutions suggested by Burundians from all walks of life, four priorities for lasting peace will be addressed in new and different ways: youth unemployment, disarmament of the civil population, elections and transitional justice.

8 SOMALI REGION

Consolidating peace throughout the region.

Somaliland

Democracy - Presidential elections. Interpeace supported the National Electoral Committee (NEC) and took the role as the lead international organization for the Horn of Africa's first successful democratic transition of power, as well as addressing challenges to decentralized governance and social reconciliation.

Puntland

Good governance. The programme supports Puntland society in addressing challenges to the democratization process, decentralized governance, security, the rule of law and social reconciliation.

South-Central Somalia

Supporting Somali-led peace processes. The programme provides a platform for the voices of civil society on how to address violent conflict in the region and support local reconciliation.

9 ISRAEL

Supporting the peace process by working with marginalized groups. Work with the Traditional Religious

Population included a training of the next generation of SHAS leaders. The project has started work with SHAS women. Work continues with Palestinian Arabs of Israel while the preparatory work for the programme with the Russian community kicks off.

10 PALESTINE

Towards achieving consensus within Palestine. Working with and mediating between different groups within Palestinian society, the programme continues to develop and promote a representative vision for the future of Palestine.

11 CYPRUS

Assisting the peace process. A campaign has been successfully implemented to inform the public on viable options for political settlement. This was done through extensive stakeholders' panels and participatory polling that involved more than 2,000 Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

12 TIMOR-LESTE

Priorities for peace. In one of the world's newest countries 900 Timorese have provided their unique analysis of current challenges to sustainable peace.

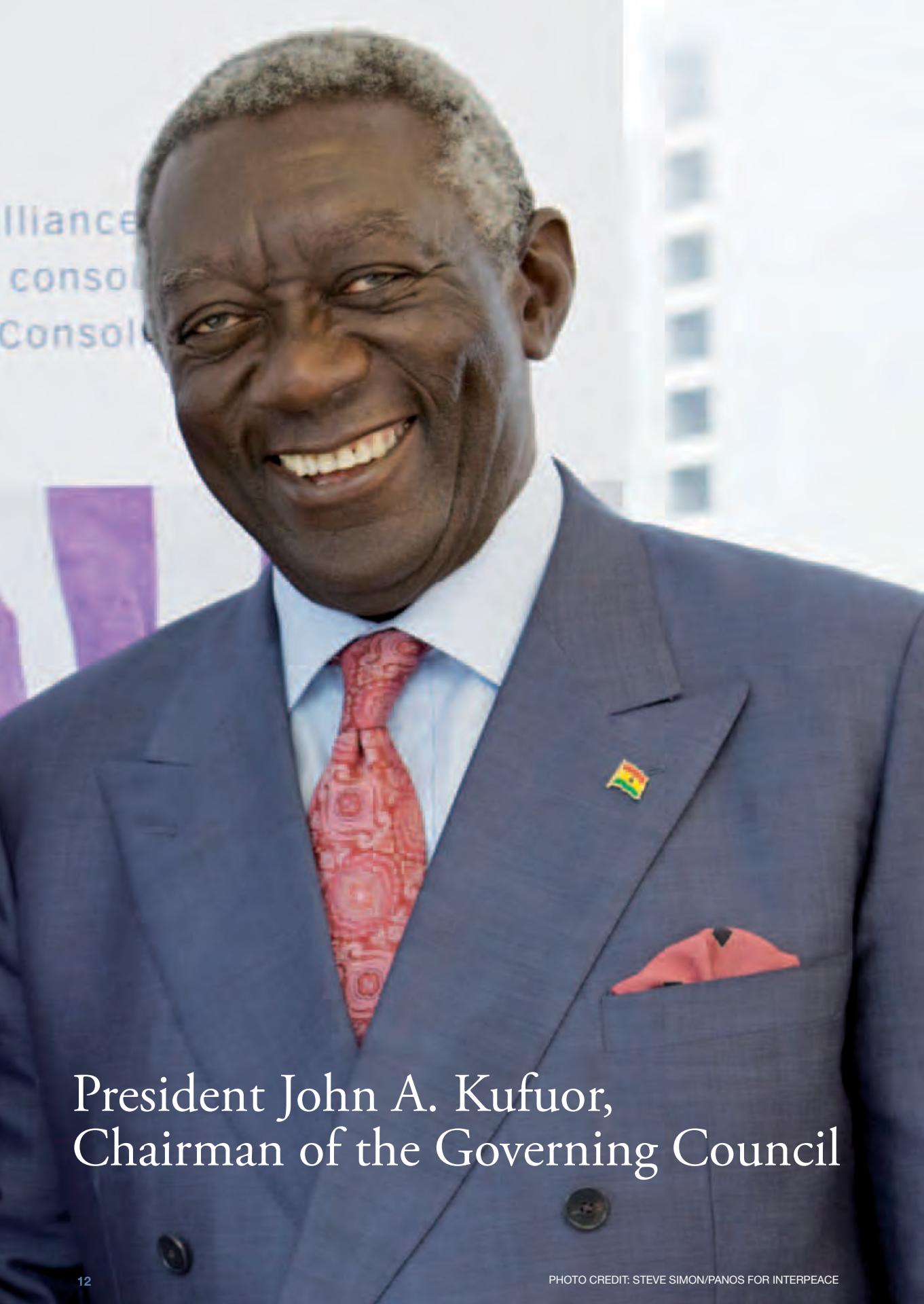
LEARNING AND THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

Collective learning is core to the organization. We continue to share our knowledge and best practice across local organizations, the international community and with peacebuilding networks such as the 'Reflecting on Peace Practice Collaborative Learning Project' and the 'Geneva Peacebuilding Platform'. The Constitution Building Programme aims to enhance the capacity of national constitution builders, advisors, civil society and the international community, to design, implement and support constitution building processes.

KEY FACTS

- Interpeace is operational in some of the most difficult conflict environments around the world, and assists fragile and conflict affected countries to build lasting peace.
- Interpeace also assists the international community, and in particular the United Nations (UN), to understand and play a more effective role in supporting peacebuilding processes globally.
- Interpeace believes that sustained transformation can only be achieved by internal capacity. Therefore, it works exclusively with local teams and organizations across Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe and the Middle East.
- Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, Interpeace has Regional Offices in Nairobi overseeing Eastern and Central Africa, in Guatemala City overseeing Latin America and the Caribbean and has Representation Offices in New York and Brussels.
- President John A. Kufuor, former President of Ghana, is the Chairman of the Interpeace Governing Council. The Council also includes a seat for the personal representative of the UN Secretary-General and the host government (Switzerland).
- Interpeace has a unique partnership with the UN and can act as an independent NGO or as a UN initiative.
- Interpeace supports over 300 peacebuilders working on initiatives in 16 countries and territories, four of which are implemented through the UN.
- Interpeace is financially supported by contributions from governments, the UN and private donations. 2009 expenditure was US\$ 18.2 million with 85% of funds directly supporting the programmes.
- In 2010, Interpeace transitioned to the highest financial reporting standard (IFRS) to further increase its transparency.
- Interpeace engages with donor governments through an Advisory Council of 16 governments and seven UN agencies.
- Interpeace is an independent NGO increasingly sought after by governments, civil society, donor countries, UN agencies and other international organizations. This is reflected in the increasing programme portfolio and budget which, for 2010, is estimated at US\$ 22 million.





President John A. Kufuor,
Chairman of the Governing Council

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE SIMON/PANOS FOR INTERPEACE

I write this as I approach the end of my first year as Chairman of the Interpeace Governing Council.

Still fresh in my mind was how honored I felt back then to have been invited to be Chairman of the Interpeace Governing Council.

When President Martti Ahtisaari, Nobel Peace Laureate, handed the baton over to me at the end of 2009, it was a significant year for the organization as it was celebrating its fifteenth year of operation. When I asked, 'What have you learned over these years?', I was encouraged to hear that the values that provided the foundation of the organization in those pioneering days back in 1994 are still ringing true: the significance of local ownership, an inclusive approach, the necessity of building trust and the critical importance of taking the time that is needed to build sustainable peace.

Twelve months on, I feel humbled. I have got to know the Interpeace family. 300 people are working tirelessly to enable their various national societies to have a better future. Building on the depth of knowledge and learning the organization has accumulated over the years, peacebuilders are adding their insights, and understanding of the daily realities. They work painstakingly to rebuild the social and political fabric of their societies to build lasting peace.

I have been overwhelmingly impressed by the commitment of everybody I have met so far, from peacebuilders to those who participate in the Interpeace processes. They come from all levels and all sectors of society, and many endure tough journeys to simply play their part in ensuring the stability of peace in their individual countries. I had the privilege to witness this first hand on my recent visits to Liberia and Rwanda.

None of this would be possible without the important support of all our donors – those nations, governments and individuals that believe in the importance of what we do and how we approach the challenge of peacebuilding. Without these supportive partnerships, the work of Interpeace would not be possible. For this I thank all of them on behalf of Interpeace.

I am delighted that I have also been able to add my personal support. Human suffering and turmoil resulting from violent conflict and civil war have had their impact on my region, West Africa. I fervently believe that it is a duty to humanity to do all we can to help those societies recover and build stable futures for themselves and for generations to come.

It is an honor to continue the work of President Martti Ahtisaari by closely collaborating with the other Governing Council members and the Interpeace family. I will continue to add my perspective, which is grounded in a deep sense of mission, and pledge my continued support to ensure that the organization deepens and strengthens its programmes so that more suffering individuals around the world can benefit from living in peace.

John A. Kufuor

*Former President of Ghana
(2001-2009), Chairman of the
African Union (2007-2008) and
ECOWAS (2003-2005)*

I am delighted to share with you our latest Annual Report which covers our fifteenth year of supporting locally-led peace processes.

We have taken the opportunity in this report to put the spotlight on six extraordinary peacebuilders: Bernardo, Françoise and Igor, Filomena, Mohamed and Matthias.

By putting a face to the brave individuals who navigate the complex, rapidly-changing and often dangerous dynamics of conflict affected societies, we wanted to underscore that people, more than institutions, are the heart of building lasting peace. It is their unwavering commitment and inspiring vision that we honor here and want to share with you.

These are just a few of the over 300 peacebuilders Interpeace serves worldwide. Without their dedication we would not have the success that we have today.

Recent achievements highlighted in this report include our efforts to assist the successful Presidential elections in Somaliland, informing public opinion on viable options for a political settlement in Cyprus, developing a broad-based dialogue on the foundations of peace in Rwanda and supporting strategies to prevent violence across Central America.

I am very pleased that over its 15 year history, Interpeace has never lost sight of its roots and its founding principles. Created in 1994 within the UN system, our predecessor, the 'War-Torn Societies Project', pioneered a new approach to assisting societies to overcome their differences and to build a sustainable future. Lessons from early engagements in Eritrea, Mozambique, Guatemala and Puntland helped to shape the DNA of the organization we are today. Now, as it was then, we continue to put those affected by conflict at the centre of the process of designing solutions; we are careful not to impose ideas from the outside; and we believe that taking the time necessary to build trust is essential. In our current efforts across 16 conflict affected societies, those same principles continue to guide our work.

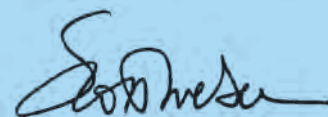
Interpeace has grown not just geographically but also holistically. We helped reinforce the capacity of our partner organizations by supporting them to become not just effective change agents but also more effective institutions. We have strengthened and deepened our programming while Interpeace itself has become a stronger institution. One example of this effort is our ambitious and successful transition this year to the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS), the gold standard for financial reporting and accountability.

Moving to IFRS is a demonstration of our commitment to strong management practices and to transparency for our donors.

Over the next five years, Interpeace will continue to adapt to a rapidly-changing and ever more complex world as well as to the increased responsibility and expectations placed upon our organization and its extraordinary team. We are humbled, but at the same time invigorated, by the confidence that our stakeholders have in us and we will strive to demonstrate that we deserve that trust.

At this point I want to thank our donors who have supported us over these many years. Your confidence, support and commitment have been instrumental in everything we have achieved. It has been a true partnership and one that we hope to continue for years to come.

In conclusion, it is with great sadness that I share the news that earlier this year one of the founders of the 'War-Torn Societies Project', Oto Denes, passed away. He was a key figure in the institution and continued to provide support and guidance even after his retirement in 2003. We will all miss his fierce commitment to peacebuilding and the wisdom he earned following his long and turbulent life as an artist, diplomat and UN official. And we will all miss that unique sense of humor that was as charming as it was trenchant. His passing is a loss to Interpeace, as well as the wider peacebuilding community. We pay tribute to him and thank him for sharing his passion for peace with us.



Scott M. Weber
Director-General



Scott M. Weber,
Director-General



1926 - 2010

OTO DENES

'Peace is in your hands, not mine. But if you grasp it, I'll be there with you,' sums up what Oto Denes believed was the right approach to building lasting peace. Oto was first involved during the pioneering years before the organization, to be called the 'War-Torn Societies Project' and eventually 'Interpeace', got off the ground.

As the international community grappled with the new world order and shifting patterns of conflict, Oto was working with Matthias Stiefel and a close knit team to develop a new approach to enable lasting peace.

The people most affected by violence and civil wars were the focal point of Oto's thinking as he saw that only they held the key for sustainable peace in their hands.

Oto saw his duty as supporting local people in any way that he

possibly could as they worked to restore peace in their countries. Oto's understanding of peacebuilding was all about listening closely to those affected, giving them a chance to really be listened to, being honest about the tough choices people had to make, combined with persistent caring. It was also important for him that any external involvement should be for the long haul, as only sustained support could help reverse the negative dynamics in conflict ridden societies.

As well as a peacebuilder, Oto was a serious artist-filmmaker. For 20 years he wrote and directed films, and therefore clearly knew the potential for film in peacebuilding. The ability of video footage to stimulate conversations, expose views from different angles and trigger the beginnings of the trust building process was first highlighted by Oto

and is central to the peacebuilding work of Interpeace today.

Oto's support for the organization, its values and principles, never waned. Even after his retirement from Interpeace he was always there to provide guidance, insights and stimulate discussions by offering a point of view from that slightly different angle. Those that knew him always felt enriched by his free flowing conversation and humbled by his genuine modesty.

Oto Denes will remain an inspiration to all those that worked with him. The approach he contributed to developing with our colleagues in the field provides the guiding principles and values that the whole organization adheres to today as they carry on with the work that was so dear to his heart.

“Without Oto we would certainly not have the kind of Interpeace that we know today. I first met him in 1993. He had just retired from UNDP. He was a mature man with vast political and institutional experience, a lot of integrity and strong values that we both shared. His Balkan origins, the impact of the Second World War on Yugoslavia, and the messy Cold War divisions of the region were strong influences. We quickly formed a strong partnership in which he helped me crystallize new ideas and approaches and translate them into concrete projects in the field. As the first Head of Operations of the then called ‘War-Torn Societies Project’, he managed our first four experimental and formative field projects in Eritrea, Mozambique, Somalia and Guatemala with a mixture of firmness, fatherly compassion, empowering confidence building and clear political vision.”

– Matthias Stiefel, Founder and Vice-Chairman of the Interpeace Governing Council.

PEACEBUILDERS IN FOCUS

Harnessing 15 years of experience, our peacebuilders share with us their know-how and insights as they work to build peace around the world.





We spoke with Bernardo about his early involvement and his ongoing passion for peacebuilding.

Previously a senior diplomat, Bernardo joined Interpeace back in 1996. He was asked to participate in the launch of the experimental consensus building project in his home country, Guatemala. This request came after the signature of the Peace Accords and involved the inclusion of stakeholders within the society and the state.

Impressed by the organization's approach, Bernardo proposed to apply the peacebuilding methodology to a policy dialogue on security sector reform between civil society, the military and the state. Bernardo later became the Director of the Regional Office for Latin America, moving to Geneva in 2005 to become the Director of the Joint Programme Unit for United Nations/Interpeace Initiatives (JPU) – a unique partnership Interpeace has with the UN.

BERNARDO ARÉVALO DE LÉON

What makes your job as a peacebuilder so important to you?

Participating in peace efforts, empowering, or enabling local groups that work for peace in their society – that's what I really enjoy. When the people I work with have a good day, it's my good day. We are all moved by the same motive – trying to really understand why countries have experienced violent conflict and how we can help them overcome it – while always understanding that there are no 'quick fixes'.

I speak as a Guatemalan coming from a torn society that has only recently emerged from political conflict and is still trying to resolve issues of violence. Peacebuilders are people who want to introduce a transformation in their own society. When I see there is potential for me to reach out to enable groups of people aiming for such transformation in their countries, it is really motivating. I enjoy the mentoring, I like working with people, I love helping them in their efforts for peace.

What impressed you when you were first approached in Guatemala?

I believed that Interpeace had a unique approach to peacebuilding. I thought that back then and it still holds true today.

Interpeace is a pioneering institution in terms of developing an understanding of the challenges of peacebuilding and the methods by which the international community can help local societies deal with these issues. They don't impose from the outside, they believe that every society has capacities for peace that can be strengthened. I felt they really practiced the principle of 'local ownership'. As a local Guatemalan

working on the consolidation of peace, I always felt supported and empowered.

The idea behind the Interpeace approach is that only a local team can become a catalytic agent that engages different actors and brings all the different stakeholders into a process of dialogue. All the different actors work until they achieve recommendations and begin to implement them. That process of engagement brings all actors together to be stakeholders of the project; they start to take ownership over the project.

How do you recognize when local ownership has been achieved?

At the beginning of the process a project is owned partly by Interpeace and partly by the local team. As the process advances, Interpeace is gradually phased out and local ownership is expanded to other stakeholders in society. An indicator of when this is working is when the local team is willing to make almost all the critical decisions themselves. Interpeace is there to help and advise, but the local teams are the ones in control. The next stage of local ownership is when decisions are not even taken by the team, but instead by other engaged local stakeholders. It is a gradual process and takes time.

Tell us more about this unusual unit that sits between the UN and Interpeace – the JPU – that you head up?

The JPU was created as a result of an agreement between Interpeace and the United Nations. We are a UN unit that works to support UN operations in the field with the Interpeace peacebuilding approach. We work with different

agencies within the UN and our intention is to provide support to ongoing peacebuilding efforts. Today we support the UN in Cyprus, Israel and Liberia and have just completed a training course in Lebanon.

You mentioned local peacebuilders are local catalytic agents – can you tell us more?

Large scale social and political transformations, the kind needed to change the way a society functions, do not happen quickly; social and political transformations are long-term endeavors that require a sustained and strategic effort. Therefore, for us, the critical goal is to identify local capacities – individuals, institutions, social groups – that can be strengthened to play a catalytic role in peacebuilding, initiating transformations that lead to larger transformations that in turn lead to even greater transformations. Our effort is not 'to do', but to strengthen those who can 'do' it.

FRANÇOISE KABARIZA AND IGOR RUGWIZA

Françoise and Igor operate seamlessly within their team. Based in Bujumbura – the capital of Burundi – they work closely with their fellow peacebuilders from Interpeace’s local partner, the Centre for Alert and Conflict Prevention (CENAP).

They travel throughout Burundi conducting consultations using the Interpeace methodology. Igor is an audio-visual (AV) researcher and is responsible for the ‘AV Unit’. Françoise is the audio-visual assistant. She records the dialogue meetings using video and photos in order to capture the insights of the participants in real-time.

Everything comes together when Igor and Françoise review the video footage they have recorded during the dialogue sessions and produce documentary videos to share results of the research with the participants of the process. These videos accompany the recommendations. In a country where many people have not had the chance to go to school, Françoise and Igor stress that videos ensure that the population can follow the process and understand all points of view, allowing them to have informed opinions and choices.

You both love your jobs. Françoise, can you tell us why?

I originally worked for the local TV station. Igor had his own audio-visual company. I think we were both born with a passion for video work. How many people can combine the passion for filming and documentaries with peace and development in their own country? I am working with people from all walks of life to help make Burundi a more stable place. One day I am filming a local farmer, the next morning I am with a top level decision-maker. But the work and the subjects we touch can be very delicate - I love this challenge. Speaking for Igor, he is constantly saying: ‘We work for ourselves – it’s our country.’ What can be more satisfying than that?

Your audio-visual work is central to peacebuilding – but how?

When we meet participants for the first time they often think we are journalists and won’t share what’s on their minds. So we use footage from previous sessions to kick off many of the dialogue sessions we hold. We find that it enables us to quickly build trust since they can see the results of our earlier work. Participants see other participants sharing their views openly and freely. At first they may not be able to sit face to face with another group, but by viewing the films they can quickly see that they share the same points of view as other groups. Our audio-visual work breaks down barriers and enables us to work more effectively. Bridges are formed between different ideologies and social groups. We often hear in the countryside, ‘You

tell them that!’. Participants know that their opinions will be heard by the decision-makers of the country, and they quickly see the value of being filmed.


Françoise and Igor, your team motto is ‘balance’. Can you tell us more?

Our biggest challenge is to make sure that whatever we produce is balanced. The groups we feature must be representative of society. We also have to be careful with the words as well. Does the clip we have chosen accurately reflect what the person was thinking? Have we been faithful to the discussion? These are the types of questions that go through our minds as we review the hours of footage we hold. Right now we think it stands at 400 hours – and the archive is still growing.

How do you know your work is effective?

We know that when people take ownership of what we have done, we have already built their trust and respect. When they start saying ‘Our research says...’ instead of ‘CENAP research says’ we know they have achieved ownership of the contents and the recommendations. We feel at this point, we have achieved local ownership. The population needs to build peace – it is our job to facilitate the process.

We talked with Françoise and Igor to find out their thoughts on their research, the role of audio-visual media in their work and building peace in their country.

A close-up portrait of Filomena Mascarenhas, a Black woman with short, curly dark hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. She is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green foliage and a white fence.

Filomena told us about what inspires her as she works to help Guinea-Bissau build lasting peace.

FILOMENA MASCARENHAS

A former government minister in Guinea-Bissau, Filomena Mascarenhas is a deeply committed peacebuilder. Since 2007, she has been an active member of the Voz di Paz programme, which focuses on giving Bissau-Guineans a voice in the peacebuilding process. Working across all the Voz di Paz initiatives, Filomena shared with us her motivations, learnings and some of the areas she is most proud of.

Where do you get your motivation to build peace?

I feel it is my obligation to contribute to the peace process in Guinea-Bissau. I believe that everyone with a good heart can help. I love the challenge of harnessing the knowledge gathered in the consultations that we run across the country and transforming the results of the discussions into something positive, useful and effective.

Can you tell us more about the Voz di Paz programme and the 'Regional Spaces for Dialogue'?

Voz di Paz has created forums across the country known as 'Regional Spaces for Dialogue'. Here communities work to tackle obstacles to peace and cope with the most pressing challenges: the lack of state, governance issues, poor administration of justice, poverty and ethnic divisions. We are now fostering the development of a national network of these spaces so more people can have access and experiences can be shared.

Over the last three years with Voz di Paz, what has stood out in your mind?

There are three areas for me. Firstly, the only way to understand a country's issues is to listen. By doing this, problems can be listed and understood, effectively producing an X-ray of a situation. Secondly, if peace is to be reached, it must not be exclusive. There needs to be local ownership of the solutions throughout all communities. Thirdly, fairness, respect and tolerance in every action taken are the three pillars of success.

You say, 'where there is a will, there is a way' to build peace. Can you give us one example?

In a dialogue session in Bambadinca, just 150 km from Bissau, an example of cattle theft was discussed. This example of ethnic conflict in the country concerns one ethnic group, the Balant, who were typically blamed for cattle thieving by another ethnic group, the Fulanis. In a

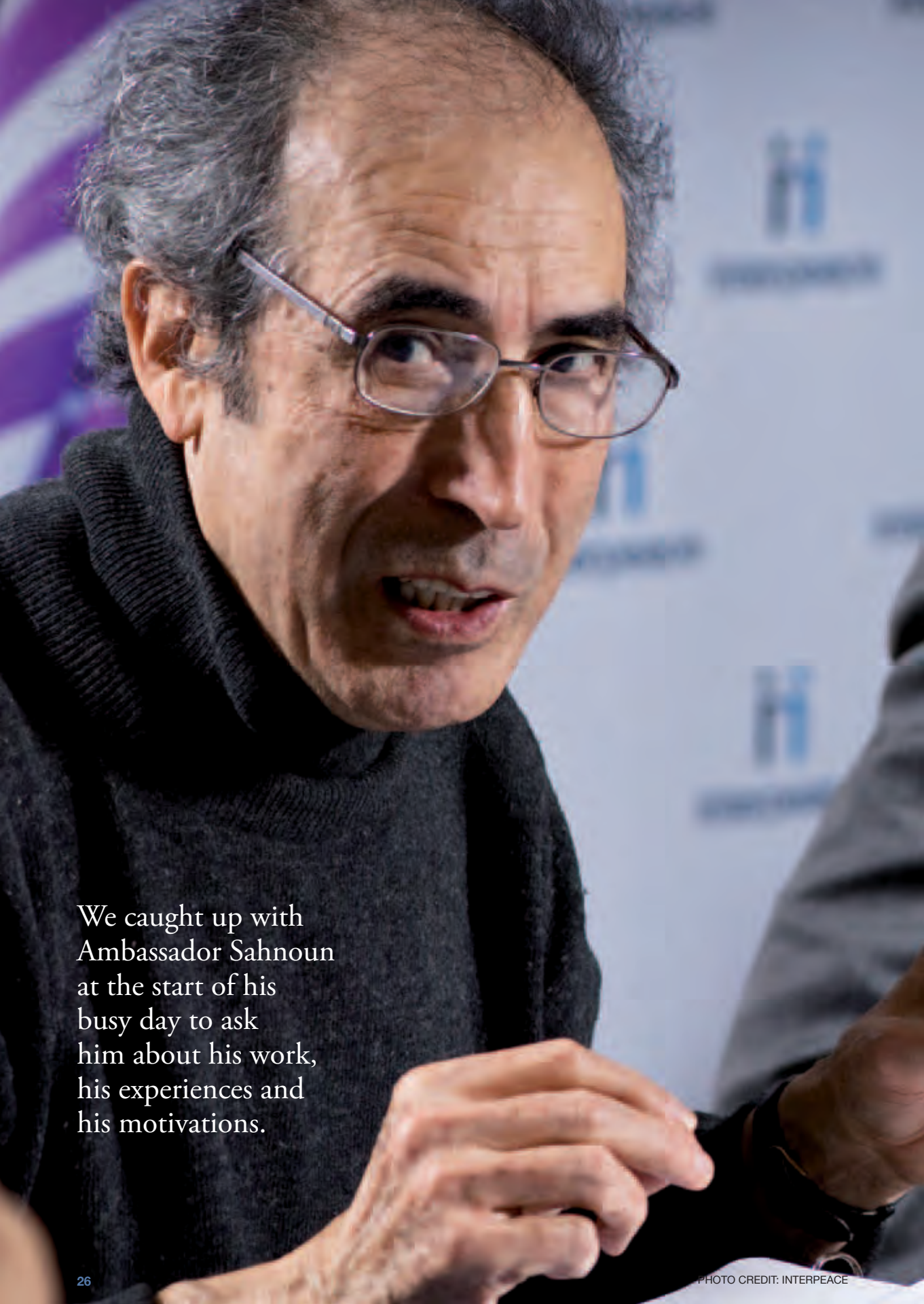
tragic turn of events, two children were found murdered. They were thought to be spies linked to cattle thieving. When I heard this story, I thought it would be impossible to overcome, but the Bissau-Guineans showed they had both the heart and the will to build peace. The situation was resolved through a Mediation Committee set up by Voz di Paz.

Your programme goes beyond the borders of your country. Can you tell us how?

Central to our work and to lasting peace are our citizens that live abroad. We involve the diaspora in consultations and send them newsletters so they get a neutral perspective on what is going on. We also welcome peacebuilders from around the world to experience what we do first hand. We recently welcomed João Boavida, the director of the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD) from Timor-Leste. While we learned from him, he also began planning to implement some of our learnings in Timor-Leste. Serge Ntakirutimana from the Burundi programme has also been in town to share his experience with the team.

What are your hopes for the future?

Bissau-Guineans are tired of not having peace. It is simple, I want to help lift my country out of this situation.



We caught up with Ambassador Sahnoun at the start of his busy day to ask him about his work, his experiences and his motivations.

PHOTO CREDIT: INTERPEACE

MOHAMED SAHNOUN

Ambassador Sahnoun draws on his early experiences in his home country of Algeria when he explains the mandate and objectives of Interpeace to others in his role as Vice-Chairman of the Interpeace Governing Council. As Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Africa and Deputy Secretary-General of the African Union, his extensive exposure to different projects across Africa has given him invaluable insight. His guiding principle throughout his career has always been to focus on the 'art of listening'.

Why have you devoted your career to peacebuilding?

When I was a young man, I was involved in the struggle for independence in my own country. I know first hand how violent conflict can affect people – the suffering and the pain that results from it. It's my main motivation to stop all this violence.

I started by working for the African Union and immediately found myself involved in conflict resolution. That was in the 60s and 70s, when many African countries struggled for their independence and were immediately confronted with issues related to borders that were drawn up with little consideration for the communities they crossed. The result was violent conflict. These problems had to be resolved; everywhere across Africa they needed help.

I then became a Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Africa and was involved in supporting the Somali Region, the Great Lakes and many other countries across the continent. I have a good understanding of the work there is to do in these countries and that's what I am most passionate about: looking at what can be done to help, reconciling people and enabling peace.

How did your involvement with Interpeace come about?

The world needed a flexible organization that was non-governmental to help societies address these new issues relating to conflict. As an independent actor the organization would be

free to listen to people from all levels and sectors of society. I was immediately asked to sit on the Board and have kept this role since.

What are the main challenges you have faced when working in peacebuilding?

The biggest challenge and at the same time the solution, is to listen. It is crucial to have people working on peacebuilding projects who really master the 'art of listening'. This is extremely important in peacebuilding. Local people need to feel confident you are listening to them. Only then do you stand a chance of seriously helping to achieve peace.

You mentioned listening helps to ensure local ownership. Can you tell us more?

People will be part of the peacebuilding process if they know their views will be taken seriously. Taking notes, asking questions and really engaging shows that their views will be taken into account. Peacebuilding will also be more constructive and more stable if the internal actors feel their voices have been heard and they own the views and solutions.

Do you have a closing message for others?

We should never give up. Peacebuilding is so important, and we must continue.



We spoke to Matthias, Founder of Interpeace and Vice-Chairman of the Governing Council, to find out more about his experience as a pioneer in the peacebuilding field.

MATTHIAS STIEFEL

As a son of rural doctors who devoted themselves to caring for others, Matthias grew up with a passion to help improve lives. Back in the early 90s, after a five year break in his UN career, Matthias found the world had profoundly changed. He launched himself into research. He analyzed the new conflicts that had erupted after the end of the Cold War and how peace could be built. What he discovered proved to be the building blocks of the Interpeace we know today.

What does peace mean to you?

Peace is the creative and constructive management of the differences and tensions that cause conflicts. Every society experiences conflict, but societies whose members can translate them into positive forces maintain peace. Interpeace helps societies to recover this capacity.

Why did you decide to create Interpeace?

I left an earlier career in the UN to spend some years in Portugal, where I experienced the harsh realities that subsistence farmers must cope with around the world. After five years I returned, by which point the Berlin Wall had fallen and the Cold War had come to an end. Everyone was expecting a peace dividend, but the opposite happened - wars were breaking out everywhere. I realized that security could not be separated from development or humanitarian issues.

We needed to develop new paradigms for understanding and responding to these violent conflicts. I started a research project. But that very quickly turned into an action-oriented project and the foundations for the Interpeace we know today.

What are the peacebuilding essentials to you?

Following a conflict you always have a large number of actors pursuing a wide mix of policies at all levels. This creates a lot of confusion and worse... It was clear from the beginning what the big challenges were and still are today:

- 1) To rebuild trust among people and authorities to allow them to join forces in rebuilding their country;
- 2) To help them set strategic priorities channeling the sparse resources; and
- 3) To get all actors, local and foreign, to work within one coherent integrated framework for rebuilding.

The identification of these challenges quickly led to the definition of the Interpeace approach.

How do you ensure local ownership?

By constantly challenging the local actors to take responsibility and make decisions. This always requires local leadership. They are researchers, doctors, journalists, former politicians, all local people with a deep knowledge of their country and society and of the dynamics of the conflict, who champion the drive to build lasting peace. When Interpeace starts working in a country, it challenges the local people to identify who such respected leaders could be. We call them 'consensus figures'.

How do you know local ownership has been achieved?

When they become self-reliant and need Interpeace less and less. When the relationship evolves into a partnership and the population is in the driving seat.

You started the organization 15 years ago. What are your hopes for the next 15 years?

My long-term vision for Interpeace is to gradually build local peacebuilding institutions in all conflict and post-conflict regions of the world - to create an alliance, a web of local peacebuilding capacities that can work with each other to not only respond to conflict, but also to prevent it.

HOW WE WORK

We focus on systemic change. Our tested approach combines research and dialogue methodologies that engage local actors in inclusive processes which foster collaborative attitudes and increase trust and political legitimacy.



CORE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEBUILDING

THE 'HOW' OF PEACEBUILDING

Conflict tears apart the socio-political fabric of societies. Mistrust colors all relationships, including those between the people and their leaders. In such contexts, even small problems can escalate into wide-scale violence.

Due to the perceived urgency of conflict environments, top-down technical solutions are often favored over holistic approaches that reflect the complexity of the situation.

In post-conflict countries, everything is urgent, everything is controversial and resources are scarce. It is precisely in such situations that broad consensus building is needed to ground compromise in a wider dialogue and trust building process. How this process is managed and how groups are engaged is critically important to the success of peacebuilding efforts.

The following questions can help to ascertain the quality of a peacebuilding process:

'How were the priorities determined?'

'Who was involved?'

'How well do the main groups feel ownership of the process and its results?'

'How broadly are the solutions considered to be legitimate?'

Interpeace supports a peacebuilding approach which is holistic, long-term and reflective.

It places major value on 'how' decisions are made, 'how' priorities are determined, and 'how' the peace process is managed to ensure decisions are contextual and consensual.

LOCAL OWNERSHIP

For peace to be sustainable, Interpeace believes it must be locally-owned. Interpeace operates on the understanding that if people feel that the peace belongs to them, they are more likely to take personal responsibility for protecting it and preventing its collapse.

In a context of weak institutions and pervasive mistrust, the legitimacy of solutions will determine their success. Legitimacy comes from broad involvement in setting priorities and a sense of ownership of the process.

Building local ownership begins by ensuring that priorities are determined locally and not imposed through outside agendas. It ensures that local concerns, which are often fueling the conflict, are at the centre of peacebuilding.

Interpeace assists in creating spaces and processes in which consensus building and dialogue can take place. If local people and groups participate in defining the problem, they can begin to take ownership of the solutions.

Local ownership decreases the likelihood of a return to conflict and ensures sustainability of the solutions.

When people are able to participate in shaping their future and are able to voice their concerns, they may develop a weighted interest in ensuring that peace lasts. If they own the peace, they will defend it as their own.

In addition, local ownership ensures the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts. External interventions are usually time bound. Local actors are better placed to have long-term commitment to peace partnerships based on respect for the lead role that the local partner must assume in the design and implementation of the peacebuilding strategy.

Conflict can seldom be resolved by local parties alone: international support, expertise and funding are also part of the equation. This requires long-term meaningful and sustained partnerships between local and international entities.

Early on, Interpeace seeks to strengthen the capacity of a local partner team or organization to take the lead in a peacebuilding process. Interpeace's role evolves over time to become a long-term and supportive partner to the local team. The local team implements a strategy that engages national stakeholders to take increasing ownership of the programme. That ownership is what confers legitimacy and sustainability to the process.

REACHING OUT TO ALL GROUPS

Interpeace supports processes that reach out to all groups that have an influence in making or breaking the peace.

Ensuring that all relevant groups are involved in the process of building peace, including marginalized women and youth, extremists, minorities, and the diaspora, assures legitimacy and ownership of the agreed upon results.

Excluding key groups undermines legitimacy and creates spoilers.

One must involve all groups that matter to local people in any peacebuilding process.

Excluding groups or individuals from the process of peace can deepen their resentment and give them an opportunity to undermine the process from afar. Inclusion, however, begins to build bridges of understanding and communication that draw all parties into a process of change. This, in time, enables the society collectively to move towards ownership of solutions, moderation and compromise.

In addition, engagement of a wide range of actors helps to compress vertical space (the distance between authorities and the population). Involving all parties in the peacebuilding process, the identification of issues and the design and implementation of solutions, helps to build a

democratic relationship in society and between governments and their constituencies.

For engagement to be meaningful it is essential that participation is taken seriously and that local voices are heard and taken into consideration.

BUILDING TRUST

Conflicting parties almost always have a long history of interaction and may live in close proximity to each other. Restoring, healing and restructuring the relationship between conflicting parties and building trust is at the core of building sustainable peace.

Interpeace helps conflicting parties and divided communities re-establish trust through collaborative identification of problems and the implementation of solutions to common concerns. To do so, trust and communication must be built between those who hold power and those with less power.

Trust cannot be imposed, imported or bought. It is built slowly through collective engagement and commitment to a common vision.

Building trust is the most difficult aspect of peacebuilding but the most crucial. More than the revitalization of infrastructure or the economy, trust is the intangible ingredient that helps to prevent a relapse into conflict. Trust is the glue that holds societies together. It gives institutions lasting legitimacy and

helps individuals and groups remain engaged in the long and arduous process of building lasting peace.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Building lasting peace takes time. The road to peace is bumpy, long, unpredictable and anything but straight. Support of local efforts must be patient, adaptable and consistent. There are no shortcuts or quick fixes. External engagement, often understandably hoping for quick fixes, must be persuaded to ensure predictability and long-term financial commitments. Otherwise, sustaining peacebuilding processes becomes impossible.

Interpeace puts the local people in the driver's seat – allowing them to determine how their society reshapes itself and moves forward.

To these ends, Interpeace works with local partners who involve all sectors of society in identifying key issues and common solutions.

This process is not only focused on tangible progress of conflict issues but also the intangible reconstruction of society (building trust, relationships, etc.). This holistic approach to rebuilding society and institutions takes time and long-term commitment.

Interpeace puts as much importance on the 'how' of building lasting peace as 'what' is done in the process.

THE INTERPEACE PROCESS



PHOTO CREDIT: VOZ DI PAZ

IN FOCUS: INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH UN

Interpeace supports UN peacebuilding operations in the field with an innovative partnership.

AN OPERATIONAL FOCUS

The Joint Programme Unit for United Nations/Interpeace Initiatives (JPU) was created in 2005 from an agreement between UNDP and Interpeace. The JPU now works as an operational unit of the Swiss operational centre of UNOPS.

Working with an operational budget of US\$ 4 million and a team of 61 peacebuilders in 2009, the JPU is supporting the United Nations by collaborating with UNDP-PAPP in the Middle East, UNDP-ACT in Cyprus, and UNMIL in Liberia.

AN APPROACH THAT ADDRESSES THE 'HOW' OF PEACEBUILDING FOR UN PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD

The JPU uses research-based, participatory dialogue strategies to help societies identify, agree and deliver against shared goals and actions to build lasting peace.

THE JPU SUPPORTS THE FIELD OPERATIONS OF THE UN

The JPU provides support by:

- Designing joint peacebuilding strategies with UN local offices;
- Identifying and training key local capacities;
- Implementing field initiatives through local teams; and
- Bringing expertise from the Interpeace programmes.

Each and every context is unique and we adapt our approach to ensure we are providing the most appropriate support as we enable societies to overcome violent conflict and build lasting peace. With this in mind, there are eight typical phases of an Interpeace peacebuilding process.

1 & 2

STARTING A PEACEBUILDING PROJECT: MONITORING AND EXPLORATION

Our work is largely demand-driven. We receive requests from a range of sources – the government and/or civil society of the country concerned, from donor countries, UN agencies, international organizations and our Governing Council members. On the basis of consultations with these parties, priorities are set by the Interpeace Governing Council.

Before accepting an engagement we assess whether our approach would have a positive impact in the given country. Our analysis is based on in-depth consultations with local, national and international sources and through exploratory visits. We initiate projects when the key national players are willing to participate in the process, when the political and security situation permits, and if the necessary human and financial resources are available.

3

CREATING THE CHANGE AGENT FOR PEACE: IDENTIFICATION OF THE PEACE TEAM

To form a peacebuilding team we develop a partnership with an existing local NGO or research centre, or create one.

Our teams are made up exclusively of people from the society and include researchers and facilitators under the leadership of a consensus figure. Consensus figures are known for their integrity, fairness and independence and they are respected by all parties.

Teams vary in size depending on the situation and are selected from a broad range of local professionals aiming to ensure a credible balance of the conflicting forces. A painstaking vetting process is undertaken to ensure that the national team is of high calibre and is seen as credible and trustworthy by all sides.

The selection and preparation of the peacebuilding team is one of the most important elements in the preparation of a project. The team's credibility and reputation is key to the success of the programme as they become national change agents for peace.

4

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR THE CONTEXT: DESIGN OF STRATEGY

The local peace team then moulds the Interpeace approach and methodology to the particular context, culture and social dynamic of its society. A strategy for peacebuilding is developed by the local team of peacebuilders and the programme is then formally launched. A local institutional structure to house the programme is identified or created to enhance the local identity of the programme.

5

FINDING COMMON SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS: CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH

The local peacebuilding teams seek out and collect views on the most pressing issues that will make or break the peace from all sectors in society: the government, opposition, civil society, private sector and the diaspora.

This interactive dialogue and research lays the foundation for a national self-portrait that documents the history of the conflict, details the current state of relations between people and defines the priority issues.

Our role is to facilitate this process, and to support the deliberations with objective, verifiable research conducted by our team made up of nationals of the country concerned and supported by Interpeace international staff. We help people understand the often complex challenges to peace, prioritize main issue areas, find agreement on the solutions, and assist with their implementation.

6

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP OF THE OBSTACLES TO PEACE: SETTING PRIORITIES

The local team convenes a National Group Meeting that draws the major stakeholders together from government, civil society, academia, media, religious authorities, members of political groups/parties and representatives of the diaspora. This National Group, the highest validating and mandating entity for the programme, debates the findings contained in the Country Note and selects the four or five most important obstacles to peace. It provides the mandate to the local team of peacebuilders to work to understand those problems further and identify possible solutions.

CREATING SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONS

Interpeace is committed to ensuring that local people and organizations carry on the work once the programme is complete. These institutions become a national resource to sustain peace and stability and to respond effectively to new challenges as they arise over the long-run.

7

ADDRESSING THE PRIORITY CONCERNS: DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS

A working group is formed around each of the priority areas selected at the National Group Meeting. Facilitated by the local team of peacebuilders, these working groups are composed of the most relevant individuals and institutions for the problems being addressed. These groups develop consensus recommendations for change and present them once again to the National Group for validation.

8

FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION

The local team of peacebuilders then facilitates the process of helping national stakeholders and particularly the state to implement the recommendations and monitor progress to keep the process on track.

By this time the local team has built a strong reputation as a trusted facilitator of peace in its own society. They are often called upon by national stakeholders to engage in new rounds of problem solving. This can involve research and dialogue on other obstacles to peace as they emerge, or other interventions to prevent crises.





OUR PEACEBUILDING WORK

Across Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe and the Middle East, Interpeace puts local people in the driver's seat. Over 300 peacebuilders are helping their societies address conflict in non-violent ways, implement innovative solutions and build lasting peace.

PHOTO CREDIT: P4DP FOR INTERPEACE

James Shilue,
Interpeace Programme
Coordinator for Liberia

INTERPEACE SUPPORTS PEACEBUILDING IN AFRICA

PHOTO CREDIT: LUIS GALDAMEZ FOR INTERPEACE

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

WEST AFRICA

GUINEA-BISSAU

Iniciativa para Consolidação da Paz (Voz di Paz)

LIBERIA

Foundation for International Dignity (FIND)

Initiatives for Positive Change (IPC)

Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRCL)

Kofi Annan International Centre for Conflict
Transformation at the University of Liberia (KAICT)

Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI)

Peacebuilding Resource Centre (PBRC)

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)

Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL)

EASTERN AFRICA

SOMALI REGION

Academy for Peace and Development (APD), Somaliland

Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD), South-Central Somalia

Puntland Development Research Center (PDRC), Puntland

CENTRAL AFRICA

RWANDA

Institute of Research and Dialogue
for Peace (IRDP)

BURUNDI

Centre d'Alerte et de Prévention
des Conflits (CENAP)



PHOTO CREDIT: ERNST SCHADE/PANOS

Bissau-Guinean society needs a sustained and structured process that enables people to fully understand the issues that surround violent conflict, and to take actions to achieve possible solutions in a non-violent way.

A CYCLE OF POLITICAL UPHEAVALS

Guinea-Bissau has experienced significant political upheavals since it gained its independence from Portugal in 1974. Many of today's problems date back to this struggle and conflicting legitimacy between the military leadership and that of state institutions.

Since independence, Guinea-Bissau has seen periodic upheavals, assassinations and civil strife as a

result of competition for power amongst the military and political elites. The situation continues: in March 2009 President Vieira and the Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were assassinated; in June 2009 two prominent politicians (one a Presidential candidate) were assassinated; in April 2010 the current Prime Minister and Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were detained.

Political instability is exacerbated by money from the drug trade.

CONTRIBUTING TO STABILITY

Interpeace has been working in Guinea-Bissau since 2005. The programme, called Voz di Paz (Voice of Peace), seeks to promote trust and dialogue within Bissau-Guinean society. Its contribution has been recognized by the UN Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council in July 2010.

OVERALL GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME

- Create a framework for national dialogue;
- Develop an inclusive process to identify:
 - the deep-rooted causes of recurrent conflicts in the country; and
 - the threats to peace in the short and medium term;
- Contribute to creating an environment conducive to conflict prevention and management;
- Contribute to the development of good governance that is sensitive to issues relating to the consolidation of peace;
- Contribute to reducing the tensions among communities, regions and between political and social actors;
- Strengthen the capacities for dialogue at the national and local level to reduce the risks of conflicts;
- Stimulate the use of 'Participatory Action Research' in the work to identify lasting solutions;
- Contribute to improving relations between the defence and security forces and the general population through a process of dialogue and reflection; and
- Develop lessons and practical tools for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and the subregion.

IDENTIFYING OBSTACLES TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE

During the second part of 2009, Voz di Paz conducted nationwide consultations to validate the findings of the discussions on obstacles to peace that took place the previous year. In addition to reaching some 6,000 citizens from across the country Voz di Paz was invited, for the first time, to consult with members of the armed forces and police. This allowed over 500 members of the security sector to express their views on obstacles to peace.

Overall, Bissau-Guineans identified four key obstacles to peace:

1. **Lack of effective state institutions** – disorder prevails due to lack of administrative services at a local level;
2. **Poor administration of justice** – corruption, impunity, delay of trials, high costs and political interference;
3. **Endemic poverty** – particularly relating to food insecurity; and
4. **Tribalism** – a recent phenomenon used to manipulate social groups.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Voz di Paz is now working with Members of Parliament, citizens drawn from around the country, experts, and resource personnel to develop concrete ways to approach these issues and to offer feasible solutions.

SUPPORTING PEACE WITH REAL-TIME PREVENTION

The programme also works with a network of over 2,000 individuals, organized within ten informal Regional Spaces for Dialogue (RSD). In addition to enabling consultations, the RSDs have actively mediated and resolved emerging conflicts, notably over access to natural resources.

FROM PROGRAMME TO STANDALONE ORGANIZATION

In February 2010, Voz di Paz became a standalone organization, registered as a non-profit association, with a board and general assembly made up of eminent personalities representing the different sectors of Bissau-Guinean society.

6 SETTING PRIORITIES

7 DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS



A COUNTRY TORN APART BY WAR

Liberia is Africa's oldest independent republic, dating back to 1847. Dominated by a minority, it remained superficially stable until 1980, when a military coup brought with it a long period of civil war. Over the years that followed, violent outbreaks led to over 250,000 deaths, displaced over a million people and destroyed the economy and the social fabric of the nation.

ON THE PATH TO ROBUST PEACE

In 2003, the war finally ended with opposing sides signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Accra. At this point the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) stepped in to maintain the peace. In 2005, free elections saw Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf voted President. Since then the government has worked hard to stabilize the country and put it on the path to development. As part of this, Sirleaf announced in July 2010 the joint declaration from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to waive Liberia's US\$ 4.9 billion debt. President Johnson-Sirleaf will stand for re-election in 2011.

Participants at the end of a consultation in Kabada, Sinoe County. They are just some of the 10,800 people that participated in the nationwide consultations to identify the key obstacles to lasting peace as seen by Liberians.

A PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE BY LIBERIANS FOR LIBERIANS

Interpeace has been working in Liberia since 2006 to increase social and political cohesion. The focus has been to deal with conflict through collaborative action.

Known as the Platform for Dialogue and Peace in Liberia (P4DP), the work is being supported by the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives (JPU). It is being carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Liberia, the UN and eight Liberian civil society organizations.

The current nationwide programme builds on the experience of the Nimba Reconciliation Project of 2008-2009, which piloted the implementation of the Interpeace approach and led to the Liberian government asking for a national rollout.

A NATIONWIDE APPROACH

Extensive consultations (10,800 people from 273 communities) with participants from different political tendencies as well as previously excluded groups, such as women and youth, have been completed across all 15 counties of Liberia. As a result, five key challenges to peace have been identified.

FIVE OBSTACLES TO LASTING PEACE AS PERCEIVED BY LIBERIANS

1. Disputes over land ownership and boundaries involving individuals, communities and authorities, that are sometimes combined with tensions between ethnic groups;
2. Bad local governance due to corruption and abuse of power and to marginalization of youth, women and people with disabilities from decision-making processes;
3. Insecurity due to violence and to the incapacity of security institutions and of the formal justice system;
4. Inter-ethnic confrontations, religious discrimination and tensions between traditional culture and modernity; and
5. Unemployment, uneven distribution of resources and lack of social services for the majority of the population.

LIBERIA

NIMBA COUNTY TACKLING TWO SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

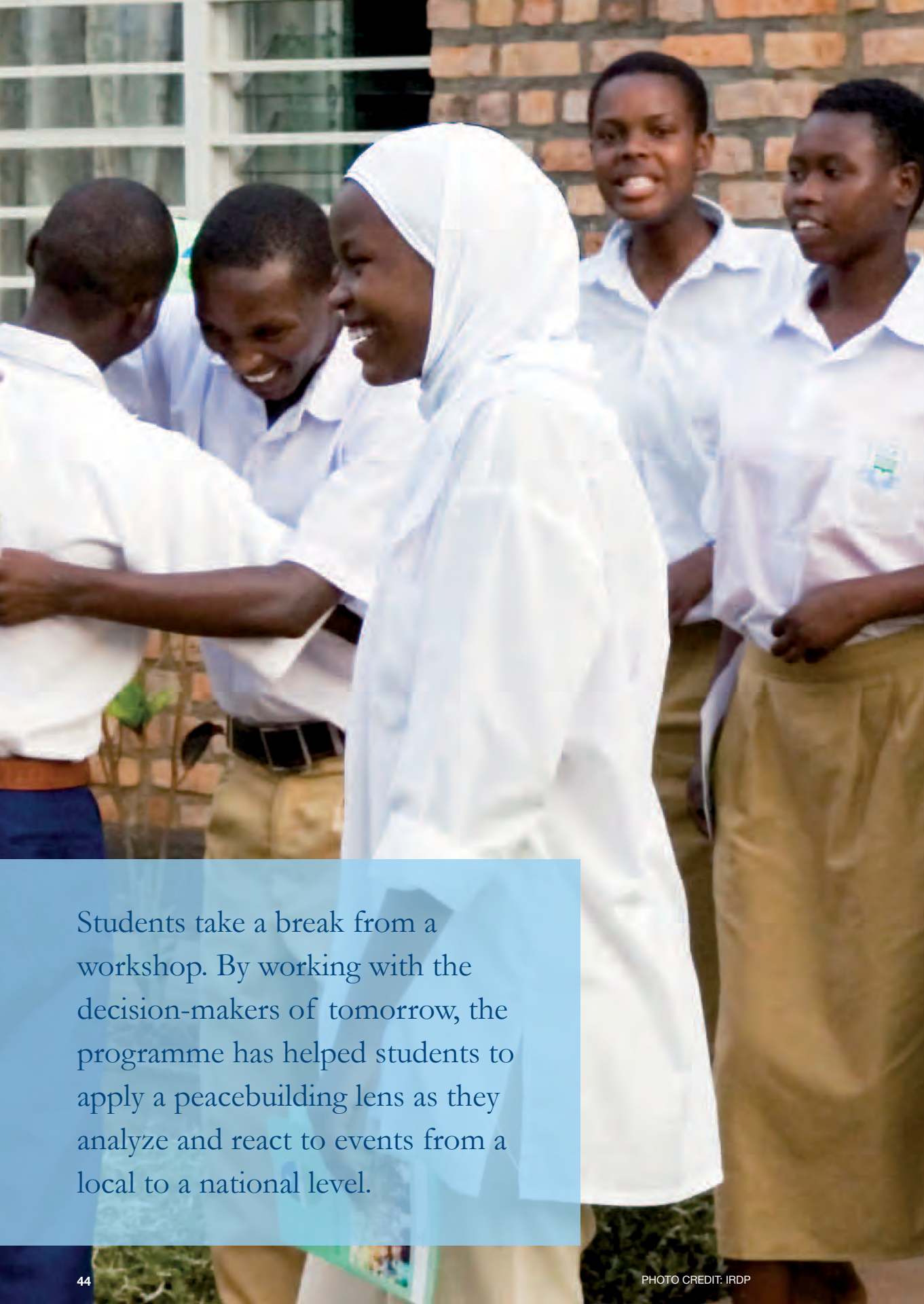
Following up on the recommendations provided by the work carried out in Nimba, the project has set up a network of peace committees as well as a youth programme and a reconciliation campaign to combat inter-ethnic discrimination in the county.

MOVING TOWARDS CONCRETE MEASURES AND POLICIES

The most urgent and important issues identified by the countrywide consultations will be presented to national authorities and civil society leaders. This will serve as a basis for a Liberian dialogue process, which will lead to the development of concrete measures and policies to address the problems as identified by the local people.

“An independent evaluation of the (initial Nimba) project found that it had ‘developed a cohesive, realistic set of policy recommendations that are community-generated and locally-owned’ and it ‘clearly contributed to meaningful communication and reconciliation between participants of different ethnic groups’.”

– Extract from a report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund.



Students take a break from a workshop. By working with the decision-makers of tomorrow, the programme has helped students to apply a peacebuilding lens as they analyze and react to events from a local to a national level.

PHOTO CREDIT: IRDP

RWANDA

STILL A NEED TO TACKLE SOME OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THE GENOCIDE

Tremendous efforts have been made to rebuild Rwanda following the genocide in 1994. The adoption of a new constitution, the decentralization reforms, the Gacaca process and the integration of Rwanda into the regional economic zone are just a few of the highlights. But the events that took place 16 years ago, when close to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred, still haunt the minds of Rwandans today. Many of the underlying causes of the conflict still need to be addressed.

ELECTIONS TESTING THE COUNTRY'S STABILITY

The run-up to the 2010 Presidential elections tested the country's stability, security and peace. Since the beginning of the year there have been grenade explosions in the capital Kigali, arrests of key army generals, tensions with opposition parties, and restrictions on independent media.

ENGAGING RWANDANS IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO PEACEBUILDING CHALLENGES

In Rwanda, Interpeace and its local partner, the Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP), have been running a joint programme since 2001. The objective is to engage Rwandans and key stakeholders in searching for solutions related to governance mechanisms, persistent weaknesses in economic reconstruction and social cohesion.

TWO NEW PHASES OF WORK

At the start of 2009 a new phase of the programme started focusing on two delicate themes that are central to Rwanda's long-term peace and stability.

Ethnic identity and social cohesion

The issue of ethnicity is highly taboo as, officially, everyone is Rwandan. However, in practice, it still influences social and political relationships as well as daily choices relating to work, trade and relationships between neighbors. Social cohesion will remain extremely fragile until this issue is openly discussed.

Public participation in democratic governance

Broad participation in political processes remains a challenge. All mechanisms are in place, however, Rwandans are not used to or comfortable enough at expressing their demands. In addition, the reality is that local policies and development programmes are still largely determined by the central government. This prevents a culture of democratic governance at all levels.

AN APPROACH DEVELOPED TO ADDRESS HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUES

Initially, the IRDP ran two National Forums to discuss the best methodologies to analyze these sensitive issues. It was agreed that a series of focus groups across the country should be accompanied by a quantitative survey for each issue.

The research report will be presented at the end of 2010. However, early indications show:

- **On ethnic identity and social cohesion:** half of the Rwandans who responded felt that ethnicity did constitute a major source of conflict. However, more than 68% stated that they never wonder about the ethnicity of someone they meet for the first time. The recommendations were submitted and approved at the National Group Meeting in October 2010 and IRDP was mandated to think of implementation strategies.
- **On public participation in democratic governance:** only one quarter of the population participates in the implementation of public policies and programmes. Barriers were highlighted as:
 - the difficulty to form collective groups capable of defending their interests;
 - dysfunctional relationships between the elected and their constituents; and
 - challenges in creating debate spaces during the drafting, adoption and evaluation of public policies.

A SPECTRUM OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Many of the policy recommendations based on prior research have been implemented. Some examples include:

- **The set-up of a National Labor Centre**

A National Labor Centre will be set up by the Rwandan Development Board (RDB). IRDP has been invited by the Ministry of Labor to sit on the committee determining the role and responsibilities of the centre.

- **Reinforcing the national curriculum**

Following discussions with the National Curriculum Development Centre, the historical findings from the IRDP's research are being integrated into the A-level syllabus.

- **Policy change**

IRDP is working with the National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide to modify the law against the negation of the genocide as it is being prepared by parliamentarians. The proposal is to bring all the genocide-related laws together into one law, which would clearly define the crimes to avoid confusion and duplication.

- **Supporting local dialogue clubs as they work towards independence**

IRDP has been working with nine dialogue clubs in rural areas to help them become cooperatives and strengthen their capacity for project management. By doing so, IRDP has been able to develop 'agents for peace' in rural and often marginalized communities.

- **Working with the next**

- **generation of decision-makers**

By setting up dialogue clubs in secondary schools across the country, the programme has been able to create a network, through which it can promote tolerance, democracy and solidarity amongst young people. As a result, students are now getting more involved in promoting peace in their local areas. So far 1,500 students have been participating in 50 dialogue clubs, which have been set up in 25 strategically placed schools.

- **Promoting dialogue at the university level**

IRDP received a Certificate of Merit in October 2009 from the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission for its work at the university level. IRDP has been providing documentary films and written reports to catalyze discussions.

- **Supporting women at the community level**

Five women leaders were selected for the IRDP training. The objective was to strengthen their role in conflict resolution within their communities and the organizations in which they work. As part of this capacity building initiative, the women visited Interpeace's local partners in Burundi and Liberia to share best practice and build on each other's ideas. IRDP is now supporting dialogue groups that have been set up by the women who benefitted from the training.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

No process is linear, especially when highly sensitive subjects are being discussed. During the new phase of work, one of the most difficult things to achieve has been to get a representative cross-section of participants to discuss ethnicity. This challenge has been overcome by including specific target groups: survivors of the genocide, former prisoners who have recognized their participation in the genocide, former refugees who have returned to Rwanda, and students who are more open to talking about ethnicity than the older generation.

OUTLOOK FOR 2011 – CONTINUING TO REINFORCE PEACE

In 2011, IRDP will continue to strengthen the culture of dialogue within the society by creating new spaces for debates in universities and rural areas.

Once the research on the issues of 'public participation in governance' and 'ethnic identity and social cohesion' is completed and recommendations to address them are presented to a National Forum of key stakeholders, the programme will focus on developing a strategy and engaging influential people in order to ensure that the recommendations are taken into account by decision-makers and are then implemented.

In 2010, the Peace Centre was officially launched. Opened in 2009, the library and an audio-visual centre dedicated to peace archives will be made available to individuals and organizations engaged in peace initiatives. Visitors will be able to access information, share experiences and coordinate their efforts using the Peace Centre as a hub.

CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE OVER THE YEARS

2002-2003	The most pressing issues, as seen by Rwandans, were defined during nationwide consultations. Five key obstacles to peace were then selected. They were: the history of Rwanda; the genocide; socio-economic development and poverty reduction; justice and the rule of law; and ethnicity and democracy.
2004-2005	Provided a platform for society to propose solutions and recommendations to contribute to the rebuilding of peace in Rwanda.
2006-2008	Set up of permanent spaces for debate at local, regional, and national levels to empower Rwandans to influence political decision-making.
2009-2011	Focus on the two sensitive issues of ethnic identity and social cohesion and the further improvement of public participation in governance mechanism. Support the development of an environment that is conducive to entrepreneurship and business.

“This is a great achievement of IRDP. We usually don't put debate first. So please take this example and share it with your different organizations and take it to other schools as well.”

– Former Mayor of Rwamagana District, Eastern Province, at the opening ceremony of the School of Debate initiative in his area.



The road to peace remains difficult. Following the nationwide consultations involving over 2,200 people, the programme in Burundi is now tackling the issues of disarmament, poverty and unemployment, elections and transitional justice.

A DIFFICULT ROAD TO PEACE

Burundi is still overcoming the violent 12 year ethnic-based civil war, the most destructive in decades of violent conflict. An estimated 300,000 people died before peaceful and democratic elections took place in 2005.

The last rebel group, the Palipehutu-FNL, agreed to a ceasefire in 2008 and became part of the 2010 election process. However, these latest elections have shown just how delicate the situation is, with tensions remaining high throughout the process. In addition to a string of grenade attacks, main opposition parties boycotted the Presidential elections claiming them to be fraudulent, leaving the previous President, Pierre Nkurunziza, as the only runner. There is considerable fear that opposition parties will not see the newly elected institutions as legitimate, leading to the risk of an institutional crisis or a resurgence of violence.

PEACEBUILDING PRIORITIES

Interpeace began a peacebuilding programme in 2007 in partnership with the Centre of Alert and Conflict Prevention (CENAP). The programme aims at reinforcing the ability of Burundians to consolidate lasting peace. Countrywide consultations involving over 2,200 people identified the four most important peacebuilding priorities.

THE FOUR PRIORITIES FOR LASTING PEACE

● Disarmament of civilian population

Despite several disarmament campaigns, weapons remain widespread in the country and are a major threat to security. Burundians are:

- concerned that those arms handed in find their way back to criminals;
- not confident in the protection provided by the police; and
- therefore are uncomfortable turning in their arms because they could need them for self-defense.

● Poverty and unemployment

Youth unemployment is seen by Burundians as a key challenge to peace as young people are easily manipulated by politicians and can quickly be recruited by militias.

● Elections

The post-independence history of Burundi has shown that conflict always emerges after elections, when the results create tensions between winners and losers. In addition, political parties tend to use divisive messages in order to mobilize voters instead of proposing a vision and a programme for the country. With political platforms lacking, the population is prevented from holding their leaders accountable for their actions.

● Transitional justice

Burundians differ in their understanding of past conflicts and of the perpetrators. One of the reasons for this divergence is the lack of objective data on past events. Documents and testimonies that shed light on past events therefore need to be collected and discussed. Reconciliation will remain challenging as long as past wounds are not healed.

“The Interpeace-CENAP programme has an extremely inclusive approach, getting the full cross-section of civil society involved. The long-term, structured agenda for dialogue adopted by the programme is what makes this possible.”

– Lukas Probst, Associate Peace and Governance Advisor to the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB).

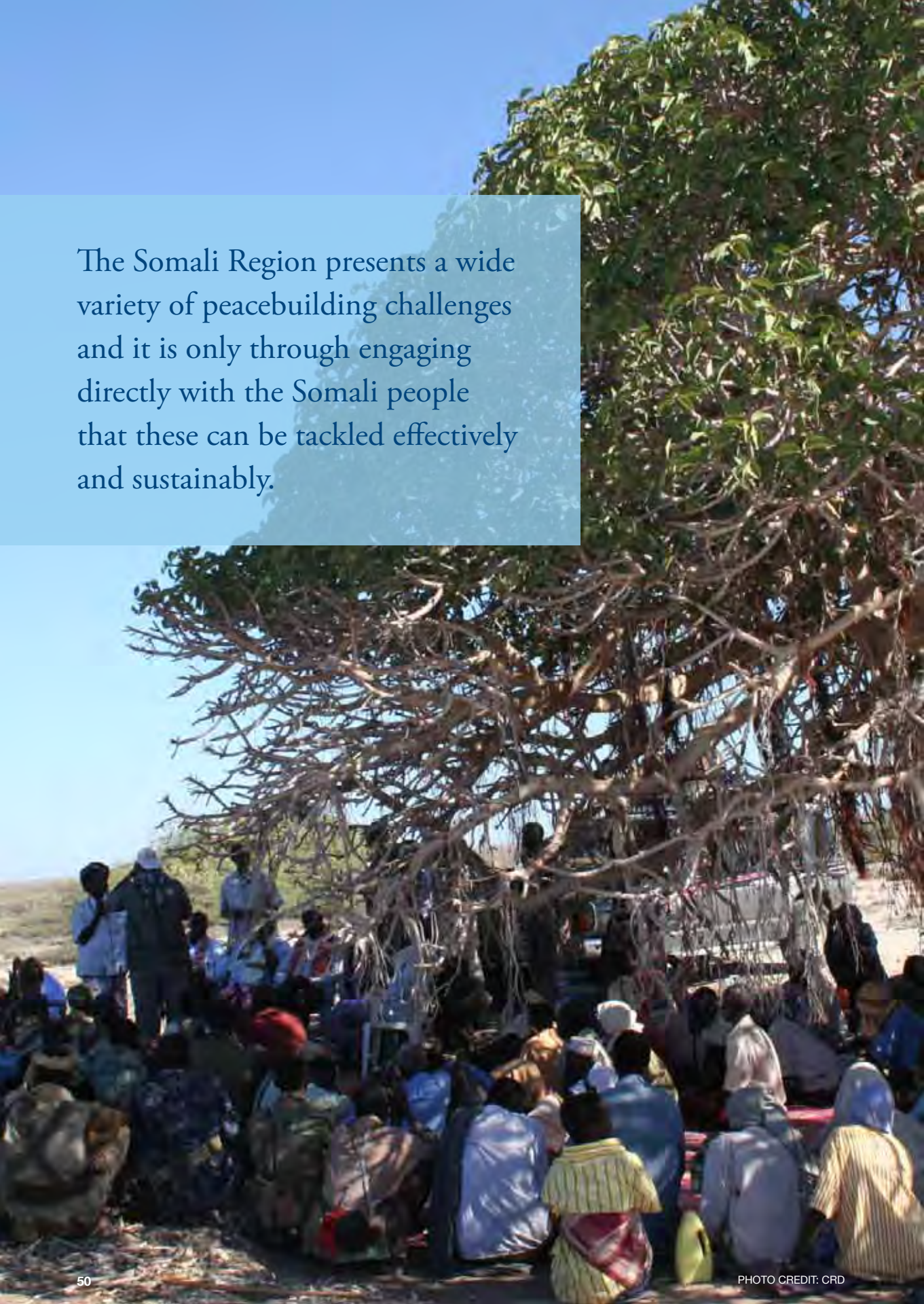
BURUNDI

In 2009, a reflection group was set up for each priority to look for national and international best practice to address each of the challenges. In parallel, CENAP ran dialogue groups across the country and with Burundian diaspora around the world, collecting the people's proposed solutions and discussing ideas from the reflection group. This two-fold process looked for operational solutions, adapted to the Burundian context, which could be implemented quickly and with wide acceptance. Prioritized recommendations on how these four key issues can be addressed were presented in March 2010 to a 'National Meeting' of 150 Burundians. In 2010 and 2011, the Interpeace-CENAP programme will work with decision-makers in order to implement the recommendations.

BUILDING FURTHER FOUNDATIONS FOR PEACE

The Vice-President announced the government's intention to implement the recommendation related to disarmament, which includes the organization of another opportunity for the voluntary surrender of weapons, with strong community group support. Interpeace and CENAP are also planning on tackling each priority. Next steps include:

- The forging of close relationships between education and the corporate world, building routes from education into employment;
- The putting-in-place of dialogue mechanisms and training programmes to reinforce political parties' accountability vis-à-vis the population; and
- The collection of information and data on past events to promote reconciliation.



The Somali Region presents a wide variety of peacebuilding challenges and it is only through engaging directly with the Somali people that these can be tackled effectively and sustainably.

SOMALI REGION

LOCAL PEACE PROCESSES UNDERPIN SIGNIFICANT ZONES OF STABILITY

Today the Somali Region is commonly sensationalized as the ultimate 'failed state'. This description obscures the richness of the peace dynamics within and between Somali communities throughout the region, comprising South-Central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland. Somali-led initiatives have set up viable political and administrative arrangements to manage conflict. In many places Somali entrepreneurship has also revitalized the economy.

SITUATION REMAINS CRITICAL IN MANY AREAS

The civil war does, however, continue to evolve and is focused on elite- and clan-based conflict over power, territory and resources. This is combined with a wider regional struggle for power, a jihadist insurgency and a fundamental crisis over the nature of a viable and legitimate state in Somalia.

ORGANIC GROWTH OF THE PROGRAMME

In 1996, Interpeace launched its Somali programme in the north-eastern part of the Somali Region, known as Puntland. Interpeace helped establish the Puntland Development Research Centre (PRDC) in Garowe (Puntland). In 1999, the Academy for Peace and Development (APD) in Hargeisa (Somaliland) was founded. In 2000, the Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD) in Mogadishu (South-Central Somalia) was created. These have each developed into respected institutions. Interpeace works with the local teams to advance and support interlinked processes of peacebuilding and state formation using 'Participatory Action Research' (PAR).

PEACE IS POSSIBLE USING 'PAR'

Interpeace's experience in the Somali Region indicates that the understanding and trust developed through PAR methodology can help resolve conflicts directly. At the same time, Interpeace is using consensual approaches to address the social, economic and political issues necessary for durable peace.

PILLARS OF PEACE LAUNCHED IN 2009

In conjunction with the three Somali partners, Interpeace launched its latest region-wide initiative the 'Pillars of Peace' programme in 2009.

This consensus-oriented, integrated approach to peacebuilding builds upon 14 years of work in the region. The previous achievements of the 'Dialogue for Peace Programme' demonstrated that dialogue can be translated into action with a high degree of local ownership.

The 'Pillars of Peace' programme uses a peacebuilding approach to support statebuilding processes, such as democratization. The aim is to build peacebuilding capacity in Somali society, focusing on civic leadership, women and youth.

INVOLVING THE DIASPORA

The diaspora is a key community for any peacebuilding activity. Highlights from 2009 include:

- **Sharing results from peace mapping with the diaspora**

In June 2009, Somalis and the international community came together in Eastleigh, Nairobi to hear results of the Peace Mapping Study, which documents locally-led peace initiatives, insights and best practice. The research provided

the basis for discussions relating to paths for peace across the region. Presentations to the diaspora in the USA and Canada followed.

- **Mombasa Conference – December 2009**

Over 180 representatives from Somali civil society (in-country and from the diaspora) met for an intensive five day conference in Mombasa, Kenya. The conference highlighted the voice of civil society in the quest for peace in Somalia. It also supported Somali civil society and the diaspora in their role as catalysts for positive change.

SUMMARIZING THE DYNAMICS OF THE CRISIS

Following the success of the Peace Mapping Study, Interpeace collaborated with Conciliation Resources to publish *'Whose Peace is it Anyway? Connecting Somali and International Peacemaking.'* This is part of the Accord Series that documents and analyzes peacemaking lessons. This publication seeks to improve understanding and links between Somalis and international policy and practice. Somali elders and senior diplomats of the African Union, the UN and Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Somali and international peacemaking practitioners, academics, civil society and women's organizations all provided input.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIZATION

Interpeace supports all Somalis in the democratization of the Somali Region, enhancing both their understanding of and commitment to their society and its governance.

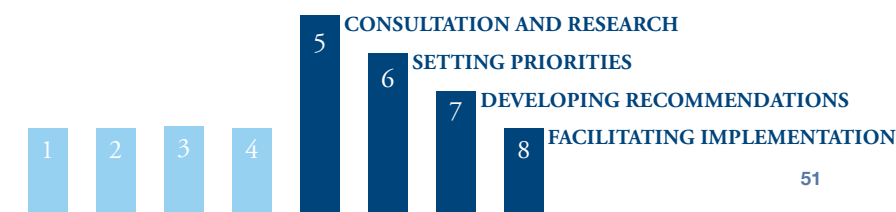




PHOTO CREDIT: CRD

Despite the risks presented by the current instability in South-Central Somalia, people welcome the opportunity to work towards addressing the challenges to peace. Current focuses are: strengthening civic actors, diaspora and the business community, social and political reconciliation, and governance and decentralization.

SOUTH-CENTRAL SOMALIA

A CHALLENGING CONTEXT

With the volatile political landscape and violence in South-Central Somalia triggering renewed displacement of people, the humanitarian emergency continues to escalate. Uncertainty and fragility dominate the region, prompting our local partner, the Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD), to find creative avenues through which to achieve the goals of the 'Pillars of Peace' programme and support the society in moving towards building peace.

Despite the challenges, CRD has been able to sustain strategic support for conflict resolution and peacebuilding and is focusing on the pillars of:

- Strengthening civic actors, diaspora and the business community;
- Social and political reconciliation; and
- Governance and decentralization.

SUPPORTING PEACE INITIATIVES BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Following an on-the-ground assessment of security dynamics in the central regions, the CRD conducted focus groups with over 370 people on the challenges to peace within the three pillars indicated above. The findings will form the basis of the draft Pillar Note for the central regions, which is being finalized by CRD for discussion at the Stakeholders' Group Meeting in the last quarter of 2010.

During the consultative process, the CRD team was asked by the communities to engage directly in reducing long-standing tensions between local communities in the Galgaduud region. It has been divided by conflict for over 20 years. Specific focus was given to the youth by organizing a regional football tournament in Abudwaq, bringing together 150 players and their fans – a positive step towards community reintegration.

CRD built upon its earlier successful mediation of a chronic violent conflict between communities in Mudug and Galgaduud regions to support resolution of renewed conflict culminating in a two week reconciliation conference with 100 people. Women played a critical role through pressure groups and the process concluded successfully with a peace accord that was disseminated throughout the nomadic communities by a traditional 'Peace Caravan'.

BRINGING TO THE FOREFRONT THE VOICES OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The Mombasa Conference in December 2009 was a milestone event at which 180 Somali non-state actors and members of the diaspora gathered for an intensive five day conference on the quest for peace in Somalia. The conference was another significant step in a sustained process of civil society dialogue, following the 'Entebbe I' conference in March 2008.

12 PRINCIPLES OF PEACE – A KEY OUTCOME FROM THE MOMBASA CONFERENCE

Central to the results of the Mombasa Conference was agreement on 12 'Principles of Peace'. Full text of the Principles is available at www.interpeace.org.

- Terror shall never be used for political means;
- Security is a right, not a privilege;
- Islamic Sharia shall be a source of laws;
- Accountability for human rights abusers;
- Unhindered access to the delivery of humanitarian efforts;
- A paramount need for leadership;
- A need for a national government that embodies a national vision;
- Strengthening existing institutions;
- Ending the culture of misappropriating public funds;
- International community should commit to systems, not individuals;
- Protection of the environment for sustainable livelihoods; and
- The sanctity of the Somali culture.

In addition, the meeting:

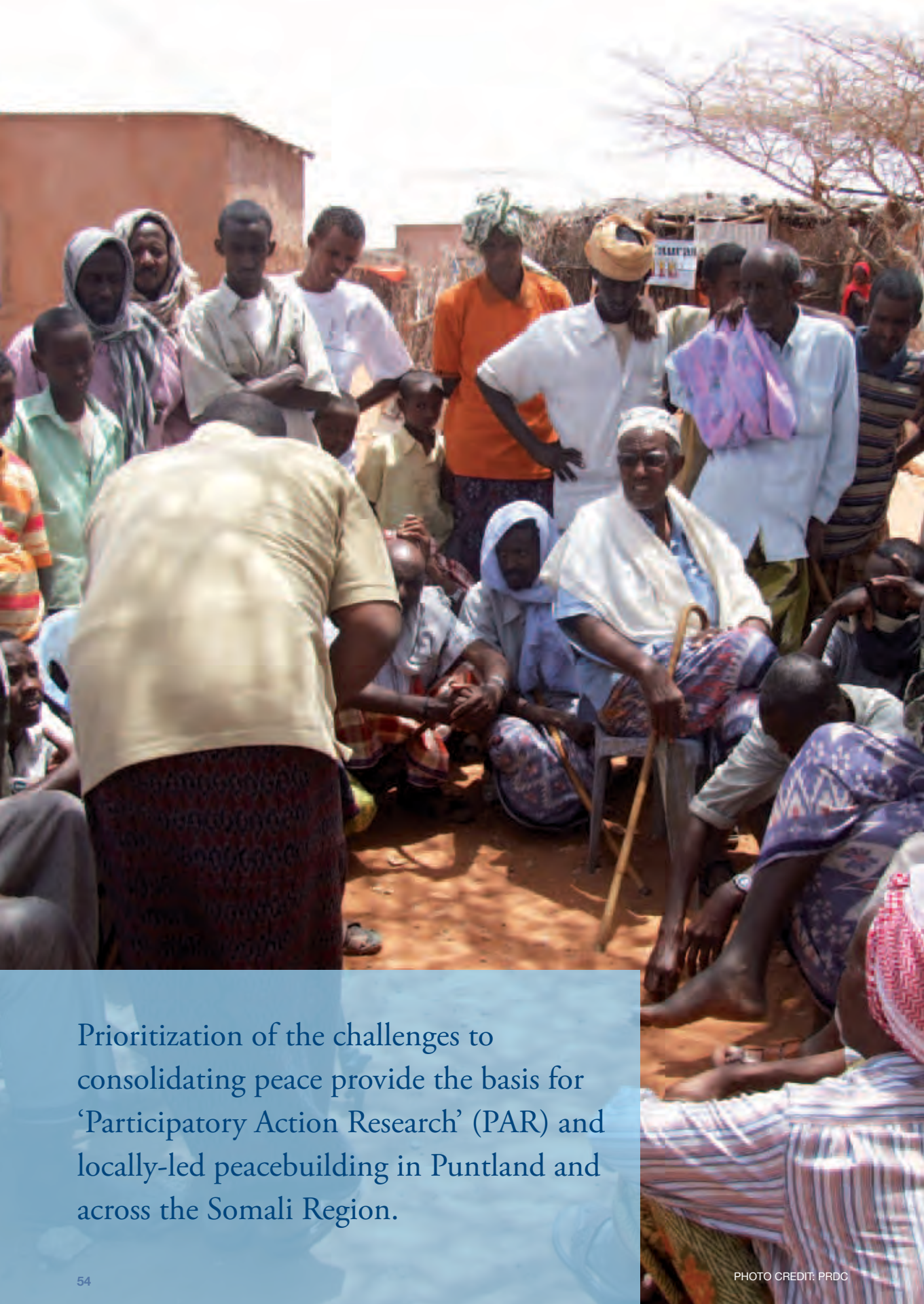
- Issued a communiqué on the decisions reached; and
- Agreed to form a committee comprising conference participants to sustain community mobilization and networking in the Somali Region and the diaspora in support of the Mombasa Conference outcomes in the quest for peace.

MARGINALIZED AND MINORITY GROUPS - CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND SKILLS TRAINING

In January 2010, as part of a process of focused engagement with marginalized and minority groups, CRD collaborated with PACT and the Marginalized Community Advocates to provide skills training in conflict management. 70 participants from South-Central Somalia and the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya benefitted.

NEXT STEPS

Our focus is on the identification of concrete and sustainable solutions to the main challenges to peace in the central regions by participants at the Stakeholders' Meeting in the last quarter of 2010. The action research will be led by working groups formed at the meeting. CRD will also continue its direct engagement in facilitating reconciliation and emerging governance systems at the request of local communities, and its skills training with marginalized and minority groups.



Prioritization of the challenges to consolidating peace provide the basis for 'Participatory Action Research' (PAR) and locally-led peacebuilding in Puntland and across the Somali Region.

PHOTO CREDIT: PDRC

SOMALI REGION

PUNTLAND

The semi-autonomous state of Puntland was formed in 1998. Its current President and cabinet have been in place since the peaceful political transition in January 2009. Over the past ten years Puntland has maintained relative peace and stability. However, its emerging consensus-based democratic institutions are under attack from armed militant groups. This has largely affected the main towns, where targeted assassinations and the use of improvised explosive devices has become more frequent. Puntland also is vulnerable to the impact of organized crime – including piracy – although a number of initiatives are addressing this.

SUCCESSFUL MAPPING PHASE

Interpeace's partner, the Puntland Development Research Center (PDRC), has successfully completed the initial mapping phase of the 'Pillars of Peace' programme. Focus groups with more than 700 people representing a wide cross-section of society discussed how to move forward in the following 'Pillars of Peace':

1. Security and rule of law – security sector and social reconciliation mechanisms;
2. Decentralization – a decentralized governance structure with robust public participation in governance at the local level; and
3. Democratization – a functional and effective democracy.

The issues raised by those consulted were drafted into a 'Pillar Note', which was presented at a Stakeholders' Meeting in May 2010, along with accompanying films. 130 participants from across Puntland's society gathered to:

- Create a space for dialogue on the obstacles to the 'Pillars of Peace';
- Discuss and validate the 'Pillar Note' document and accompanying films; and
- Identify and prioritize further actions required.

Lively discussion ensued amongst participants, which concluded with the plenary prioritizing the challenges to be tackled in the next phase of the programme. The last phase of the meeting is due to take place following consultations with the Puntland government.

SUPPORTING CRITICAL MEDIATION INITIATIVES

In conjunction with Interpeace, PDRC has continued its engagement to support conflict mediation initiatives over the last year, notably in Bari and Mudug regions. In Galkayo town, the PDRC has worked towards easing tensions between those displaced by the conflict in South-Central Somalia and the host residents. The organization aimed at preventing major confrontations in the Galkayo town area, establishing mechanisms for conflict mitigation, and supporting the two communities' peaceful coexistence.

NEXT STEPS

The identification of concrete and sustainable solutions to the main challenges to peace are now the focus of the programme. Public participation in local governance, public perceptions and understanding of democracy, and weak peace and security are the main issues now being considered by Puntlanders. The subsequent action research will be led by working groups that will identify potential solutions and support efforts to implement them for positive change.

In September 2009, Somaliland experienced the threat of forced closure of the elected parliament, street demonstrations and a period of extreme uncertainty. Despite these challenges, in June 2010, peaceful and successful Presidential elections were held. Somaliland has achieved a remarkable and critical democratic transition that has deep significance for the Somali people throughout the region.



PHOTO CREDIT: RUTH MEYER

SOMALILAND

Somaliland declared its independence from the rest of Somalia in May 1991 and has sustained relative peace and stability.

Somaliland has held a series of peaceful elections, most recently the Presidential elections. Its

democratization process deserves continuing support to help consolidate its progress towards good governance and the accompanying fruits of development. Somaliland also carries a substantial 'burden of hope' for Somali people throughout the region, providing an alternative way forward.

Interpeace has been engaged in supporting peacebuilding in Somaliland since 1999 through its partner the Academy for Peace and Development (APD).

SOMALI REGION

IN FOCUS

First ever successful democratic transition in the Horn of Africa - Somaliland's Presidential elections

SOMALILAND CARRIES THE HOPE OF SOMALIS

The Somali Presidential election inspired Somalis across the country as it demonstrated that democratic transition is possible. Violence has been avoided and the spoilers, who say Somalis do not want government and cannot achieve peace, have been proved wrong.

In late September 2009, a six-point political code of conduct applying to the National Electoral Committee (NEC) was brokered. The appointment of qualified, competent and committed individuals to the reconstituted NEC then followed.

'You are carrying a heavy burden of hope for the Somali people, not just for Somalilanders. We are watching every step - don't let us down' stated a Somali addressing the newly appointed chair of the National Electoral Committee in February 2010.

A ROBUST ELECTORAL COMMISSION PROVIDED THE BACKBONE FOR PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

In the face of a myriad of challenges, the NEC regenerated public confidence. Through their professionalism in tackling the complex tasks of cleaning up and completing the flawed voter registration list, as well as preparing for the delayed elections, they demonstrated cohesion under courageous and intelligent leadership. They also restored the relationship of trust with Interpeace, and drew on the technical expertise available.

Interpeace's local partner, the Academy for Peace and Development, provided backing, guidance, and support at every level of the process, from political mediation to intellectual analysis and election monitoring. Interpeace was the lead international organization providing support to the NEC.

Over 5,000 NEC staff were trained and 8,000 people were deployed by the NEC with the support of Interpeace and associated experts.

5,000 political party agents were trained by the International Republican Institute (IRI), including 600 civil society mediators by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, and 800 local observers, in coordination with the 'Non-State Actors' Platform and Progressio. Two groups of international electoral observers, coordinated by Progressio and by IRI, declared the elections as credible, free, fair and 'expressing the popular will of the people'.

The excellent coordination between the different implementing partners was another testimony to the leadership of the NEC and the commitment of all those involved.

MEDIA PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE

The Somaliland independent and government media, which had received training on election reporting under the auspices of the NEC with the support of Interpeace, APD and an external expert, largely abided by the Media Code of Conduct. Drawing on lessons learned from post-election

violence in Kenya, critical clauses in the Code of Conduct enabled journalists to have access to polling stations but also prohibited publication of speculative results before the official announcement by the NEC. The few breaches of the Code were dealt with swiftly and effectively by the Election Monitoring Committee under the auspices of the NEC.



Media constructively cover NEC announcement of the election date

Threats by militant groups to disrupt the elections were countered by a combination of public vigilance and the responsiveness of the police and security forces.

LARGE TURNOUT ON ELECTION DAY

On election day, 26 June 2010, the Somaliland people demonstrated their commitment to their democratic process by turning out in large numbers, queuing patiently for the opportunity to vote. This was watched on satellite TV and websites by Somalis throughout the region and beyond. For the first time, messages of support were received from the President of the Somali Transitional Federal Government, stakeholders within Puntland, elders in Mogadishu, and Somalis from around the world.

PEACEFUL HANDOVER OF POWER

The provisional results were announced by the NEC to a crowded audience on 1 July and confirmed by the Supreme Court on 11 July. The outgoing President conceded defeat on 2 July.

The first initiative of the incoming President was to appoint committees made up of senior party officials, intellectuals and other experienced Somaliland figures to provide guidance on the formation of a streamlined government and on the transition itself.

This peaceful democratic transition is a unique and positive shift - and a victory for peace in the troubled greater Horn of Africa region.

A BROAD BASE OF SUPPORT

The electoral process has been supported by donors over the three year journey. A coordinated and coherent approach ensured Somaliland had the support needed to carry the elections through, in spite of numerous obstacles.

Having begun its work in Somaliland in 1999 with a committed team, Interpeace and its local partner, APD, were able to provide the necessary support. This was possible due to sustained, concerted support from a broad base of key donors and the collaboration with a whole range of UN agencies, international organizations, local NGOs, the Somaliland media, some key educational institutions and other committed stakeholders.

APD and Interpeace were also able to recognize and engage with others committed to the process and ready to open up neutral spaces for dialogue. After years of navigating the shifting dynamics and actors in a context full of challenges, the successful outcome has brought great respect and appreciation from a broad cross-section of the Somali community.

THE MAIN CREDIT GOES TO SOMALILANDERS

Above all, the credit for this achievement goes to the Somaliland people for never giving up on peace and sustaining the momentum for change. They have truly provided a beacon of hope for Somalis everywhere.

SUPPORTING SOMALILANDERS AS THEY FACE NEW CHALLENGES

The newly elected President and his government, along with the NEC now face the challenge of putting in place an electoral timetable. Interpeace and APD will continue to provide support for the democratic process as Somaliland moves into this next phase of building a solid and stable democratic society.

PILLARS OF PEACE

APD will be holding its National Group Meeting in the last quarter of 2010 to discuss with stakeholders the findings from extensive consultations on its three pillars in the 'Pillars of Peace' programme – Democratization, Decentralization, and Social Reconciliation.

The subsequent action research will be led by working groups that will identify potential solutions and support efforts to implement them for positive change.

This initiative builds upon more than a decade of experience in order to continue advancing and strengthening the consolidation of peace throughout Somaliland. The programme aims to increase peacebuilding capacity in Somaliland in general and to engage civic leadership, women and youth in particular. 400 participants from all regions of Somaliland took part in focus groups in mid 2009 and early 2010.

IN FOCUS

Women taking an active role



PHOTO CREDIT: CRD

The three local partners in the Somali Region have made a commitment to enhance both quantitative (at least 30%) and qualitative participation by women in their activities – a significant challenge in the Somali context.

In the mapping phase of the 'Pillars of Peace', women participated in many of the focus group discussions but further focus groups were also arranged specifically for women (as well as for marginalized groups, including IDPs) to support their full engagement.

Gender mainstreaming training

As part of its support for their partners with gender mainstreaming, Interpeace is providing specific training on gender perspectives. This relates to the planning, programming, implementation and monitoring of their programmes by using the 'gender lens'. This will promote gender equity and equality and enhance women's participation in peacebuilding and decision-making.

Women's Leadership Training, Nairobi, March 2010

One female researcher from each of the Somali partner institutions attended a series of training modules on women, peace and leadership sponsored by USAID

and facilitated by PACT-Peace 11 and Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA). The trainees will put into practice the skills and tools they acquired and also transfer these to their constituents, with the support of the trainers/mentors.

WOMEN AND THE SOMALILAND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The proportion of women hired as NEC staff at regional and district levels ranged from 13% to 25% (averaging 18%), a respectable percentage in the Somaliland context. This provides a credible baseline to support greater involvement of women in future electoral processes.

The NEC, with support from Interpeace, also demonstrated its efforts towards gender mainstreaming by engaging key civil society actors, notably with respect to voter education. The NGO Advisory Group to the NEC comprised seven members, including two women. One of the six implementing NGOs was the most credible women's umbrella organization.

The Women Journalists' Association was one of three media associations to sign the Media Code of Conduct on behalf of the Somaliland media, together with the NEC and the Ministry of Information.

The draft report of the international electoral observers organized through Progressio noted that a substantial number of women participated as polling station staff, domestic observers and party agents. Women's presence in the various media appeared to have increased markedly through the campaign. Radio Hargeisa broadcast programmes advocating political and human rights for women. The majority of voters appeared to be women and young people.

The active role of women in the Somaliland Presidential election process demonstrates the opportunity for further participation and involvement going forward. The challenge remains for women to engage directly as political representatives.

Mariano Ximenes,
Researcher, Centre
of Studies for Peace
and Development
(CEPAD)



INTERPEACE SUPPORTS PEACEBUILDING IN ASIA

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

TIMOR-LESTE

Programme of Research and Dialogue for Peace (PRDP),
currently hosted by the Centre of Studies for
Peace and Development (CEPAD)



The energy, enthusiasm, stories and unique analysis of current challenges as seen by Timorese today were captured during the consultations held with over 900 people across the country. These findings formed the basis for the ‘self-portrait’ report, the National Forum and the current focus of the programme.

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE TICKNER FOR INTERPEACE

TIMOR-LESTE

ON THE PATH TO PEACE AND RECOVERY

The path to peace for Timor-Leste has been turbulent. Under Indonesian rule, which lasted 23 years, an estimated one third of the population was killed. In the three years prior to independence, 70% of the country's infrastructure was destroyed and 75% of the population was displaced. These events left the country devastated.

With independence in 2002 came many challenges for the new democracy. A shattered country, combined with high hopes, meant that frustrations have never been far from the surface. Cycles of violence have continued.

The country is now focusing on the transition from post-conflict to stable peace as a springboard for recovery. Most recently, the handover of policing responsibilities, the approval of key legislation, the appointment of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner and the creation of the country's National Development Plan (2011-2020) all suggest the country is now on the path to peace.

SUPPORTING THE PATH TOWARDS PEACE

Interpeace's local partner, the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD), is now working hard to ensure the country's path to peace is as smooth as possible. The focus of the programme is to make sure that peace is owned by the population and not imposed from the outside. We aim to ensure that frustrations and disagreements are solved through dialogue and do not blow up into violent and damaging events.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Several challenges need to be addressed including: disenfranchised youth, marginalized rural communities, insufficient rule of law, persisting divisions, rivalries within the society and deep disillusionment with the speed of development progress. Timorese society is endeavoring to tackle these issues but peacebuilding support is needed if the country is to avoid another relapse into violence.

ENGAGING TIMORESE IN THE PEACEBUILDING PROCESS

The Programme for Research and Dialogue for Peace (PRDP) is a joint initiative between Interpeace and our local partner, CEPAD.

The PRDP engages Timorese citizens, together with key decision-makers, to find ways to overcome obstacles to peace.

In 2009, the programme completed a nationwide issue mapping process that involved over 900 people. As a result 33 key challenges to peace were identified and a ‘self-portrait’ of the country was developed, in a report called ‘Priorities for Peace’.

The four sovereign organs, the courts, the government, the national parliament and the presidency, joined over 200 stakeholders at a National Forum in Dili in August 2009 to select the four priority issues they deemed most critical to lasting peace.

FOUR MAIN OBSTACLES TO PEACE


- Preventing the promotion of individual or party interests over national interests;
- The ineffective judicial system and the culture of impunity;
- The need for a common historical narrative of the resistance; and
- Preventing corruption, collusion and nepotism.

TAKING DIALOGUE INTO ACTION

The Timorese that make up PRDP's team on the ground will work to address the four priority issues over the next 12 months through working groups and additional research.

In order to close the gap between the capital, Dili, and the rest of the country, which remains remote and disconnected, the programme's district liaison officers will work to establish local spaces for dialogue and conflict resolution, to be known as ‘District Dialogue Platforms’. Timorese will come together to develop strategies for a peaceful future at a local level. ‘District Dialogue Platforms’ will feed the district, regional, and national level discussions.

The programme will also continue to work with other NGOs, peacebuilding coordination groups, and Presidential and government initiatives to support the development of policies to address the issues that stand in the way of peace.

A portrait of Liron Mehrez, a woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling and gesturing with her hands. She is wearing a black top with a white lace collar and a watch on her left wrist. The background is a red wall with green foliage on the left.

Liron Mehrez,
Programme
Coordinator,
Base for
Discussion
(B4D), Israel

INTERPEACE SUPPORTS PEACEBUILDING IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

PHOTO CREDIT: LUIS GALDAMEZ FOR INTERPEACE

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

A stylized map of the Middle East region, showing the outlines of the countries in white against a dark blue background.

CYPRUS

UN Development Programme - ACT

ISRAEL

Arab Center for Law and Policy - DIRASAT

Center for Professional Arab Local Governance in Israel - INJAZ Center

The National Committee of the Heads of Arab Local Authorities in Israel

SHAS Social Movement

UN Development Programme - PAPP

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

UN Development Programme - PAPP



CYPRUS

A LONG-STANDING DIVIDE

Years of failed negotiation processes have done little to ease the tension between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities on the island.

The situation remains largely unresolved. Political leaders from both sides recognize that a resolution could be advantageous and so have recently restarted constructive negotiations. In April 2010, Dervis Eroglu was elected to be the leader of the Turkish Cypriots. He is continuing with the negotiations, retaining three members of the previous leader's team to negotiate on his behalf.

The situation in Cyprus is a major issue blocking Turkey's membership in the European Union (EU), and with Turkey's elections coming up in 2011, pressure to find a solution is likely to come from all sides. Critical to generating an agreement and support for a future settlement is ensuring full ownership and awareness throughout Cypriot society.

A PROMISING START

Interpeace, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme – Action for

Cooperation and Trust in Cyprus (UNDP-ACT) successfully launched the 'Cyprus 2015: Research and Dialogue for a Sustainable Future' programme. Implemented through the Joint Programme Unit for United Nations/Interpeace Initiatives (JPU), funded by the UNDP-ACT and supported by the EU representation in Cyprus, the programme seeks to develop recommendations to support the peace process. It is currently focusing on two themes:

- **Sustainable development for a unified Cyprus**

Considering joint approaches on issues such as energy production, water management, transportation and construction; and

- **Preparing for daily life in post-settlement Cyprus**

Helping to overcome the lack of contact and trust between the two communities.

An innovative and inclusive research approach is being used. This includes participatory public opinion polls where stakeholders are involved in the design and subsequent analysis of the results. This develops collaborative attitudes among those involved as well as ownership of the outcomes. The first island-wide

poll launched by 'Cyprus 2015', involving 1,000 Greek Cypriots and 1,000 Turkish Cypriots, found that:

- The majority of Cypriots favor a settlement;
- Greek Cypriots are not happy with the status quo;
- A federal settlement would be tolerated by both communities; and
- Security is the most important issue for Cypriots of both communities.

The results have been shared with the public in Cyprus and with the negotiation team and diplomatic community. The details were also presented in two meetings in Brussels and Turkey, both important venues for the Cyprus issue. This has highlighted the need to continue addressing key public concerns within political negotiations.

PUSHING AHEAD

The Cyprus 2015 programme is demonstrating concrete results. The challenge ahead is to maintain the momentum with limited funds. Two further participatory polls will be conducted before the beginning of 2011.

While a green line divides the island, and is only crossable in a few places, the majority of the population recognizes that the conflict must be solved through a settlement.

"The United Nations really appreciates the work you (the Cyprus 2015 team) have been doing. We think it is an enormous help to the negotiations."

— Alexander Downer, UN Special Advisor to the Secretary-General.



The B4D programme saw 35 Rabbis and social activists graduate after an 18 month educational programme.

PHOTO CREDIT: PANOS FOR INTERPEACE

ISRAEL

CONTINUOUS CONFLICT

Despite continuous efforts to assist in the development of a peaceful and just solution to the conflict, last year saw little progress. Polarization and violence persist and many sectors of society feel disconnected and disengaged from the process. It is recognized that peace processes have to be inclusive to be sustainable.

Interpeace's Israel programme, Base for Discussion (B4D), which is implemented through the Joint Programme Unit for UN/Interpeace Initiatives, has gained significant recognition for its work with the Traditional Religious Population and the Palestinian Arab Citizens of Israel.

FIRST PHASE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME WITH TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS LEADERS COMPLETED

Work with the Traditional Religious Population, through the SHAS movement, has focused on an educational programme for the mid-level leadership about the conflict and the past peace processes. The participants also took mediation and English courses. Highlights include:

- The team gained the trust of the religious and political leadership of the movement to launch an internal process of reflection about religion, the SHAS movement, and the peace process;

- An educational programme that exposed a group of religious and political leaders of the movement to the debates around needs and opportunities for peace was completed. 35 graduates of this 18 month course have received a mediation diploma and now lead similar education in their own communities;
- The project with SHAS went public with a nationally published article talking about the educational programme;
- A similar project for the women of the SHAS movement is now being designed;
- With the approval of the spiritual and political leadership of the movement, a Rabbinical Committee was created to develop a Religious Declaration for Peace and concrete proposals to address the religious issues of the peace process;
- The empowerment of the Traditional Religious Population to engage in the peace process has strengthened its capacities for the development of collaborative strategies for peace; and
- A meeting was organized between the spiritual leaders of the SHAS movement and The Elders, an independent group of global leaders who offer their collective influence and experience to support peacebuilders.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PALESTINIAN ARABS OF ISRAEL

Based on the Future Vision document developed with the Palestinian Arab population, policy recommendations are being made with the support of Interpeace. Each centres on concrete demands to state authorities and the Jewish society for the equality of all citizens.

EXPANSION TOWARDS RUSSIAN POPULATION

The B4D programme is now receiving requests from other important groups for similar educational programmes. Initial work has already started with the Russian community. The aim of the programme is to engage this emerging political force in discussions about their vision of peace and to encourage them to participate in public debate.

BUILDING ON ACHIEVEMENTS

The programme will continue working with the SHAS community and will replicate the success of the SHAS educational programme with the Russian community. Leveraging the growing political influence of these groups and ensuring their full understanding of the situation will enable them to contribute positively to the peace process.



A youth group reinforces the importance of unity by putting together the pieces of a Palestinian flag puzzle.

PHOTO CREDIT: MUSTAKBALNA

PALESTINE

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

The continuing Israeli blockade on Gaza, the ongoing expansion of settlements, the deepening of the occupation and the persisting intra-Palestinian disputes between the two major political parties, Fatah and Hamas, are the principal contextual factors influencing the work of the programme.

WORKING TOWARDS INTERNAL CONVERGENCE

The long-term goal of the programme in Palestine is to contribute to reaching a common vision for the future of Palestine. It aims to reflect a wide consensus, that is both broadly-rooted in Palestinian society and has the support of the Palestinian leadership.

Mustakbalna, 'Our Future' in Arabic, is the name of the programme. The team has gained access to, and, the trust of both the grassroots and the high-level officials, many of whom play an increasing role in reducing tensions within Palestinian communities.

The nature of the issues being addressed through the programme has evolved to include themes of national significance, with participation of higher level political leaders. These include:

- The ramifications of a Palestinian unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state;
- One and two state solutions;
- Elections; and
- The accountability of political parties.

To ensure broad-based legitimacy, the programme expanded beyond the three initial governorates, Ramallah, Hebron and Jenin, reaching new governorates in the West Bank: Tubas, Tulkarem, Nablus, and Bethlehem.

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Mustakbalna has been working to empower future leaders by working with youth. This is being done through a series of capacity building sessions covering various topics including conflict resolution, civic peace, negotiation skills, communication and networking, lobbying and advocacy, mechanisms for documenting the occupation's violations as per the UN procedures, and awareness of psycho-social aspects of Israeli interventions.

EX-POLITICAL PRISONERS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE

During 2009-2010, the programme continued to engage with ex-political prisoners in order to provide political analysis, assess policies and build support for the national reconciliation efforts.

EMPOWERING YOUTH

Mustakbalna works to empower youth by:

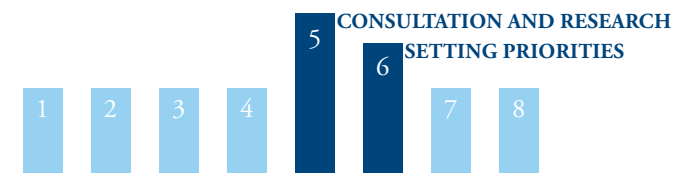
- Providing them with space to express their concerns;
- Enhancing their awareness of national affiliation, political understanding, legal aspects, roles and responsibilities etc.;
- Building capacity and leadership skills; and
- Strengthening the links and facilitating access to other influential groups, youth institutions and leaders at the decision-making levels.

INITIAL STEPS TAKEN IN GAZA

A mapping exercise was conducted in Gaza in late 2009. In addition to underscoring the need for the Israel blockade to end and for the main Palestinian political factions to reconcile, the report points to the fact that the Palestinian street has lost faith in the initiatives launched by the political factions, as these are not responsive to Palestinian national ambitions.

INCLUDING THE DIASPORA

Visits to the Palestinian diaspora for an analytical reading of the current situation were initiated in the course of 2009 and continue in 2010.



Isabel Aguilar,
Director of the
Regional Youth
and Gang Violence
Prevention
Programme

INTERPEACE SUPPORTS PEACEBUILDING IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PHOTO CREDIT: INTERPEACE

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

YOUTH AND GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Centro de Formación y Orientación Padre Palacios

Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho
(FESPAD)

GUATEMALA

Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias
Penales de Guatemala (ICCPG)

HONDURAS

El Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los
Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH)

Organización JHA-JA

Unidos por la Vida

HAITI

Initiative pour le Développement des Jeunes (IDEJEN)

GUATEMALA

EL FORO DE ORGANIZACIONES
SOCIALES ESPECIALIZADAS EN
TEMAS DE SEGURIDAD (FOSS):

Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales
(ASIES)

Asociación para el Estudio y Promoción de la
Seguridad Democrática (SEDEM)

Centro de Estudios de Guatemala (CEG)

Fundación Myrna Mack (FMM)

Incidencia Democrática (IDEM)

Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo
Sostenible (IEPADES)

Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias
Penales de Guatemala (ICCPG)

In a society permeated by violence and with the army involved in internal security, there is a clear need for continued engagement with state and society on security issues.



PHOTO CREDIT: DANIEL LECLAIR/REUTERS

GUATEMALA

A LACK OF CIVIL SECURITY

When the 36 year civil war came to an end in 1996 the hope was that Guatemala would see the introduction of an effective criminal justice system and with it, the end of violence, corruption, drug-trafficking and organized crime. However, the level of impunity remains daunting. 2009 saw a marked increase in firearm homicides with 50 killings per 100,000 persons. Only ten in every 100 of these cases were investigated.

As a result, the army has become increasingly involved in internal security. At the same time, the National Congress has been plagued by corruption and there has been frequent turnover of ministers.

REFORM OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

Interpeace's engagement in Guatemala has been through the 'Forum of Social Organizations Specialized in the Field of Security' (FOSS) which has been key to the reform of the security sector. The seven civil society organizations that make up FOSS have been providing the Guatemalan Congress with technical assistance on security issues since 2004. Through FOSS, civil organizations have guided the design and development of democratic security, including the creation of institutions and laws with a vision of peace. Most importantly, the work of FOSS helped remove internal security as a responsibility of the armed forces, resulting in a stronger focus on human rights.

DESIGNING AND INFLUENCING SECURITY-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

FOSS has played a key role in designing and lobbying around security-related laws. These include:

- National Security System Law;
- Arms and Ammunition Law;
- Public Information Access Law;
- Law Against Sexual Violence;
- Law Against Human-Trafficking and Exploitation;
- Legislative package proposed by the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala; and
- Private Security Services and Enterprise Regulating Law (In progress - this law is yet to be approved).

A recent independent evaluation outlined the most important achievements of FOSS to date:

- Supporting the implementation of the National System of Security;
- Formulating the Operational Plan for 2009 to 2013;
- Working with nine of the Congress' Commissions that have a security mandate;
- Contributing to the reform of many laws; and
- Collaborating with the Executive, the Judiciary and International Agencies.

2010 AND BEYOND

After five years, FOSS underwent a transitional period and is now independent.

FOSS will continue to strengthen the security sector in Guatemala, in compliance with the Peace Accords, and focus on democratic security and human rights. Key to this will be the continued monitoring of the National Agreement for Justice and Security.

“As FOSS becomes an independent institution we see this as a clear indicator of the ownership felt by the organizations that make up this network. We are confident that they will continue to have a strategic impact and be seen as a national resource that can sustain peace and stability.”

– Ana Glenda Tager, Regional Director for Latin America.



By bringing together the key stakeholders to develop public policies, the POLJUVE programme is pioneering a new approach to resolving the problem of youth violence across Central America.

PHOTO CREDIT: LUIS GALDAMEZ FOR INTERPEACE

YOUTH AND GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS

The growing problem of youth violence and youth gangs across Central America's 'Northern Triangle States' of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala is a serious international concern. It has been over 20 years since the deportation of gang members from impoverished areas of Los Angeles and other American cities back to their home countries caused an explosion of gang violence in Latin America. The gangs, or maras, quickly spread across the Northern Triangle region and are believed to currently have some 30,000 to 70,000 members. Their reach stretches even further than this as Mara Salvatrucha and Barrio 18, the two most renowned groups, are understood to be recruiting and operating in Europe.

The situation is dire and events and social structures are working against any sustainable resolution. Without the support of effective criminal justice systems, reactions across the region have been repressive. Mass detentions of youth and extra-judicial executions are commonplace.

TACKLING THE SITUATION

In 2007, Interpeace began a programme to develop a preventative approach to youth violence called Public Policies to Prevent Juvenile Violence programme (POLJUVE).

POLJUVE is working to help governments and civil society combat youth and gang violence through the development of new holistic public policies and preventative measures.

By bringing together those involved for the first time, the authorities, those affected, young people and those involved with the gangs, the POLJUVE programme is pioneering a new approach. Dialogue and research are the cornerstone of the work which is taking place on both a national and regional level.

Interpeace is working on a national scale in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. On the regional level, Interpeace is working with the Central American Integration System (SICA). Providing technical support, Interpeace is advising SICA's Democratic Security Unit on prevention, defining the relationship between the Unit and the Regional Commission on Youth Violence Prevention, and acting as a catalyst between the other diverse actors

collaborating with SICA to identify and work on sustainable solutions to the youth violence phenomenon.

To improve the understanding of the web of relationships among those involved in youth violence and youth gang prevention across the region, Interpeace and its local partners have completed actor mappings and full research reports for El Salvador and Guatemala.

THE PATH AHEAD

For El Salvador and Guatemala, the first proposals for public policy relating to the prevention of violence are in the final preparation stages. This will be followed by the design of action plans and their implementation.

The progress of the programme in Honduras was affected by the 2009 political crisis. Going forward the challenge is to promote inclusive consultations, which will result in proposals for public policies.

Building on the positive work being done at the regional level with the Central American Integration System, the programme will seek to expand into Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Belize and Haiti.

Haiti remains unstable, a situation complicated by the tragic earthquake in January 2010. Many affected people are still not in the temporary shelters promised. With our local partner we are in the planning phase of a programme that will enable marginalized youth to have both a voice and an active role in the reconstruction of their country.

HAITI

ENVIRONMENTAL AND POLITICAL TURMOIL

Haiti has experienced a troubled past marked by continual political and social unrest. These turmoils are the result of a brutal dictatorship and a succession of natural disasters.

On 12 January 2010 Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, was at the epicentre of a devastating earthquake. With a magnitude of 7.0, it reduced much of the city and surrounding areas to rubble and affected the lives of three million people. Of these, more than 250,000 have been reported dead and 1.5 million displaced.

Only two years earlier Haiti was battered by a series of hurricanes, damaging an already fragile economy at a time of food riots and government instability.

While the United Nation's peacekeeping force has been present since 2004 to ensure security and protect human rights, the country's circumstances have made it difficult to prevent organized crime and violence.

A NEW DIRECTION

Interpeace has been developing a strategy to support governance and social cohesion in Haiti. Following the earthquake, Interpeace and its local partner IDEJEN reassessed the needs and situation. A strategy has been developed to support the reconstruction of the country with the aim to:

1. Provide young people without formal education with life and professional skills to prevent them from getting involved in illicit activities;
2. Moderate and address the potential conflict between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities; and
3. Address the discontent between communities and their state authorities at the decentralized and centralized levels.



PHOTO CREDIT: WILLIAM DANIEL/PANOS

THEMATIC PROGRAMMES AND LEARNING

Participants from across the Interpeace family came together in San Salvador to share findings and best practice relating to 'Youth and Peacebuilding – Catalysts of Change'



CONSTITUTION BUILDING PROGRAMME

Even today there is little support available for national constitution builders, their advisors and international partners as they design, lead and implement constitution building processes.

A CORNERSTONE FOR PEACEBUILDING

One of the key moments in a post-conflict setting can be the establishment of a new or revised constitution.

Broad participation during the development of a constitution strengthens its legitimacy and ownership. It can also help place a country firmly on the road to peace and stability.

Moreover, clear, balanced and just mechanisms for conflict resolution, reconciliation and consensus building all combine to ensure a constitution can fully play its role as the country's highest institutional document.

ANSWERING A NEED

Despite the significance of constitution building processes, there are still limited resources for national actors, their advisors and their international partners as they design, lead and implement national participatory exercises.

By providing constitution builders with practical guides, web-based resources, advisory services, and opportunities to share knowledge, best practice and experiences, Interpeace fills this critical gap.

PROVIDING A FOUNDATION

Underscoring the principles of national ownership, inclusion (including gender equality), participation and transparency, the Interpeace Constitution Building programme is developing key resources that will be widely available and easy to access.

TOWARDS A CONSTITUTION BUILDERS' TOOLBOX

Constitution Building Handbook

The first ever handbook covering options for the process of building a constitution is now in the final stages of preparation.

In-depth research papers

A series of in-depth research papers with subjects including deadlock breaking mechanisms, referenda, the technical process for drafting a bill, managing and administering the constitution building process, public participation (including the theory and practice), and the specialist bodies for constitution making.

Knowledge reports

Reports from the consultative workshops with detailed descriptions of the experiences and lessons learned and shared by participants.

A virtual library

A web-based resource centre now includes over 3,000 virtual library items and a bibliography.

A community of practitioners

A network of practitioners, events and news.

Practitioner workshops

Two workshops have been held in South Africa in 2009 which focused on participatory constitution building and constitution implementation.

RAISING AWARENESS AND BUILDING CAPACITY

There will also be activities to raise awareness on:

- The need to improve constitution building processes; and
- The availability of a huge wealth of resources on a wide range of subjects related to constitution building.

LEARNING AND BEST PRACTICE

Innovation and learning
guides Interpeace's work.



PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE TICKNER FOR INTERPEACE

A DYNAMIC PERSPECTIVE ON PEACEBUILDING

With programmes that often take a 'society-wide' approach, Interpeace has always had a systemic and dynamic perspective in its peacebuilding. Over the past year, Interpeace has increased its engagement with CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, a non-profit organization that is, among other areas, engaging in peace practices through the project 'Reflecting on Peace Practice'. Interpeace has benefited from tailored tools to further support its analysis and programming.

PROGRAMME REVIEWS AND EVALUATIONS DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS

Reviews and evaluations provide one of the main building blocks as Interpeace harnesses best practice and evolves its programming. In spring 2010, an external evaluation of the Burundi peacebuilding programme was carried out. The evaluation noted that a number of spontaneous dialogues, problem-solving and peacebuilding initiatives demonstrated that the programme had managed to plant 'seeds of dialogue' in the country. The results of the evaluation have been incorporated into the next stage of the programme.

SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP IN PEACEBUILDING

In partnership with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and supported by UNITAR and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, a first course on 'Leadership in Peacebuilding' was organized in late 2009 and co-directed by Interpeace. Through four different panels, the course covered the following issues:

- Challenges of today's peacebuilding;
- Establishing meaningful partnerships and bridging gaps;
- Integrating local ownership and capacity building from the outset; and
- Strategy and process management.

A second edition of the course is being organized for November 2010, targeting senior peacebuilders.

POLICY EXCHANGES

International dialogue on peacebuilding and statebuilding

Interpeace facilitated a rapid civil society consultation for the International Dialogue on 'Peacebuilding and Statebuilding'. The International Dialogue meeting held in April 2010 provided an opportunity for fragile states to engage in open dialogue and share experiences amongst themselves, with development partners and with civil society. The dialogue focused on key peacebuilding and statebuilding priorities, the

bottlenecks and good practice in both national and international support to these areas.

Our involvement contributed to the integration of the views of civil society into the 'Dili Declaration'. Interpeace continues to be involved as the civil society focal point for the International Dialogue process.

Sharing the importance of locally- led peacebuilding initiatives in the Somali Region

The launch of the Somali Peace Mapping study took place in June 2009 in Eastleigh, Nairobi. Somalis and the international community came together to hear about the importance of locally-led peacebuilding initiatives, lessons

learned and best practice. Echo events with decision-makers followed in Brussels and Washington.

A GENEVA-BASED PLATFORM FOR LEARNING

Through our engagement with the 'Geneva Peacebuilding Platform', we were also able to contribute to the 2010 review of the UN Peacebuilding Commission as well as actively participate in this discussion and learning platform as one of four steering committee members.

INTERPEACE SUPPORT

It is only with the vision, guidance and support of our partners that we are able to creatively impact peacebuilding processes at the local, national, regional and global level.

Koen Davidse,
Director of the
Peacebuilding and
Stabilization Unit,
Ministry of
Foreign Affairs,
the Netherlands



OUR FUNDING

Interpeace is indebted to the governments, UN, EU and generous foundations and individuals that have supported the organization in 2009. Their continued confidence in the organization allows Interpeace to enable societies torn apart by violent conflict to build peace.

Interpeace receives both unrestricted and restricted funding support. Unrestricted funding is used towards the organization's programme of work and budget. Restricted funding may be restricted either by region, by programme, by project or by specific earmarking within a project.

In 2009, Interpeace received a total of US\$ 14.1 million of funding for specific projects (restricted funding) and US\$ 4 million of unrestricted funding.

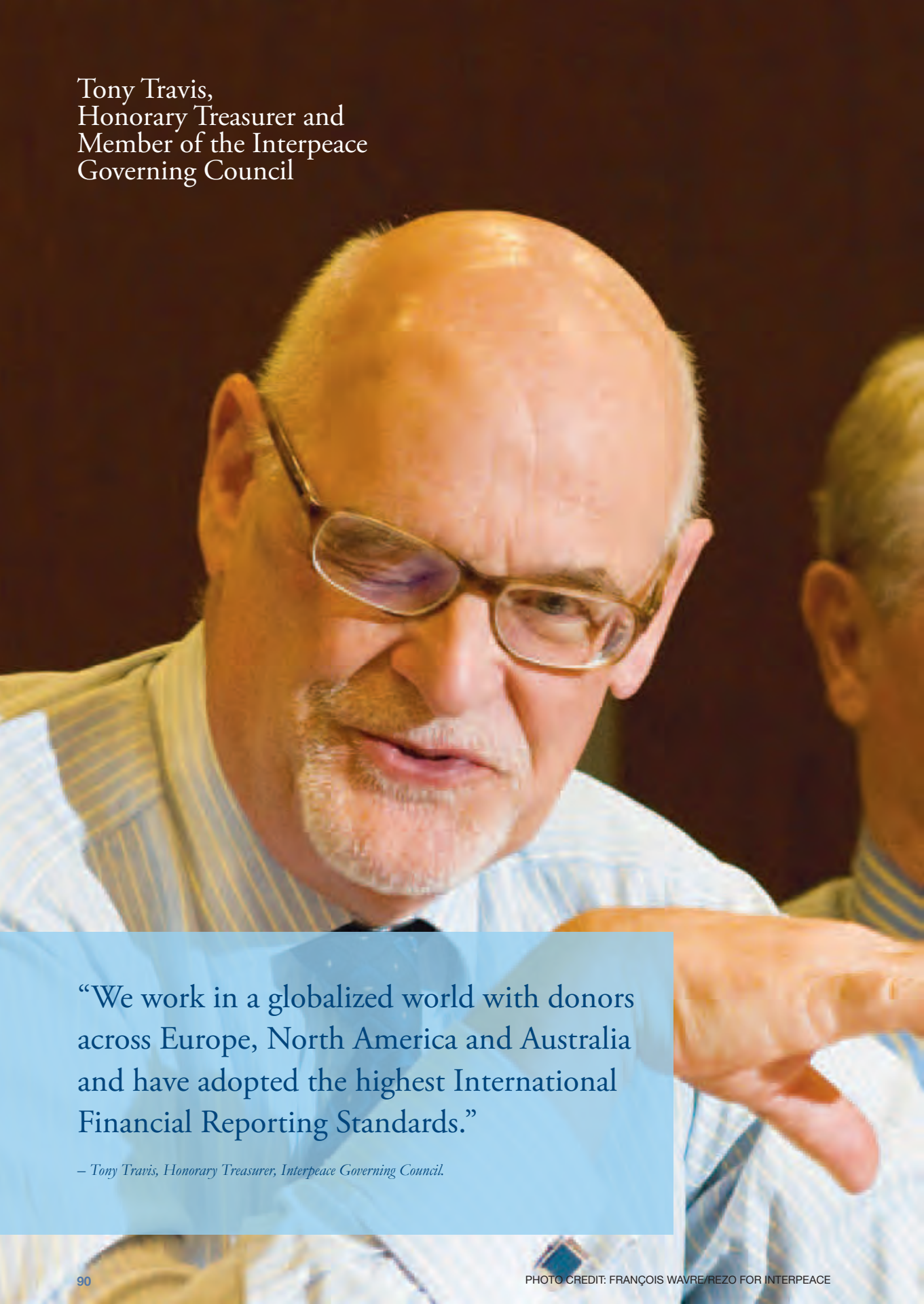
A total of 17 donors (14 governments and three intergovernmental donors) supported Interpeace in 2009. Government contributions accounted for 90% of Interpeace's income and originate from government departments such as Ministries of Foreign Affairs and development cooperation agencies. Interpeace is very grateful to its governments for their continued confidence and support of the organization.

OUR GOVERNMENT AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL DONORS

As well as foundations and individuals the following donors supported Interpeace in 2009:

Australia	Netherlands	United States
Belgium	Norway	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF)
Canada	Portugal	
Denmark	Spain	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
European Commission	Sweden	
Finland	Switzerland	
Ireland	United Kingdom	

Interpeace relies primarily on the continued generosity of its existing donors. While continually striving to find new sources of funding to further the mission of Interpeace, we are aware of the importance of ensuring that our current relationship with donors is further strengthened.



Tony Travis,
Honorary Treasurer and
Member of the Interpeace
Governing Council

“We work in a globalized world with donors across Europe, North America and Australia and have adopted the highest International Financial Reporting Standards.”

– Tony Travis, Honorary Treasurer, Interpeace Governing Council.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In a continuous effort to improve financial accountability and transparency, Interpeace adopted the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in 2009.

International Financial Reporting Standards are the world's most widely applied accounting standards. IFRS represents the highest standard for financial reporting. Although not required by Swiss law, Interpeace chose to adopt this standard. The adoption of the IFRS reporting is part of Interpeace's ongoing efforts to strengthen our systems and internal controls as well as our accountability and transparency to donors. As an example, notes and disclosures to the financial statements in previous years were around five pages. The notes and disclosures to the financial statements under the IFRS reporting standard are now around 40 pages.

Financial reports prepared under IFRS enable readers across the globe to review comparable financial information that has been prepared consistently using a set of rules and principles. The IFRS also provides enhanced transparency.

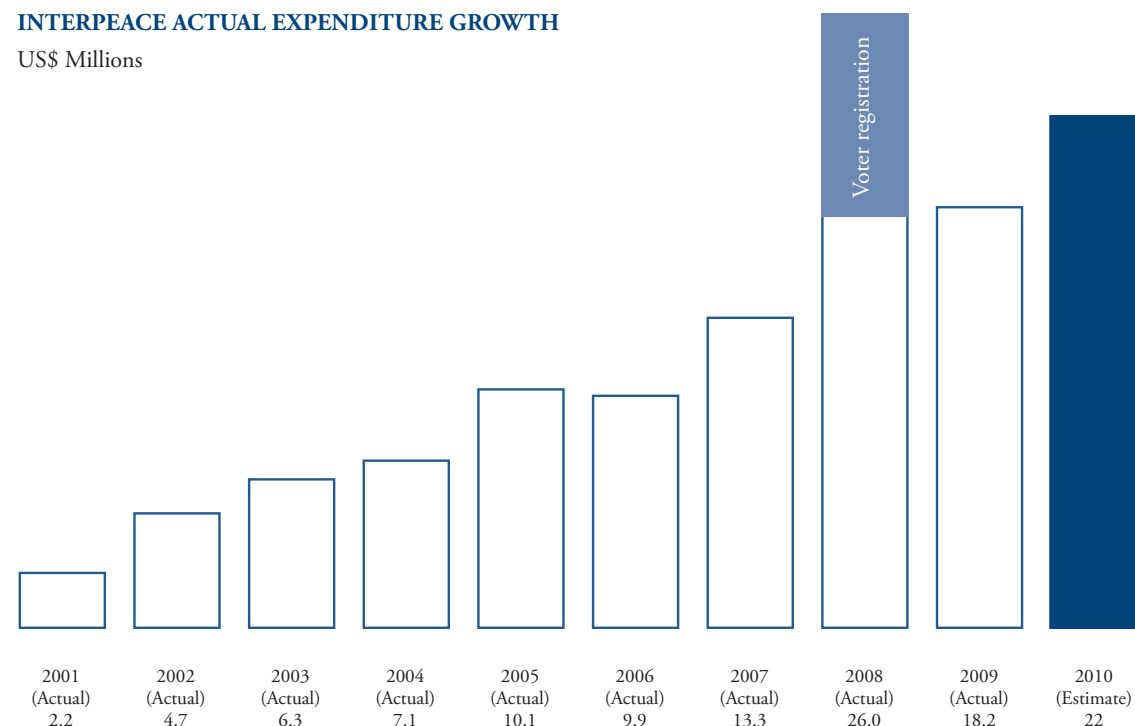
The first-time adoption of the international accounting standards is known to be a complex process generally taking companies two years to accomplish. Interpeace transitioned in one year, a noteworthy accomplishment.

The full report is available upon request from info@interpeace.org

2009 EXPENDITURE

INTERPEACE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE GROWTH

US\$ Millions



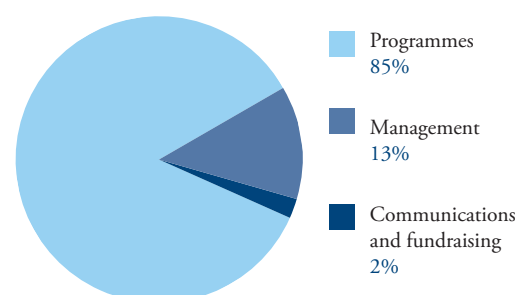
The overall expenditure for 2009 was US\$ 18.2 million, with 85% going directly towards the programmes. As noted in last year's report, 2008 was an extraordinary year with significant expenditure increase due to the Voter Registration (VR) project in Somaliland. The VR project alone

accounted for US\$ 8.6 million. Without this project, Interpeace's total expenditure in 2008 would have been US\$ 17.4 million.

Interpeace continued with a prudent approach in its planning and cost-savings measures in 2009.

The planning reflected the difficult economic condition following the 2008 recession. This is also reflected in the currency markets, with exchange rates very volatile throughout the year. As a result, Interpeace recorded US\$ 99,186 of exchange losses in 2009.

2009 EXPENSE (ACTUAL) RATIOS



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CALENDAR YEAR 2009 (US\$)

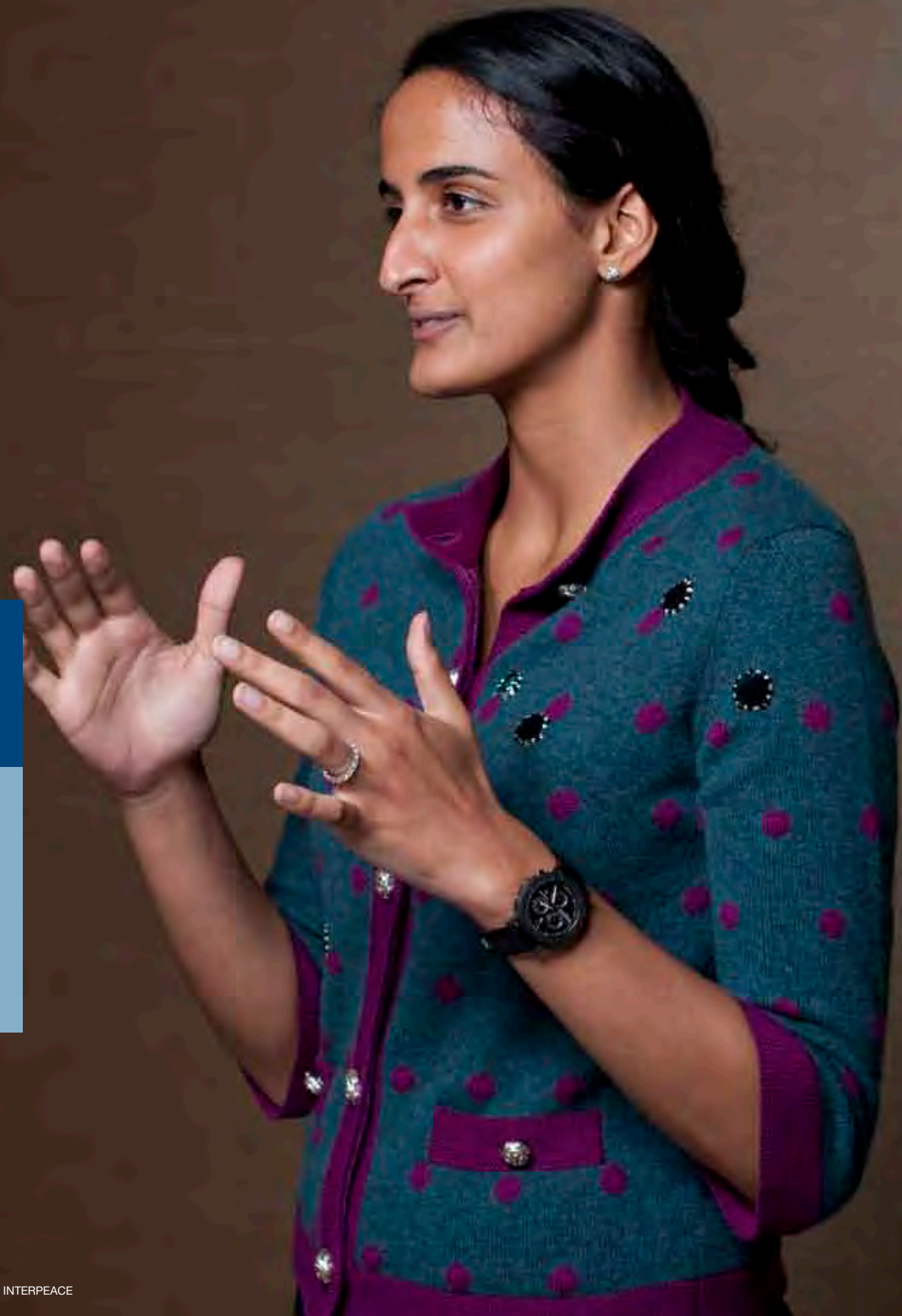
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	2009	2008
Income	US\$	US\$
United Nations	1 567 725	795 254
Governments	16 270 892	24 647 183
Trusts & Foundations, NGO and Other	281 060	662 953
Bank Interest and Exchange Gains	84 709	73 479
In-kind		59 873
Total Income	18 204 386	26 238 742
Expenses		
Personnel (incl. Consultants)	11 057 984	12 687 933
Travel and Related Expenses	2 205 951	3 886 611
Equipment Purchases	625 091	1 488 206
Depreciation	60 466	63 755
Office, Communications, Vehicle and Finance	2 137 852	4 599 545
Workshops, Reporting and Professional Services	1 992 906	2 868 325
UN Management Fees	169 191	173 599
Exchanges Losses and Actuarial Adjustments	124 912	191 574
Total Expenses	18 374 353	25 959 548
Net Income/Expenses	(169 967)	279 194
Carryforward from Previous Year	1 345 498	1 066 304
Closing Balance 31 December	1 175 531	1 345 498

BALANCE SHEET (as at 31 December)	2009	2008
Assets		
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	88 167	136 906
Deposits	65 672	41 526
Current Assets		
Deposits	6 302	3 200
Advances to UN	337 310	149 153
Advances to Partners	238 754	846 162
Project Income Receivable	3 888 963	3 967 285
Other Receivables and Prepayments	138 982	163 161
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2 353 508	4 098 796
Total Assets	7 117 658	9 406 189
Liabilities and Reserves		
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	32 160	35 500
Employee Benefits	314 782	223 051
Current Liabilities		
Provisions	160 741	149 580
Deferred Income	4 627 294	6 810 912
Amounts due to Partners	6 163	143 363
Income to be Repaid to Donors	92 877	29 531
Payables and Accruals	708 109	668 754
Total Liabilities	5 942 126	8 060 691
Unrestricted Reserves	1 175 532	1 345 498
Total Liabilities and Reserves	7 117 658	9 406 189

Hind Bint Hamad Al-Thani,
Member of the Interpeace
Governing Council since 2008

INTERPEACE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Playing a key role in defining the overall strategy,
the Interpeace Governing Council also oversees the
Secretariat in its management of the organization.





JOHN A. KUFUOR

(Ghana)

Chairman since 2009

Former President of Ghana; former Chairman of the African Union (AU); former Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)



MOHAMED SAHNOUN

(Algeria)

Vice-Chairman since 2000

Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Africa; former Deputy Secretary-General of the AU



MATTHIAS STIEFEL

(Switzerland)

Vice-Chairman since 2005

Founder and former President of Interpeace



JOÃO HONWANA

(Mozambique)

Member since 2007

Director, Africa I Division, United Nations Department of Political Affairs; former Chief of Staff, United Nations Mission in Sudan; former Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau



HISASHI OWADA

(Japan)

Member since 2002

President and Judge, International Court of Justice in The Hague; former Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York; former President of the Japan Institute of International Affairs



JAN PRONK

(Netherlands)

Member since 2004

Currently affiliated with the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague; former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Sudan; former Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation



PADDY ASHDOWN

(United Kingdom)

Member since 2008

Member of the House of Lords; former Member of Parliament and leader of the Liberal Democrats; former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina



HIND BINT HAMAD AL-THANI

(Qatar)

Member since 2008

Director of the Office of the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani



OSCAR FERNANDEZ-TARANCO

(Argentina)

Member since 2010

Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Governing Council; Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations



ANTHONY TRAVIS

(United Kingdom)

Honorary Treasurer since 2005

Former Senior Partner, PriceWaterhouseCoopers



MABEL VAN ORANJE

(Netherlands)

Member since 2010

Chief Executive Officer of The Elders; Founder and Co-Chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations; former Advocacy Director of the Open Society Institute



CLAUDE WILD

(Switzerland)

Member since 2010

In-coming representative of the host government on the Governing Council; Head of Political Division IV (Peace Policy), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



THOMAS GRENINGER

(Switzerland)

Member between 2005 and 2010

Out-going representative of the host government on the Governing Council; Head of Political Division IV (Peace Policy), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



MARTTI AHTISAARI

(Finland)

Chairman Emeritus and Special Advisor since 2009

Recipient of the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize; former President of Finland; Chairman of the Interpeace Governing Council from 2001 to 2009

Murezi Michael,
Head of Mediation
Support, Political
Division IV (Peace
Policy), Swiss Federal
Department of
Foreign Affairs

INTERPEACE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Interpeace Advisory Council is composed of donor governments and UN agencies. It is a multi-stakeholder platform for debate and discussion on key peacebuilding issues. The current Chair is the Netherlands. Interpeace also has a donor committee limited to the donors of Interpeace.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Finland
France
Ireland
Japan (observer)
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Singapore
Slovenia
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States
UN Department of Political Affairs (UN-DPA)
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)

Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
European Commission

ADVISORY COUNCIL TROIKA

The Council is led by a leadership troika of former, current, and future Council Chairs, allowing for continuity in decision-making.

Current Chair: Netherlands (2009/2010)
Former Chair: France (2008/2009)
Future Chair: USA (2010/2011)

INTERPEACE DONORS

Australia
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
European Commission
Finland
Ireland
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Ana Glenda Tager,
Regional Director
for Latin America

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Senior Management Team consists of Unit Directors, Regional Directors and the Director-General. They are responsible for the leadership, strategy, management and day-to-day running of the organization.

Scott M. Weber

Director-General

Peter Hislaire

Director of Programme

Support *to September 2010*

Renée Larivière

Acting Director of

Programme Support

from October 2010

Ana Glenda Tager

Regional Director

for Latin America

Jerry McCann

Regional Director for
Eastern and Central Africa

Bernardo Arévalo de León

Director, Joint Programme
Unit for UN/Interpeace
Initiatives (*ex officio*)

Mike Pejcic

Chief Financial Officer
and Director of
Administrative Support

Howard McMorris II,
Interpeace Inc. USA,
Member of the
'US Board of
Governors'

INTERPEACE USA

The Interpeace
'US Board of Governors'
champions the mission and
mobilizes support
for the organization.

Interpeace USA is supported by a number of influential friends, also known as the 'US Board of Governors', who champion Interpeace's mission and mobilize support for the organization.

The members of the 'US Board of Governors' include:

Ambassador Frank Wisner

Giles Conway-Gordon

Jeffrey Lewis

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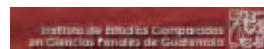
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