

## HOW TO REALIZE THE SECURITY–DEVELOPMENT NEXUS?

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### INSTITUTIONAL LEAD

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### THEMATIC FOCUS

Corruption is the abuse of power, position or trust for private gain. It is present in all countries but scholars and practitioners have acknowledged a security–development nexus for over 25 years, and yet there are few examples of operations that successfully navigated the challenges posed by this nexus. Security and development actors have made some advances in recent years, but developing for security and securing development remains elusive. Overcoming this requires a fundamental rethinking of how national and international actors promote security and development.

### SUMMARY

All speakers highlighted the importance of the security–development nexus and the fact that it now seems to be a consensus on its importance. However, they all emphasized the struggle of how to implement it in practice. It was raised that more discussion is needed on how to bridge the gap between security and development actors and overcome the tensions faced in today's world. It is not enough to create security institutions that work perfectly. Without bringing in development, in a successful way, a good result will not be reached. Likewise, by not addressing security challenges, progress could be, and is being, undone. In complement to this, aligning all actors was emphasized as a key component.

Several challenges were presented in a variety of areas. The struggle of getting donors to work collectively instead of going into different silos was presented as a big challenge. In the case of Iraq, it was highlighted that reconciliation between factions presents a challenge and that it becomes of utter importance that the state system represents everyone in order to deal with such questions as that of the security–development nexus. Even in the cases where all the elements of the nexus are present, it is a challenge to reach consensus. Another challenge presented was the architecture and the fact that it is not designed to support collective work within the security–development nexus. There is a challenge in how to overcome the bureaucracy and support collective action in these questions in daily work. Lastly, the role of humanitarian actors, and how to bring together humanitarian assistance and development assistance, was underlined as a challenge.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

There is consensus that the main challenge is how to implement the security–development nexus in practice. It was highlighted that to do so requires overcoming bureaucracy. One way of doing this that was mentioned was through a reform of the United Nations. However, it should not be limited to just the UN. It was mentioned that, rather than UN reform, the focus could be on leadership and that good leadership can help overcome the bureaucracy.

Another recommendation mentioned was getting agreement among actors. In most cases the actors have the same goal but tend to work separately. To reach the ultimate result, collective work is needed. This is done by continued discussions and overcoming the differences in perspectives

and timelines. By working together in coming up with a shared timeline, that is agreed upon with donor states, the ultimate result will be reached.

There is a need for innovation in the approaches and how collective work is designed. Collective work needs to be present at all stages of the process and it is especially important to find innovative ways of working together from the beginning.

Lastly, it was emphasized that honest dialogue and conversation is key to create the collective work needed in order to implement the security–development nexus in practice.



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Permalink: [twitter.com/zoe\\_gorman/status/1128233741527261185](https://twitter.com/zoe_gorman/status/1128233741527261185)

# BROOKINGS

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