

INCLUSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

INSTITUTIONAL LEAD

UNDP Oslo Governance Centre

MODERATOR

Dr Thania Paffenholz

Director, Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative

THEMATIC FOCUS

The failure to implement negotiated peace agreements and the frequent collapse of elite deals have drawn the attention of policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to conditions for the successful implementation of peace agreements and political transitions, and to greater societal inclusion in negotiations. The Inclusive Peace Agreement Implementation research project of the Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative (IPTI), supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Oslo Governance Centre, shows that the classical linear understanding of peace negotiations followed by implementation is misleading as reality is less straightforward: implementation often entails an ongoing renegotiation of agreements through a mixture of formal and very often informal negotiation spaces. Inclusion of a broad range of societal actors is hugely important for implementation, as it can help to build momentum to sustain implementation processes, and at the same time achieve inclusive outcomes. The panel will critically reflect on the opportunities and obstacles presented by peace agreement implementation processes, and under which conditions inclusive arrangements can help to support the establishment of pathways to peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

SUMMARY

Inclusive peace agreement implementation is agreed to be a highly complex issue. There is no linearity in peace agreements and there has yet to be a peace agreement where all provisions were implemented. What can be agreed upon is that a focus on implementation is necessary to avoid failure and that an inclusive process creates more momentum. Inclusivity is a key component in reaching sustainable peace and exclusion creates spoilers. However, there is no consensus on what an inclusive peace agreement is in practice, and how to define inclusivity in those terms. It was highlighted that inclusivity is not about one stage only; it needs to be present throughout all stages, and that inclusiveness is needed at all levels. Moreover, it was emphasized that representation is key, but it might not be influential, and if that is the case can it be called inclusive? The question of whether a large number equals inclusivity was raised. It was emphasized that it is not about the number—the focus needs to be on the right people being included. Women were mentioned as especially important in order to ensure inclusivity. However, rather than ensure their inclusion through quotas and as a group of their own, they should be represented in all groups.

However, not everyone finds inclusivity to be a positive aspect. It was highlighted that the people who do not believe in inclusivity should not be forgotten. Preaching tends to create problems rather than solving the problems of exclusive peace agreements. Inclusivity is not something that can be imposed on day 1. Inclusivity is a process and it needs to be remembered to adjust to the context and environment where the work is taking place.

Another aspect that was emphasized was that implementation is the most difficult part and it needs to be in focus in order to create sustainable peace. The implementation is likewise in need of inclusivity. Moreover, the question of formal or informal negotiations as the best alternative was raised. It was mentioned that informal negotiations tend to be more open and more inclusive. It

was also highlighted that where formal negotiations often take a long time, informal negotiations have in more cases led to a quicker and more sustainable result.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The takeaways from the session were many but it was highlighted that it is of importance to create space to talk to everyone, using different tools and creating trust. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the one factor that goes through all the conflict, as the most important driver or cause, is bad governance. Good governance was presented as the key in sustaining peace. It was emphasized that the changing nature of what inclusiveness means needs to be taken into account. The new tools that are being presented will have an impact on the meaning of inclusiveness. Lastly, it was highlighted that coherence and response, as well as how the toolbox is used in the right way, are of importance in order to achieve inclusive peace agreement implementation.



Screen capture taken by screenshot.guru on Mon, 20 May 2019 10:54:08 GMT.
Permalink: twitter.com/InclusivePeace/status/1128313538911588352



This session report was produced onsite at the 2019 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development hosted by SIPRI and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The report aims to reflect the session discussion. The views, information or opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of SIPRI, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs or other institutes associated with the session.