

International Geneva holds dialogue on Geneva peacebuilding project

Geneva—6 November The conference entitled “Our Common Peacebuilding Challenge: the Contribution of International Geneva” raised Geneva’s role and contribution to peacebuilding.

The United Nations Office at Geneva and the Geneva Centre for Security and Policy (GCSP) hosted the high-level conference, which was organized in two parts. In the morning session, the New York-based United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) gave a progress report of the first year of activities to Geneva-based peacebuilding actors (International Geneva). The second-part yielded the floor to International Geneva, allowing them to expand the dialogue on peacebuilding response.

As basis for its argument, International Geneva presented its mapping exercise of Geneva-based institutions in peacebuilding. This survey, published in the form of an online database—the International Geneva Peacebuilding Guide, confirmed prior hypotheses that Geneva is home to a critical mass of peacebuilding actors. The presence of peacebuilding stakeholders should be tapped to strengthen stakeholder relations, develop strategic guidance for the PBC, and foster capacity building.

This exercise brought forth the realization that International Geneva could fill some of the gaps of the PBC. For example, in the first session, the PBC presented priorities for the second year. One proposal to overcome challenges was strengthening relations with stakeholders. The conglomerate of Geneva entities, especially the ever-present civil society, could provide critical support in this area.

The ILO introduced to participants its joint work with UNDP/BCPR on a United Nations system-wide policy paper on post-conflict employment creation, income generation, and reintegration.

The ILO, who is recognized as a leader in capacity development and technical advice, could be a lead agency for the second-year priority of the PBC of capacity building. The PBC has recognized the need for training of national authorities for planning and assessment capacities, and the promotion of domestic economic opportunities through skills development and training, all of which are the core of ILO’s policy for intervening in post-conflict settings.

Recognizing the potential contribution of International Geneva to peacebuilding responses, the GCSP proposed the creation of a Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) based on the model of the Geneva Forum, which was successful at bringing together the disarmament community. The aim of the GPP is to bring together the peacebuilding community, forming a network of stakeholders to contribute to the PBC’s priorities. The activities of the GPP would be part of the broader objective to link International Geneva with the PBC, allowing the multitude of actors on the international playing field to integrate their practical experience and expertise in the decisions of the PBC.