Inclusivity in Peace Processes

- Look at inclusivity at and beyond the negotiating table through a variety of mechanisms, with a special focus on round tables.
- Consider opportunities for multiplying inclusivity by linking roundtable talks to informal and formal mechanisms for civil society inclusion.
- Explore ways of expanding inclusivity throughout the peace process as a means of advancing a sustainable outcome.

2

Who to Include?

Who to Include: Relevance of actors in multi-stakeholders processes depends on context. Different levels of decision-making may require different participants.

- Government
- Armed groups
- Opposition figures
- Political parties
- Faith based community
- Traditional community
- Women
- Youth
- Trade union and business community

- Victims of conflict
- Advocacy groups
- Media
- Service delivery providers
- Diaspora
- Academics
- Eminent personalities
- Human rights activists
- Community leaders

3

Roundtable Talks

- Precedents
  - Most commonly used in Eastern Europe in late 80s as part of transition from authoritarian regimes (Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia).
  - Similar arrangements used in other processes (Latin America, Spain).
  - Most recent case is the Ukraine National Roundtable Talks.
  - .

4

Common Elements

- Patterns in Roundtable Talks
  - No one size fits all.
  - Government and opposition engage in establishing structures for roundtable talks (determining number of representatives, agenda setting, establishment of working groups).
  - Structures and criteria for public participation, agenda setting and decision-making vary considerably.
  - Work is often conducted in committees and informal consultations.
  - Often includes open and closed sessions.
  - Characterized by high degree of flexibility.

20 February 2014   UN MSU Proposals on National Dialogue   5

Modalities for Inclusivity at and Beyond the Roundtable

- Direct
  - Representation at the table
  - Observer Status
  - Technical Experts
- Indirect
  - Roundtable leadership or members develop outreach and consultation strategy
  - Establishing consultative advisory bodies to mediator (Liberia, Kenya)
  - Establishing a broader consultative forum that provides input into official track (Guatemala)
  - Soliciting input from broader society through media (call-in shows, social media)

6

Broadening Inclusivity

- To broaden space for the inclusion of a greater number of actors and strengthen legitimacy of the peace process, links may be established to existing civil society processes, including informal civil society efforts.
  - Pre-negotiation efforts (Basque, Kashmir, Abkhazia)
  - Local reconciliation and dialogue (Northern Uganda)
- Envisioning inclusion opportunities during and post interim arrangements.
  - monitoring bodies
  - commissions
  - consultative groups
  - watchdog groups
  - service delivery providers

7

National Dialogue Processes

- A further consideration is identifying if/when roundtable talks can be expanded to broader national processes, such as national dialogue initiatives.
- Examples of National Dialogue Processes: (West Africa, South Africa, Nepal,Tajikistan Afghanistan, Libya, Tunisia South Yemen)
- Characteristics of National Dialogue Initiatives:
  - Variable References: National Dialogue, National Conference, Jirgas
  - Vary considerably in scope and application
  - Size (from hundreds to thousands)
  - Duration (few days to multiple years ie South Africa (two years)
  - Legal Status
  - Mandate

8

Critical Issues in National Dialogues

- Mechanism for selection process
- Determining participation: Key people or most people?
- Determining relationship of roundtable to broader political processes
- Clarifying mandate and relationship to existing institutional structures
- Dealing with spoilers
- Preparing for inclusivity
- Managing expectations

9

Lessons Learned: Advantages to Inclusion

- Provides framework for opposition and government to engage constructively.
- Engenders greater legitimacy by enabling greater inclusivity.
- Offers opportunity to capture complexity of process and broader issues that need to be addressed to achieve sustainable peace.
- Can foster cooperation among various stakeholders.
- Offers forum to facilitate common vision about priorities in interim administration.
- Broadens avenues for discussing difficult issues.
- May accommodate actors left out of official track.
- Can lead to greater local ownership.
- Can create constituencies for peace.
- Can facilitate relationship and trust-building between

10

Lessons Learned: Dilemmas to Inclusion

- Increases complexity.
- Official parties may oppose greater inclusivity.
- May generate unrealistic expectations about peace process.
- Requires more resources and time.
- Challenge of determining who is "representative."

Impact

- Degree to which process lead to stable outcome dependent on its inclusivity and extent to which it has a meaningful relationship to existing peace process.
- Inclusion should be part of broader peace process and institutional strategy.
- Should include follow-up throughout all stages of peace process, including implementation.
- Policy Impact:
  - Strengthening of institutions.
  - Broader framework for agreeing on a country's political institutions
  - Strengthening mechanisms for dialogue mediation and conflict prevention.
  - Formulation of shared principles and national vision.

Impact

Process Impact:
- Social cohesion and confidence building between the government, political parties and the civil society.
- New channels for communication within society and between civil society and state.
- Better understanding of issues, priorities and challenges.
- Recognition of common needs and positions.
- Transformed perceptions, attitudes.

Process impact is as important as policy impact