

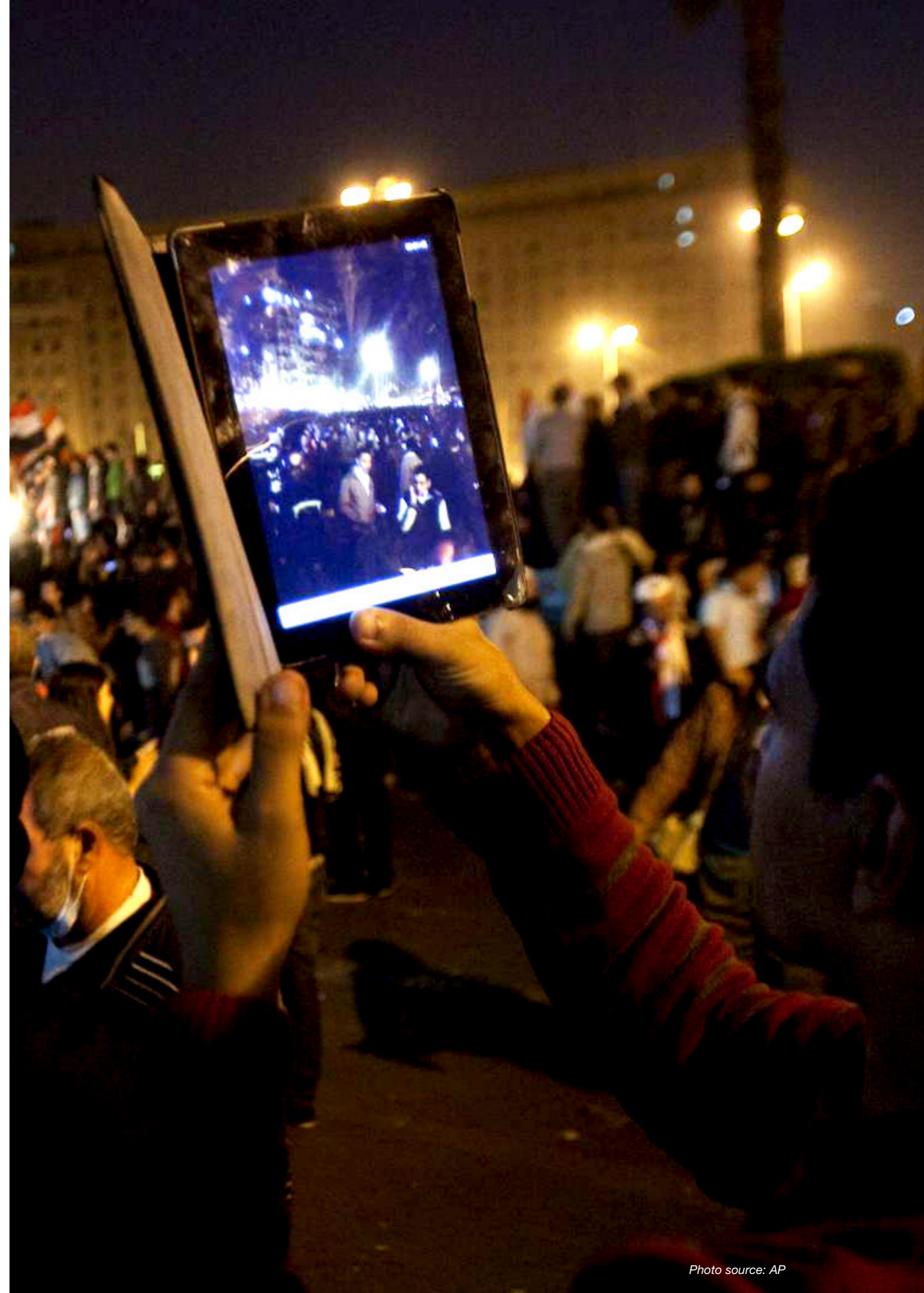


An invitation to the

Peace Tech Lab

Technology
is enabling
a dramatic
transformation
in peacebuilding.

As technology becomes more distributed, traditional power structures are declining in relevance. The voices of young, technology-empowered populations are directly accessing and influencing the international community, transforming modern statecraft.



For the first time in human history, people now have the ability to send images and information around the globe with the push of a button.

The impact of this revolution in information technology on peacebuilding is hard to overstate, and reaches far beyond the demonstrations in Tehran and Tahrir Square...

Tunisia

Citizens used social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to organize civil society for a peaceful transition of government.

Afghanistan

The use of mobile money transfer service M-Paisa for salary payments in Afghanistan's police and army helped tackle corruption and graft.

India/Pakistan

A collaborative biotechnology partnership allowed rival countries India and Pakistan to innovate together.

Sri Lanka

The citizen journalism website Groundviews holds public officials accountable by reporting on issues the mainstream media ignores.

Kenya

Activists monitored election violence using open-source mapping software, Ushahidi, and mobile phones.

Colombia

A Facebook page, "One Million Voices Against the FARC," mobilized millions in demonstrations around the world against the FARC rebel group.



This is
just the
beginning.

USIP has the expertise and experience.

93

attacks before

01

attacks after

In 2007, the U.S. Army arrived in Mahmudiya, Iraq—a city of half a million people located in the “Triangle of Death.” The Army asked USIP experts to mediate between Shiite civil authorities and the Sunni sheiks who controlled the area.

Attacks on American forces 6 months before USIP’s intervention: 93

Attacks on American forces 6 months after USIP’s intervention: 1

Source: *New York Times*, “Peacebuilding that Pays Off.” General Anthony C. Zinni. March 7, 2011

USIP has the broad network.

Over the last 25 years, USIP has provided support for 973 peacebuilding organizations in 87 countries. And since 2005, USIP has led and housed the only regular contact group among the Department of State, Department of Defense, Joint Staff, Regional Combatant Commands, U.S. humanitarian organizations, and U.S. Agency for International Development on operations in non-permissive environments.



973

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The Vision

The U.S. Institute of Peace and its partners will promote the convergence of peacebuilding with technology, enhancing our capability to prevent violent international conflict, through a new venture called the PeaceTech Lab.

Housed in USIP's new headquarters on the National Mall, the PeaceTech Lab will imagine a new way of working in this field.

"As the context of conflict has changed, so too must the tools of diplomacy and peacebuilding...."

Former Secretary of State George Shultz

It will be a way to...

Convene

Connect

Build

Inspire

Convene

The PeaceTech Lab will be the first major collaboration among the U.S. government agencies, NGOs, the tech sector, and academia dedicated to harnessing the power of technology for conflict management and peacebuilding. It will convene the world's leaders in technology and peacebuilding so that together they can create actionable solutions that meet the real needs on the ground.

Connect

The PeaceTech Lab will allow people to be more effective in their work by connecting them to the conflict zones via innovative and immersive communication technologies.

Build

The PeaceTech Lab will be a working space where thinkers and doers can envision, prototype, and produce new technology concepts to be used in the field, such as mobile applications, mapping software, and new communication tools.

Inspire

The PeaceTech Lab will be designed to engage students, teachers, and visitors through interactive exhibits, workspace tours, and learning tools as they explore how USIP is addressing important issues critical to global security and international peace.

“It isn’t enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it. One must work at it.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Establishing the PeaceTech Lab will require the support and dedication of many. Government agencies, technology companies, NGOs, university experts, and passionate individuals all have a role to play.

Our challenge isn't just about building a world-class space—it's about developing a new way of thinking, acting, and shaping impact in the world of peacebuilding. Over the next few months, we will continue to evolve and shape the experience of the PeaceTech Lab.

To do this, we need your help.

Together, we will have the commitment and passion to see this through.

Imagine the PeaceTech Lab warning citizens in Zimbabwe of nearby violence.

Rising food prices, large numbers of displaced persons, and political instability can be a combustible mix, making outbreaks of violence a serious and persistent concern.

Imagine that the PeaceTech Lab, with the help of Facebook, crowd-sourced mapping pioneers Ushahidi, local citizens, DARPA and “big data” analysts like Palantir, created secure early warning mechanisms that alert communities of where violence is likely to occur and what escape routes are open.



Photo source: AP



Imagine the PeaceTech Lab transforming Afghan elections in 2014.

As Afghanistan prepares for presidential elections in 2014 and parliamentary elections in 2015 amidst a volatile security situation, the Afghan government must address the fact that most citizens have participated in only a handful of elections. Voter education is going to be an important way to ensure a safe, legitimate election process.

Imagine that the PeaceTech Lab, with experts from Nokia, the Wikimedia Foundation, and CNN and in collaboration with Afghan rule-of-law experts, created mobile applications that put voter education in the palms of Afghan mobile phone users.

Imagine the PeaceTech Lab enabling smart management of water resources in Sudan.

In Sudan, competition for water has been a source of conflict for centuries. Today, the competition takes place between armed tribes at the unsettled new border between the north and south. The tribes and supporting militia are often allied with heavily-armed and harshly-opposed countries. A local dispute over water could flare into new violence and a new war in Sudan, where millions have already died in decades of fighting.

Imagine that the PeaceTech Lab brought together tribal leaders, officials from both Sudans, water experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and scientists from private sector companies like Coca-Cola to develop technologies to improve water supplies, predict water supply and usage, and manage overall resources.



Technology innovation has never been faster or more far-reaching, and it is already playing an important role in conflict management and peacebuilding. But we can do better. We can *accelerate* the development of these solutions. We can *distribute* them faster. We can *engage* more people in generating ideas and collaborative problem-solving.

We believe that the answer lies in moving beyond ad hoc innovation towards the PeaceTech Lab, where exceptional men and women from industry, government, and civil society focus on saving lives every day.

Join us, and be part of this next generation of peacebuilding efforts.

“The future is already here. It’s just not widely distributed yet.”

William Gibson

“When others are fleeing conflict around the world, you’ll usually find Institute staff members going in.”

