

Agenda 2014 - Towards a Shift from Reaction to Prevention

Peace Team Forum invites you to a follow-up to:

- The CSO:s Global Action Agenda (information below)
- The commitment from the Swedish Riksdag “to engage the Swedish society and its international relations in making prevention of conflict a national and international priority“

Time: October 26, 13.00 – 17.00

Place: Ersta Conference & Hotel, Erstagatan 1K, Stockholm

Language: English

>> Advancing multilateralism in the face of resurgent nationalism

Introductory address by Kevin Clements

How and why should the Swedish Government and Civil Society organizations continue to advance concepts of global citizenship, the development-peacebuilding relationship and the prevention of armed conflict at local, national, regional and global levels in the face of xenophobic nationalism and widespread assaults on the integrity and utility of the United Nations and Regional Organisations?

Professor Kevin Clements is the Foundation Director of the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland, Australia. He previously served as the Secretary General of International Alert (1999 – 2003), and prior to that as a director of various academic institutes for peacebuilding and conflict transformation in the United States and Australasia. He is an advisor to governments, CSOs and inter-governmental organizations on conflict and security matters and has published extensively on these issues.

>> Comments from stakeholders in the Swedish society

A report will be produced, including the address by Professor Clements and other contributions in the discussions. Please send out this information to all your colleagues/members! The seminar is free but we need your registration, not later than October 20. Send your registration to: charlotte.sjostrom@krf.se

We will serve coffee and tea in the break.

Welcome!

Lotta Sjöström

Program Co-ordinator, Peace Team Forum / Forum för Fredstjänst

Enclosures: 1. From New York 2005 to Sweden 2014

2. People Building Peace: A Global Action Agenda for the Prevention of Violent Conflict

Peace Team Forum, PTF, (Forum för Fredstjänst, www.fredsforum.se) is a network consisting of approximately 50 Swedish civil society organisations (CSOs). Representing groups of diverse interests including human rights, peace, development, and aid, the network provides a forum for the organisations to exchange information and run joint projects. The PTF has focused education and , for work in conflict areas, Swedish and international seminars and conferences - with two conferences in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - and studies, the most recent one dealing with conflict transformation and peacebuilding, the experience and future plans of Swedish CSOs. The PTF is currently running a capacitybuilding project exploring and testing new methods and tools for prevention of armed conflict.



PEACE TEAM FORUM

From New York 2005 to Sweden 2014

– a background for the seminar

In July this year nearly one thousand representatives gathered in the UN headquarters for the Global Conference From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Violent Conflict and Build Peace. The aim was to work on joint proposals for implementing a common agenda, People Building Peace: A Global Action Agenda for the Prevention of Violent Conflict. The agreed Highlights of this Agenda are that we should jointly:

- Promote human security and address the root causes of conflict
- Make prevention the fundamental goal of collective security arrangements
- Work towards an integrated architecture of effective institutional capacities and partnerships required for prevention and peacebuilding

This summarizes a shared understanding, a Global Partnership, endorsed by hundreds of civil society organizations (CSOs) from all over the world. An underlying conviction is that prevention and sustainable peacebuilding are also necessary in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The year 1814 was the last time Sweden fought a war on foreign territory. Since then the civil society organizations, not the least the youth organizations and the women's organizations have mobilized against armament and war. Particularly memorable instances along the way have been the dissolution of the union with Norway, the Åland conflict and the struggle against production of nuclear weapons in Sweden.

In 2005 we are becoming more and more aware of the interconnectedness of the elements in the global system; we – the people of the world – are irrevocably interdependent. To keep the peace with our close neighbors is no longer

enough. Approaching 2014, when we hope to celebrate “200 years of Peace”, our challenge is to make our global neighbourhood a more just, peaceful and sustainable place for all.

Already in 2001 the Swedish Riksdag committed itself to a gradual change in security policy:

”The emphasis of the work should be on the first two steps in a conflict transformation process... in order to contribute to working with conflicts in such a way that the use of violence and human suffering can be avoided. Here, the greatest efforts need to be pursued”

” The role Sweden can and ought to take on, together with other likeminded, is to be constructively driving in order to gradually make politics pervaded with a conflict prevention perspective”

The Development Bill of 2003 – Shared Responsibility: Sweden's Policy for Global Development, – lays down eight main themes for development ”based on the belief that people are actors with the will to develop”. One of these eight themes is conflict management and security.

No single actor can ensure peace. Making the shift to prevention requires cooperation and partnership. This is a challenge to many stakeholders: governments, municipalities, civil society organisations (CSO:s) – religious communities, trade unions, educational institutions, business and the media. The international community has a well-founded reason to expect that Sweden will be constructively driving and take on a leading role. How do we encourage and stimulate actors on all levels to explore conditions and possibilities for prevention and peacebuilding, and to develop the capacities and partnerships needed?

We have to begin somewhere

Kevin Clements



"The task of articulating and implementing a global security system will not be easy but we have to begin somewhere. Reclaiming common sense understandings of what is likely to generate safety and by contesting those who use the term security to subvert lasting and real security is a good beginning. Delineating the intuitive and taken for granted nature of security as it is embodied in normal human relationships and exchanges should provide us with a means of determining the extent to which they are applicable to more complex organisations and systems. It is not possible to reduce macro processes to micro ones but the micro-processes seem to hold many of the clues as to how we should conceptualise and begin to realise greater security in the future."

Kevin Clements, 1990

"There seems little doubt, that the quest for human security, in terms of both freedom from want and freedom from fear will remain elusive unless there is renewed political will behind:

(a) Reiterating and moving as fast as possible to implement the MDGs with each state party setting specific targets and timetables for their achievement.

(b) Making a strong commitment to conflict prevention and ensuring resources to achieve this end

(c) Exhausting all non-violent and negotiated solutions to violent conflict before applying force and then only with explicit mandates from the Security Council.

(d) Enhancing the capabilities of national, regional and global organisations in relation to integrating and implementing development and peacebuilding agendas.

The Millennium Plus 5 Summit just passed was exactly the right opportunity for making these commitments. The fact that it was prevented from doing so largely by the obstruction of the United States, has resulted in widespread disillusionment. This is the moment, therefore, for continuing the struggle to ensure that these goals are not lost sight of and for working to make sure that the United Nations and regional organisations can continue to fulfil the promise of their founders.."

Kevin Clements, September 2005