

## Remarks

### Pieces of the Coexistence Puzzle

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### Closing Panel: Implications for Education and Training

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- A. Is Peacebuilding a field? Perhaps the biggest hurdle is to establish peacebuilding as a field. More specifically, is there a field that encompasses a wide range of disciplines and areas of practice (e.g. anything that contributes to the building of peaceful, just and sustainable societies)
- a. Is Peacebuilding a field in a normative sense?
    - i. There is a good case that it is not currently a field
    - ii. While the concept has found its way into lots of official documents and there are “peacebuilding” programs in universities, most practitioners who do “peacebuilding work” do not think of themselves as being part of a field called peacebuilding.
  - b. The more important question is: should Peacebuilding be a field? Yes, because:
    - i. It mirrors reality. In the field, we can see that there is interconnectivity – economic development, negotiations, governance, environmental protection, inter-group tensions, security, etc. all affect each other. As Kofi Annan said, “development is not possible without peace, peace is not sustainable without development. We need a theoretical construct (peacebuilding) that looks at how these interrelations and tries to understand them and how to make them happen effectively.
    - ii. It will improve peacebuilding practice:
      1. More and more organizations and donors are looking to foster collaboration across fields and strengthen coordination, collaboration and coherence among policies and actors. We need a field of practice that can collect best practices for how to integrate diverse types of practice.
      2. Need to bridge programmatic and systemic impact. Studies and anecdotes speak of the difficulty in translating success at the level of individual programs to making systemic change. Peacebuilding as a lens can help organizations take a holistic view of a conflict, in addition to a programmatic view in order to help bridge this gap (e.g. through holistic conflict analysis, intervention design, and evaluation).
    - iii. It is a useful way to organize ideas. Labeling something as a “field” is basically a decision about how to organize ideas. In addition to organizing ideas around concepts like, “development” or “conflict resolution” we need to organize more comprehensively – so that we can capture knowledge and best practices around what

many practitioners from diverse fields say is their ultimate goal: producing peaceful, just and sustainable societies.

- For example, take “conflict-sensitive development.” It is a useful term, but some have argued that it makes “conflict” the dependent variable when reality is more the other way around – development is a means toward building a peaceful, just and sustainable society.

- B. If peacebuilding should be a field, how should we go about supporting it?
- a. Assessable holistic peacebuilding resources: we need books, databases, etc., which spell out a holistic theory of peacebuilding and bring together lessons learned on how to make diverse interventions work better together and how to straddle the programmatic to systemic divide.
  - b. Holistic training for practitioners (including donors) on how to develop a holistic lens on peacebuilding so as to improve conflict analysis, program design and program implementation. We need to build awareness among diverse practitioners whose work affects the building of peace, just and sustainable societies that they are doing peacebuilding work (and thus have something to share and to learn from others in this broad field)
  - c. Tools for integrated/holistic interventions - such as ones that will help practitioners better share information, coordinate analysis and activity, etc.
  - d. All this needs to feed off a base of research and teaching at the university level to help equip the next generation of practitioners with a holistic (as well as a disciplinary) view of peacebuilding