



Regional Cooperation for Civilian Capacity Development after Conflict: Lessons from South Sudan and Afghanistan

*A Seminar organized by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)
and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)
in collaboration with the International Peace Institute (IPI)
and the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Center (NOREF)*

Wednesday, October 9, 2013, 9:00am–1:00pm

**International Peace Institute
Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security & Development
777 UN Plaza, 12th Floor
(Corner of 44th Street & 1st Avenue)
New York**

The International Peace Institute (IPI), the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), and the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) are pleased to invite you to a roundtable seminar on innovative models for civilian capacity development on October 9, 2013 at IPI.

The rebuilding of public administrations after conflict is a precondition for resilience. Civilian capacity development can provide tangible peace dividends such as security, justice, and jobs—and set a country on a sustainable path to development. Without a functioning civil service, policy development and implementation can be unmanageable and national ownership is difficult to sustain. Rebuilding core government functions, therefore, is an important first step in the recovery process for countries emerging from conflict. Still, capacity development of the civil service has proven to be a challenging undertaking. There have been few systematic attempts to collect and exchange lessons learned and to develop a deeper understanding of what works and what does not work.

This seminar will present civilian capacity development lessons from triangular South-South cooperation projects (which include a partner from the global North), a model that has recently received increasing attention—not least from the New Deal agenda. Field reflections drawn from two innovative models for capacity development using mentoring, coaching, and peer-to-peer learning will be presented. Participants will be asked to help identify a possible path forward for the international community to better support the rebuilding or strengthening of public administrations after conflict, with a specific focus on South-South, triangular, and regional cooperation models.

Innovative projects from South Sudan and Afghanistan will be the central case studies for the seminar, which will explore how these projects can serve as effective models for other post-conflict and transitional states. Project leaders from South Sudan and Afghanistan will provide overviews of their capacity initiatives, as well as lessons learned. Civilian capacity experts who researched the projects in the field will present their findings and engage participants in a critical discussion of varying models for and approaches to capacity development and cooperation.

We hope you can join us and look forward to a dynamic seminar and candid discussion.

Please **FAX** or **E-MAIL** responses to 646-417-5424 or agyarkoh@ipinst.org no later than **Thursday, October 4th**.

*Should you have any questions, please call **Beatrice Agyarkoh** at 212-225-9628.*

Agenda

9:00 – 9:15am Breakfast

9:15 – 9:45 Welcome:

Mr. Francesco Mancini, *Senior Director of Research, IPI*

Dr. Cedric de Coning, *Head, Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, NUPI*

Opening Remarks:

Ms. Sarah Cliffe, *Assistant UN Secretary-General of Civilian Capacities*

Ambassador Francis M. Deng, *Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations* (TBC)

9:45 – 11:00 Session 1: Innovative Projects in South Sudan and Afghanistan

Chair: **Ambassador Hardeep Puri**, *Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and Visiting Senior Fellow, IPI*

Presenters: **Ms. Angeth A. de Dut**, *Under-Secretary, Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Resources Management, Government of the Republic of South Sudan*

Ms. Sophia Dahiya, *National Institution Building Project (NIBP), Afghanistan*

Innovative and triangularly supported capacity development projects from Afghanistan and South Sudan cut across a wide range of civil services and offer lessons for other post-conflict states. The national managers of these projects will present their experiences and reflect on the following questions:

- Is regional capacity support better suited to their needs?
- How does mentoring and coaching work in practice?
- How is ownership achieved – among host ministries, seconding countries and other partners, as well as on the peer-to-peer level?

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45 Session 2: Lessons for Advancing Regional Capacity Support

Chair: **Ambassador Zahir Tanin** *Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations*

Panel: **John Karlsrud**, *Research Fellow, Peace Operations and Peacebuilding Group, NUPI*

Frederik Rosén, *Project Researcher, DIIS*

NUPI and DIIS researchers will present their research findings on the featured capacity projects in South Sudan and Afghanistan, outlining how the projects could serve as valuable models for capacity development in other post-conflict states. Joined by the presenters from Session 1, a panel discussion will follow, encouraging participants to actively engage three themes of regionally organized capacity development and civilian capacity assistance:

1. Capacity development through peer-to-peer learning;
2. Public administrations and capacity strengthening in post-conflict settings; and
3. The strengths and weaknesses of civilian capacity support models.

The session will close with a discussion on ways to improve international responses to capacity development needs, particularly in countries emerging from conflict.

12:45 - 1:00 Closing Remarks:

Mr. Francesco Mancini, Dr. Cedric de Coning, Ms. Sarah Cliffe, and Ambassador Francis M. Deng