



High Level Political Forum 2019

Side Event

Addressing land and conflict to achieve the SDGs through conflict-sensitive development

Thursday 11 July 18.30 – 20.00, Conference Room 11, UN HQ

UN-Habitat in collaboration with Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Global Donor Working Group on Land

Objectives

1. Update/inform on where the UN is on these issues following the decisions of the Executive Committee.
2. Advocacy and raising awareness on land and conflict and how conflict sensitive development that overcomes land as a driver of conflict can contribute to sustaining peace
3. Prepare the groundwork to mobilize MS support for a more sustained dialogue and engagement on land and conflict

Brief description of the event

Land is understood as a root cause of conflict and a bottleneck to development. More focus is needed on how conflict sensitive investments and development can help to sustain peace. This requires a more coherent and sustained engagement on land. The Executive Committee, led by the Secretary-General, recently adopted Guidance Note on land and conflict [\[link\]](#) to ensure better UN support across the development, humanitarian and peace and security pillars. New practices are emerging at regional and country level [\[recent GLTN publication\]](#). A renewed dialogue is needed with member states to strengthen the UN's role in creating opportunities to sustain peace and accelerate the localisation of the SDGs. The Great Lakes is an example of how a more coherent and sustained engagement on land, paves the way for conflict-sensitive management of natural resources and longer-term stability. Somalia and Afghanistan illustrate how land value can be captured by local governments to generate revenue, invest in basic, and rebuild the social contract.

Programme

Chair: Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

1. Hon Robert Loko Lado Chairman, South Sudan Land Commission
2. Ms. Marta Ruedas, Deputy Special Representative for the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator, Iraq
3. Mr. Marcel Stoessel, Senior Policy Advisor on Fragility, Conflict and Violence, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
4. Mr. Gam Awungshi Shimray, Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

Inter-active discussion with Member States and stakeholders

Closing remarks: Ms. Teresa Whitfield, Director Policy and Mediation Division, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operation