



Expert Workshop

“Rising Powers and Peacebuilding: Innovative Approaches to Preventing Conflict and Sustaining Peace”

#RisingPowers&Peace

Vesalius College, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
Wednesday, 24 August 2016
13.00 – 17.00

Project Summary

The Rising Powers and Peacebuilding project seeks to address an important question that has not yet been thoroughly researched: **what are the new approaches that rising powers have taken to peacebuilding, how do they differ from those of traditional powers and multilateral institutions, and what lessons can be learned from these new approaches?**

In the view of some in the global South, current approaches to peacebuilding are western-dominated and ignore local context. New actors like the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), Turkey and Indonesia have emerged as new ‘donors’ that advance their own political and technical approaches to peacebuilding. Some decision-makers in the UN, EU, OECD and the USA, Norway and other bilateral donors have embraced South-South technical cooperation, less conditional modes of operating, peer-provided guidance on political processes, and national ownership and empowerment. Southern approaches are seen by some as technically more appropriate and an improvement to liberal Western models.

This project seeks to provide a structured, critical analysis of the values, content and impact of recent peacebuilding initiatives of rising powers, comparing them to one another and to approaches by Western donors and international organizations. The project also aims to offer new theoretical claims about the role of the global South in peacebuilding, rooted in insightful empirical work (on Somalia, Afghanistan and Myanmar), and to make key policy audiences aware of alternative approaches and their empirical records.

The international consortium comprises the following organizations: South Africa-based ACCORD; the Istanbul Policy Center (IPC); United Service Institute of India (USI); the

Center for Strategic and International Studies of Jakarta (CSIS); the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI); and the Washington-based American University's School of International Service (SIS). The project has been undertaken with support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ultimately, the project aims to build a greater understanding among Northern and Southern peacebuilding scholars, and among key peacebuilding policymakers and practitioners, about the (a) roles, (b) motives, (c) content and (d) impact of peacebuilding efforts by Southern and rising powers. For more information on the project, please see: <http://risingpowersandpeacebuilding.org>

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 24th August 2016 13.00 – 17.00h

13:00–13:30 Registration and Lunch

13:30–13:45 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Prof. Joachim Koops, Dean, Vesalius College

Dr. Cedric de Coning, Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian
Institute of International Affairs & ACCORD

**13:45–14:00 Introduction to the Project on Rising Powers and
Peacebuilding**

Prof. Charles T. Call, Associate Professor, School of International
Service, American University

14:00–15:00 Session One: Peacebuilding: the Rising Powers Experience

In this session the researchers will share the findings of both their country studies (Brazil, India, South Africa & Turkey) as well as their case studies (Afghanistan & Somalia). The aim of this session is to get an understanding of how these rising powers understand and approach peacebuilding.

Moderator: Prof. Maria Martin Almagro, Assistant Professor of
International Affairs , Vesalius College

Panelists:

Mr. Onur Sazak, Istanbul Policy Center (Turkey)

Lt.Gen. P.K. Singh, Director, United Service Institution of India

Dr. Adriana Erthal Abdenur, Igarapé Institute (Brazil)

Mr. Charles Nyuykonge, Senior Researcher, ACCORD (South Africa)

15:00 –15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-16:30

Session Two: Implications of the approach of Rising Powers to Peacebuilding

In this session the panelists will consider the implications of the approach of rising powers to peacebuilding for the EU, UN, and peacebuilding actors in general. How is peacebuilding likely to evolve, given the rising influence of these powers in global affairs? How should it evolve? We will also consider implications for global politics of these trends.

Moderator: Prof. Joachim Koops, Dean, Vesalius College

Panelists:

Prof. Charles T. Call, Associate Professor, School of International Service, American University

Lt.Gen. Chander Prakash, Distinguished Fellow, United Service Institution of India

Dr. Cedric de Coning, Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs & ACCORD (South Africa)

16:30-17:00

Wrap up Session/Closing

Prof. Joachim Koops, Dean, Vesalius College

Dr. Cedric de Coning, Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs & ACCORD (South Africa)

17:00-18:00

Light reception