

About the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF)

The United Nations is engaged in attempts to prevent and manage conflicts that are complex – involving social and economic, as well as political and humanitarian dimensions – and that are global in reach. Yet it often lacks timely access to multidisciplinary and field-based information and analysis, particularly from countries or regions affected by conflict themselves, as well as a capacity to devote sustained analytical resources to countries or regions that are not an urgent priority, or may be sensitive to UN engagement.

CPPF was created at the Social Science Research Council in October 2000 to address this problem by strengthening the knowledge base and analytical capacity of the UN system in the fields of conflict prevention and management, peacemaking and peacebuilding. CPPF works exclusively at the request of the UN and supports UN policy and operations by establishing more systematic and rapid access to leading scholars, experts, and practitioners outside the UN system.

An important second objective is to facilitate coherence within the UN system and between the UN and key partners in particular conflict situations. CPPF's comparative advantage lies in a combination of access to senior UN decision-makers, experience with UN policy and operational planning, and extensive and high quality networks of outside experts who complement CPPF's staff expertise. It is usually called upon in critical moments in the process when policies are being rethought and/or decisions are being made.

We are able to mobilize, very quickly and in a cost-effective way, expertise from our own staff and our roster of country and thematic experts, who in turn provide crisp written analyses and where possible, face-to-face briefings with UN decision-makers. We also share these papers with our funders and we arrange briefings by our staff and roster experts for the donors. For example, we sent a recent paper on Security Sector Reform in Burundi to DFID's London office just before a team left for a mission to that country. A former Commissioner on the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal spent three hours with representatives of the Swedish, Danish, Dutch and Norwegian missions to the UN briefing them on the current situation and challenges to building peace in his country. Likewise, our staff has briefed visiting delegations from donor capitals on the situation in the DRC and Burundi. Our staff and experts have visited Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff in their capitals to provide them with the latest top-quality analysis and research (e.g. in Oslo, London, Stockholm and Brussels) on a variety of country situations.

In the eight years since its start-up, CPPF has established itself as a trusted partner of the United Nations, with a track record of successful activity in all regions of concern to the UN system. CPPF's activities are supported by a small staff of professionals who regularly provide information, analysis and recommendations to UN counterparts. CPPF's partners within the UN Secretariat and in UN peace operations call on it frequently based on their confidence that CPPF staff will respond with program activities that combine high quality analysis with the speed, flexibility, and discretion that have become hallmarks of CPPF's approach.