The owl and the dove: knowledge strategies to improve the peacebuilding practice of local non-governmental organisations

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Annex 2. Excerpts from GPPAC global survey reports

Version A – for people directly involved in GPPAC

3. What, if any, are the benefits of the global GPPAC network for your organization?

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- **Access to knowledge and expertise (35)** in the field; increased understanding of issues – particularly those at global level
- **Exchange of experiences and learning (32)** collect and share lessons learned and best practices
- **Contacts; expansion of network and partners (30); partnerships; meeting people at conferences; links with other regional networks**
- **Collaboration (24);** provides potential for truly regional and global action. Joint projects, including peace education.
- **Capacity building (12)** – strengthen organisation, provide training
- **Visibility/legitimacy (11) of our organisation through GPPAC**
- **Lobby and advocacy (11);** more advocacy power through the power of numbers and links with influential players; bridging the gap between governments and civil society; lobbying with UN, especially around the peacebuilding commission, of particular value
- **Raising awareness (8)** conflict prevention and the role of civil society
- **Mutual assistance (10)** and practical and moral support
- **Access to funds (6)**
- **Unity of civil society (5);** bringing CSOs together
- **Provides a focus on the concept of conflict prevention (4)** and a way to both clarify and promote concrete actions and policies in support of that idea.
- **Create bridges (2):** Link local initiatives for conflict prevention with (sub)regional mechanisms for influencing political decision-making
- **Acknowledgement of women’s organizations (2),** sharing, cooperating with women and women’s organizations working with 1325
- **An “honest” agenda (2):** “the agenda is set by the regions, through the ISG. I can clearly see that this agenda differs from a, for example, pure European agenda. The wide spectrum of opinions, cultures, and knowledge makes it possible to deal with such complex issues such as conflicts and wars in an equally complex way”
4. What, if any, are the benefits of the regional GPPAC network for your organization?

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- Exchange of experiences and learning (40) collect and share lessons learned and best practices
- Provide access to knowledge and expertise (28) in the field
- Collaborative work and joint activities (22); provides potential for truly regional action. This could deepen the cultural and economic integration of countries and people in a region. Peace education could be a joint programme.
- Gaining contacts and partnerships (18) with other players in region; networking
- Lobby and advocacy (14); more advocacy power through the power of numbers and links with influential players; bridging the gap between governments and civil society
- Capacity building (10), also increasing our understanding of the context in which we work
- Coordination (6) of activities to prevent duplication
- Visibility/legitimacy/influence (5) of our organisation has increased
- Raised awareness (3) of the importance of working on peacebuilding and conflict prevention issues
- Mutual understanding and support (3)
- Fundraising (3)
- Local and national issues can be raised at regional and global levels (2)
- Provides a focus on the concept of conflict prevention (2) and a way to both clarify and promote concrete actions and policies in support of that idea.
- Use of the conclusions and recommendations of Regional and Global Action Agenda (2)
- Strengthening our networks (2)
- Regular meetings (2)

5. What, in your view, are the most important functions of the global GPPAC network?

- Lobby and advocacy (31) towards international policymakers, particularly the UN.
- Exchange of experiences (26) and information
- Generating and disseminating information, research (26)
- Implementing joint programmes (17) and the Global Action Agenda (although some feel it is too broad and needs more focus)
- Facilitator and coordinator (16): of interaction and cooperation among NGOs and between NGOs, governmental bodies and international organisations. Facilitate meetings among regional
GPPAC in order to plan activities and set common agendas. Harmonise peacebuilding activities at global level.

- **Fundraising (14)** and supporting members’ fundraising
- **Raising visibility and awareness (13)** of nonviolent strategies of preventing armed conflicts and of the role, activities and issues of civil society. Linking the global to the local.
- **Partnerships and contacts (12)**
- **Capacity building (11)** of members
- **Acting as an interface (7)** between universal civil society on the one hand and the United Nations and other official (regional) organisations on the other.
- **Building solidarity and unity (6)** among the members of the network; form a common front. Mutual support.
- **Providing global leadership (5)** – direction and guidance
- **Advisor (5)**
- **Global conferences and meetings (4)**
- **Political activism (2)**: on global issues such as War on Terror, Middle East, North Korea
- **Enlargement of the network (2)**
- **Evaluation (2)** of the results of conflict prevention initiatives
- **Bring civil society peacebuilders together (2)**
- **Vehicle for developing policy and practice (2)** that potentially will have a positive impact in emerging conflict situations.
- **Supporting the regional networks (2)**
- **Connect civil society and the UN (2)** in efficient, concrete mechanisms that can empower a global civil society network to work for human security.

6. **What, in your view, are the most important functions of the regional GPPAC network?**

- **Exchange of experiences (19)**
- **Generating and disseminating information, research (17)** including analyses of the functioning of organizations in the field of conflict prevention; Mapping of conflict, actors, CSO roles and contributions
- **Lobby and advocacy (17)** towards governments and regional policymakers; changing national legislation; establish partnerships with the peacekeeping institutions
- **Joint activities and campaigns (17)** including the implementation of the regional action agendas
- **Coordinate (14)**: harmonise peacebuilding activities, prevent duplication of work
- **Connections and contacts (12)**
- **Joint strategising (11)** – incl. the regional action agenda and work plan
- **Capacity building (8)** of members – esp. training. Empower civil society.
- Mobilize and unify civil society (7) and build a common understanding of conflict and conflict prevention
- Building solidarity (6) among the members of the network
- Bring to the fore regional and national concerns (5) that need to be addressed at the global level; provide a place for different groups to recruit support for their ideas
- Raising awareness (5) of nonviolent strategies of preventing armed conflicts and of the role of civil society
- Meetings (4)
- Building relationships between civil society, governments and regional and international organisations (4). Promote dialogue.
- Facilitating dialogue (3) and communication between various players in the field
- Strengthen and support national networks (3) and help them to become linked regionally and globally
- Fundraising (3) and helping members raise funds
- Early warning and early response (2)

9. What are the main challenges faced by GPPAC and/or the regional network?
- Low financial resources (24)
- The difficulty of proving its value by moving towards implementation and concrete activities (18). There is lack of clarity on way forward post–New York. GPPAC needs to prove of practical value in actually preventing violent conflict—as opposed to “holding endless meetings and conferences to talk about it”.
- Finding a focus and developing a clear strategy (11). Focus on a few achievable goals and then doing those well
- Unfriendly political environment (9) in some regions and countries makes it difficult for civil society to work freely; bad governance; corruption; lack of political will of powerful states; lack of security.
- Insufficient information flow / communication (8)
- Coordination (7)
- Low commitment (5) on the part of some actors. Persuading people to be actively involved is a challenge. Members have to deal with competing demands on their time and energy.
- Demonstrate relevance to prominent conflicts (3) - Middle East, Iraq, Darfur, North Korea, war on terror - as well as less prominent conflict situations and trends
- Keeping the momentum (3)
- Little coverage (3) in the countries of the region ; enlarging the network
- Sustainability (3)
- GPPAC is little known (3)
- Too few members (3); important actors left out
- Supporting weak members (2)
- Language barriers (2)
10. What are your recommendations for strengthening the functions mentioned under questions 5 and 6?

- **Raise funds (22).** Find more stable and constant fundraising basis. Make more use of the media to raise profile.
- **Improve information flows (16):** establish research and documentation centre; regional websites; brief electronic newsletter; activate the GPPAC website and make it a marketplace of ideas, initiatives, projects.
- **Build capacity (13) of members; provide (online) trainings**
- **Plan and implement concrete joint activities (11).** Establish working groups to work on common activities. Start implementing the action agendas.
- **Improve democratic governance, transparency and ownership (8)**
- **Strengthen global, regional and national secretariats/coordinators (8)**
- **More regular meetings (6)**
- **More focus (4); also in order to create the GPPAC ‘brand’**
- **Expand the network (4),** engaging as many institutions as possible at all levels
- **Establish better links to local level (2)**
- **Set up Monitoring and Evaluation methods (2)**
- **Develop an early warning for early response system (2)**
- **Focus on peace education (2)**
- **Work in close collaboration with UN Peacebuilding Commission (2)**
- **Create and strengthen secretariats at global, regional and national level (2)**
- **Better PR (2) of GPPAC and of conflict prevention**

22. What are your priorities for knowledge sharing within the global and the regional GPPAC network? What knowledge do you think should be shared?

- **Conflict prevention and peacebuilding knowledge and methods (19)**
- **Specialised conflict prevention/peacebuilding issues and methods:**
  - Peace education (13)
  - Human rights (5)
  - The arms market; SALW; disarmament (4)
  - Early warning and early response (4)
  - Good governance (2)
  - The role of religion (1)
  - Grassroots experiences and traditions (1)
  - Postconflict reconciliation (1)
  - Link between development and conflict (1)
  - Innovative peacebuilding methods (1)
  - Types of conflict and root causes (1)
  - Human security (1)
  - Negotiation skills (1)
- Experiences (9) in the field
- Information about GPPAC (7): goals, action plans, developments – including follow up to UN activities
- Activities undertaken by members (8) and by the network. Information on how programs in various regions are carried out. Understand the formula of success.
- Lobbying and advocacy methods (4)
- Information about what is happening in regions (3)
- The role of civil society (2)
- Networking methodologies and lessons (2)
- Capacity building methods (2)
- Information about global issues and processes (2)
- Strategic planning (1)

Version B – for people indirectly involved

9. What, if any, are the benefits of the global GPPAC network for your organization?

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- Opportunity to exchange experience (34)
- Partnerships and contacts (23) - creating global connections and multilevel communication
- Access to knowledge and expertise (20)
- Growth of my organisation’s capacity (11)
- Draws attention (10) of the world community to our conflicts and peacebuilding efforts
- Facilitate cooperation and collaboration (9) of peacebuilding organizations within their regions and globally, between governments, and international agencies
- Lobby and advocacy (8) at various levels
- Meetings, conference (7)
- Increased visibility of organisation (6) and more clout towards governments and regional organisations
- Access to resources (4) directly or by establishing contacts with donors though GPPAC
- Solidarity (4) regionally and globally
- Joint projects (4)
- Link the global to the local (3)
- Partnership with UN (3)
- Reduction of the risks of conflict development (2) in our region
10. What, if any, are the benefits of the regional GPPAC network for your organization?

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- Exchange of experience (21)
- Partnerships and contacts (17)
- Collaboration (12) on relevant regional peace and conflict issues
- Increase of capacity of the organisation (11) , access to training, and broadening organisations’ sphere of activities
- Receiving information (8)
- Lobby and advocacy (5) at various levels
- Increased visibility and credibility of organisation (4)
- Access to resources (3)
- Partnership with UN (2)

11. What, in your view, are the most important functions of the global GPPAC network?

- Lobbying (32) at different levels; advancing the interests of the network members and their constituencies. Liaise with the UN and in particular the Peacebuilding Commission
- Information (20): Provide us with information of good quality – about global processes, what other members are doing, research results, tools and methods
- Bring together governments and NGOs (16)
- Sharing knowledge and experiences (14)
- Partnerships and contacts (14) among civil society and with governments
- Advocacy (14): high-level; organising global campaigns
- Liaising with UN (14) – in the future, represent the network with a seat at the UN
- Collaboration (11): coordinating joint activities and implementing plans. Establish working groups on different directions where conflict develops. Maximising resources through collaboration.
- Awareness raising (11) among populations
- Access to resources (11): financial as well as content
- Build capacities (11): Training of specialists and monitors
- Supporting the regional networks (10)
- Develop common vision and strategy (9)
- Mobilisation (9): Mobilise the world community, mass media, and international organisations in the resolution, and prevention of conflicts and war
- Organise meetings (9): Participation at high level international and global conferences
- Develop methods of prevention (7); introduce alternative approaches to address conflicts around the world
- Coordination (6)
- Monitor, research and analyse conflicts (6) and their cause-consequence relations
- Building networks around themes (4)
- Trust and solidarity building (3) between representatives of peace NGOs, grassroots peace people, representatives of UN and governments
- Mediate (2) between conflicting groups, ethnic groups and the state.

12. What, in your view, are the most important functions of the regional GPPAC network?
- Cooperation and joint activities (27): implementing the Regional Action Agenda. Maximising resources through collaboration.
- Partnerships and contacts (17) among civil society and with governments
- Exchange of knowledge and experiences (16), lessons learned, best practices
- Lobby (12) – national, regional and international. Promotion of regional interests on international level
- Advocacy (11): Unite forces of NGOs in conflict prevention. Present the opinion of the public to the relevant authorities.
- Building capacities (10): Education of our specialists
- Elaborating norms and methods of prevention (9)
- Keeping us informed (6): communication and provision of information to network members
- Monitoring (6): Evaluation of ongoing conflicts
- Financial support (6)
- Developing joint agenda (5)
- Representing regional interests (3) and special regional issues
- Raise the profile (2) of civil society and peacebuilding at the regional level

15. What are the main challenges faced by GPPAC and/or the regional network?
- Unfriendly political environment (11)
- Communication (10)
- Lack of concrete activities (8); no implementation yet
- Lack of funds (8) – need to interest donors in long-term support
- Few contacts with state bodies and regional organisations (6)
- Maintaining the network (6): Maintain the level of attention and activities.
- Enlargement (6) stay open to all organisations actively committed
- Lack of focus (5)
- Continuity and sustainability (5); activities have an isolated character, they are not systematic
- Too far removed from grassroots (4)
• Governance (4): ineffective, lack of ownership, lack of transparency
• Building coherency (4) despite the diverging issues and levels development of countries and regions
• Socio-economic issues (3)
• Reality of armed conflict (3)
• Political realities (2): violent conflicts, US foreign policy
• Lack of institutional support (2) to members and national networks/focal points
• Politics within network (2) particularly in Middle East where Israeli organisations are prevented from joining
• Commitment (2) of members
• Language barriers (2): information is distributed in English
• Low capacity of members (2): not enough skills in networking and little capacity for conflict intervention

16. What are your recommendations for strengthening the functions mentioned under questions 11 and 12?
• Governance (17): create clarity on structures and procedures; increase ownership and transparency; provide equal opportunities for all network members. Specify mandates and roles and address representativeness
• Decide on aims and strategies (12) for the implementation of the Action Agendas, and do so in a participatory way. Also develop benchmarks.
• Strengthen the secretariats (10) at various levels
• Exchange of knowledge (9): Learn from others. Constant exchange of information among network members
• Build capacity (7) of network members
• Increase communication and access to information (7) possibly through internet and a regular newsletter
• Organize regular conferences and meetings (7)
• Influence governments (7): Develop a system of cooperation and mechanisms of influence on politicians and the state
• Cooperate with existing networks (7), unite forces and methodologies with real activists and active organizations
• Capacity building of members (6): this would also provide them with incentives for participation in the network, moral and material
• Monitor possible conflict zones (4)
• Start joint activities (4) including follow-up of conferences
• Financial support (4): find long-term funding
• Regular meetings (3): Organise a early global forum or a constant operating network of round tables
• Join organizations and networks that deal with security (3): UN, NATO, EU and other multilateral and international organizations
• Establish ongoing relations with international institutions such as UN (3)
• Access to experts (3): Establishment of a data base of consultants
• Internships and visiting fellows programmes (2)
• Establish monitoring mechanisms (2)
• Advocacy (2)
• Intensify lobby with UN and others (2)