
Chairs' Summary

The Africa We Want! Inclusive Peacebuilding in The Gambia – Part 1

On 1 July 2021, the Foundation, in collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs) [Think Young Women \(TYW\)](#) and [Peace Hub The Gambia \(PHTG\)](#), organised a roundtable titled '*The Africa We Want! Inclusive Peacebuilding in The Gambia*'. The aim of this roundtable was to identify action points to strengthen partnerships and collaborations between CSOs and regional organisations to enhance inclusive peacebuilding in the Gambia.

To contribute to Agenda 2030 'leaving no one behind' and Agenda 2063 'The Africa We Want' on inclusion more broadly, a roundtable was organised for interactive exchange between civil society organisations, in particular young people, and women on how to further advance inclusion for sustainable peace and development in the Gambia. The first roundtable brought together 27 participants who engaged in the interactive discussions. The roundtable series builds on the Foundation's work on inclusion, and particularly its most recent report, *Realising Inclusivity: The role of the United Nations in promoting inclusion at the country level*. The report explores how the UN operationalises and engages with four international frameworks to advance inclusivity at the country level: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Agenda; the Women, Peace and Security Agenda; and the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

To stimulate a discussion, the essential work in peacebuilding by TYW and PHTG in the Gambia was presented. **Musu Bakoto**, coordinator at TYW spoke about their work and importance to motivate and assist young women in achieving their rights, personal goals.

Bakary Sonko, co- founder at PHTG, elaborated on their work to advance peacebuilding, social cohesion, Youth, Peace and Security (YPS).

A number of key strategies and action points were identified during the interactive discussion.

First, improved communication between regional organisations and civil society is encouraged, as well as greater efforts to engage women and youth at an early stage in decision-making processes that contribute to policy decisions that have an impact on a national level.

Second, UN and regional organisations should also help facilitate, promote cooperation and interaction between government institutions and CSOs.

Third, local capacity building and successful tools in peacebuilding needs to be increased on a national level.

Fourth, space for dialogues for young people to have their voices heard on a higher platform whilst providing input on the adoption of the national institutional reform strategies is highly encouraged.



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Foundation



Fifth, it is important to raise awareness and continue to inform and recognise the work of women as crucial in peacebuilding efforts.

Moving Forward: *'The Africa We Want! Inclusive Peacebuilding in the Gambia' Part 2*

To further advance this discussion and to promote further dialogue between civil society and regional organisations on inclusive peacebuilding, a second roundtable is being planned in the latter half of 2021 with regional organisations. The aim of this second roundtable is to share the action points summarised above and to strategise how these recommendations can be implemented.